





NIGERIA: “OCEAN OF INNOCENT BLOOD FLOWING IN THE EAST”



(A Catalogue Of How Officers And Personnel Of The Armed Forces (Army, Air Force And Navy), The Police And The DSS, Joined By The Paramilitaries And The Killer-Vigilantes Used “IPOB/ESN/BIAFRA Terrorism” As A Pretext To Secretly Massacre 22,500 Unarmed Civilians And Openly Killed 9,800 Others - Totaling 32,300 In The Past Nine Years And Four Months (August 2015-Dec 2024) In The Ongoing Military Siege And Terror In Eastern Nigeria; During Which Government-Linked And Non-Government-Linked Armed Non-State Actors Killed 14,500 Others-Totaling 46,800 In All)



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CHAPTER ONE

Executive Summary



“Human Rights”, as defined by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: “are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings — they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental — the right to life and freedom of conscience and worship — to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, shelter, and liberty. While all people have human rights regardless of the legal system in which they live, many documents have enshrined human rights so that all can develop rules and processes for the realization of human rights. The foundational document doing so is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which provided the basis for more than Seventy (70) human rights treaties. Domestic laws in many countries also enshrine human rights so that people can seek remedies for harms done at the national level using domestic judicial, legislative, executive and advocacy means or mechanisms”.

The “Ocean Of Innocent Bloods Flowing In Eastern Nigeria” Is A Catalogue Of How Officers And Personnel Of The Armed Forces (Army, Air Force And Navy), The Police And The DSS, Joined By The Paramilitaries And Killer-Vigilantes Used “IPOB/ESN/BIAFRA Terrorism” As A Pretext To Secretly Massacre 22, 500 Unarmed Civilians And Openly Killed 9,800 Others (Totaling Over 32,300) In The Past Nine Years And Four Months (August 2015-Dec 2024) Of Military Siege And Terror In The East; During Which Tens Of Thousands Were Unlawfully Detained And Tortured, Over 6000 Blindfolded Or Face-Bagged And Bundled At Late Night From The East And Dumped Uninvestigated And Untried In Secret Military Locations And Prisons In Seven Northern States Of Niger, Kogi, Nasarawa, Benue, Kaduna, Zamfara And FCT (Abuja) Inclusive Of Thousands Dumped To Die Or Subjected To Kangaroo “Trials” Inside WAWA Army Cantonment (Niger State) And Dozens Of Weekly Custodial Deaths Thereto; During Which, Too, Over 300 Igbo Communities Were Raided, 6000 Civilian Houses Razed, 180,000 Displaced, 1million Frightened And Forced To Abandon Their Homes And Flee, N450billion Defenseless Civilian Properties Lost To Military Burnings And Destructions, N3trillion (Presently About \$2billion Or Previously About \$5billion) Corruptly Seized And Illicitly Pocketed At Roadblocks And Other Gun-Points And Estimated 2.7million Illicit Small Arms, Light Weapons And Their Ammunitions Aided To Be Proliferated Including Estimated 400,000 In The Hands Of About 20,000 Fulani Jihadists And Allied Others Occupying Estimated 1000 Secret Locations In The East Including Forests, Bushes And Farmlands.

...Also During Which (August 2015-December 2024) Government-Linked And Non-Government-Linked Armed Criminal Entities Including Counterfeit Biafra Agitators, Recruited Niger Delta Jihadist Mercenaries, Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, Jihadist Fulani Bandits, South-East/Igbo Land-Born-And-Bred Hausa-Fulani Jihadist Recruits, Fulani Cattle Owners' Criminal Vigilantes And Other Jihadist Mercenaries From Black And Maghreb African Countries; Improperly Disarmed And Demobilized Niger Delta Militants, Camouflaged “Biafra Freedom Agitators”, Subversive Elements Within Security Forces Or Security Forces-Linked “Unknown Gunmen”, Government-Linked Hit Squads, Criminal Vigilantes And “Street Criminal Entities” Such As Hundreds Of “Kidnappers-For-Ransom” Squads, etc., Killed Over 14,500 Defenseless Citizens, Seized Estimated 65,000 At Gunpoint And Forced 55,000 To Pay Ransoms Estimated At N500billion And Additional N50billion Arising From Estimated 10,000 Millenium Automobiles Seized From Kidnap-For-Ransom Victims (Totaling N550billion); During Which Estimated 6,500 (10%) Of The Seized 65,000 Victims Who Could Not Pay The Ransoms Demanded Were Killed And 3,500 Others Pardoned And Set Free Under “Ill-Health And Humanitarian Conditions”; During Which 55,000 Others Were Tortured And Set Free After Paying The Ransoms Demanded And Agreed At Gunpoint.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Special International Report further catalogued and exposed massive arbitrary arrests, perpetual detentions arising from uninvestigated and un-triable phantom allegations, kangaroo arraignments, late night abduction and face-bagging of unarmed Igbo civilians to secret military detention facilities in northern Nigeria, torture and bodily lacerations, open killings and secret executions, enforced disappearances, dead body persons' disappearances and criminal interments; perpetual concealment of arrested and abducted citizens' whereabouts and denial of access to their families, lawyers and physicians; invasion and wanton destruction of civilian dwelling houses, false labeling, mass and class criminalization and stigmatization, ethnoreligious profiling, prosecutorial vindictiveness, hearsay conclusions, military and police roadblock and barrack-extortions and selective law enforcement operations, etc.; all arising from the ongoing military siege and terror in Eastern Nigeria, using "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext.

In statistical conclusion, therefore, all the above indicated that the deployed Nigerian Security Forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, Police, DSS, sub-State actor Vigilantes and Paramilitaries) in the East atrociously killed members of defenseless civilian population dominated by Igbo citizens more than twice higher than (32,300) those killed by armed criminal entities (14,500) who the security forces are deployed with public arms and funds to fish out, prosecute and stop from harming them. The deployed security forces and their officers and personnel and high commands were also found to have violently seized and illicitly pocketed, by way of extortion and looting, criminal monies and other properties (over N3trillion) belonging to defenseless Easterners almost six times higher than those seized and stolen by criminal entities (N550billion). The drafted security forces were further found to have burned down or destroyed civilian houses and other properties (N450billion) over seven times higher than those burned down or destroyed by criminal entities (about N60billion).

The security forces also perpetrated the referenced conduct-atrocities with impunity ten times higher than violent crimes and criminalities perpetrated by armed criminal entities which the security forces are deployed and publicly armed and funded to checkmate, track down; and apprehend and prosecute their offenders. It is very important to clarify that the above enumerated "outside the law" killings and property violence in Eastern Nigeria did not include death of violently and offensively armed members of non-State actor criminal entities or members of the armed opposition groups; and members of the drafted Nigerian security forces (State actor and non-State actor fighting parties) who died in gun duels or in exchange of gunfire; technically and internationally referred as "battlefield casualties". The above position of ours is strictly in line with the international best practices under UN System including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005 as well as the International Rules of Engagement. Though such killings or deaths are morally condemned but they certainly and conventionally did not count.

TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS

Empirically and technically clarified is the fact that the killing outside the law by Nigerian military and others, of 46,800 unarmed and defenseless Eastern citizens in the East in the past nine years and four months did not include estimated 4,500 offensively armed members of non-Government-linked criminal entities and members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), killed violently and offensively armed during exchange of gunfire with members of the security forces; during which estimated 2000 or more of the latter, drawn from the military, police and others, were killed or ambushed and killed on duty patrol. The estimated 4,500 offensively armed criminal persons/armed agitators' deaths represented roughly 10% of the 46,800 unlawful killings or deaths: on annual average of about 450 legitimate deaths; technically referred internationally as "legitimate killings or deaths". It is also important to inform that the "4,500 legitimate deaths involving members of the armed criminal entities/armed agitators" and more than 2000 members of the Nigerian security forces are not included in the list of the 46,500 defenseless citizens' deaths estimated by this Special International Report.

The purpose of highlighting the above is not for them to be included and legitimized in this Special International Report but to expose or unmask the reckless abandon and impunity with which officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces (particularly the Nigerian Army) and other security forces and their high commands went about massacring defenseless and unarmed Eastern citizens, mostly composed of members of the active male population of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality of Trado-Judeo-Christian Faith; as well as levying an "industrial scale" war on their defenseless properties and perpetration of other heinous crimes or conduct atrocities of unspeakable nature and proportion; perpetrated, aided and abetted unchecked and with impunity in the past nine years and four months (August 30, 2015-December 31, 2024), using "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext.



The Special International Report: **"Ocean Of Innocent Bloods Flowing In Eastern Nigeria"** is a comprehensive and an unbiased database of international standard involving forensic compilation and computation of reports on grisly and egregious violations and abuses of human rights and clearly laid down processes and procedures for modern, science and human rights driven law enforcement operations. The Report was borne out of our resolve to critically evaluate the general state of public and citizens' security and safety against the backdrop of deepening deterioration of insecurity and other unsafe conditions in Eastern Nigeria. The Nigerian "Eastern Region of the South-East and the South-South extractions", dominated by members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality is formerly "Old Eastern and Midwestern Regions", presently covering the eleven States of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Bayelsa. The Report, therefore, critically and comprehensively evaluates the "outside the law" activities or conduct-atrocities or atrocity crimes of officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force), the Nigeria Police Force (particularly its special tactical and crack squads), the Department of State Security Services and the sub-State actor Vigilantes of various State Governments in the East; joined by the Paramilitaries (under Joint Security Taskforces), covering the past nine years and four months of August 2015 to December 2024. The extension of the period of the conduct-atrocities to end of December 2024 has arisen from the fact that no remarkable changes are expected in their patterns and trends.

These "armed State Actors" have been drafted to Eastern Region since August 2015 under "Nigerian Military or Security Forces' Operations in the South-East and the South-South" with different deceitful operational code names and "Biafra/IPOB/ESN Terrorism" as a general pretext. The "Biafra-phobia" murderous operations have also been coordinated by the Nigerian Armed Forces and operationally led by Nigerian Army headed until Tuesday, November 5, 2024, by Late Lt Gen Taoreed Lagbaja, a South-West (Osun) Muslim (appointed on June 19, 2023) and recently replaced following his sudden death in office, by Lieutenant General Olufemi Olatubosun Oluyede, a South-West (Ekiti State); appointed on October 30, 2024. The Nigerian Military Siege and Terror Operations in Eastern Nigeria were coordinated between August 30, 2015 and June 19, 2023 by former Army Chiefs of Staff (CAOS): Retired Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai, a North-East (Borno) Muslim (July 16, 2015-January 28, 2021); Late Major Gen Ibrahim Attahiru, a North-West (Kaduna) Muslim (Jan 28, 2021-May 21, 2021) and Lt Gen Faruk Yahya, a North-West (Sokoto) Muslim (May 28, 2021-June 19, 2023). At Sub-National or State level, particularly in the five South-East States of Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo and Abia where no fewer than 6000 unarmed and defenseless citizens are estimated to have been murdered by their killer Vigilantes since August 2015 till date, with a spike since the launch of the "Ebubeagu murderous security arrangements of April 2021"; such atrocities are found to have been coordinated through their various "Ministries of Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters" or "Govs' Special Security Advisers" of the affected States.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Ebonyi State, the "Ministry of Internal Security and Border Peace and Conflict Resolution" has been responsible for the activities and atrocities of "Ebonyi Ebubeagu Vigilante militias", officially gazetted in different names through the Ebonyi State House of Assembly. The Ministry, created since 2007, became atrocious since 2021 following the introduction of controversial "Ebubeagu Security arrangements" under Engineer Dave Umahi as Governor of the State and "Chairman" of the South-East Governors' Forum in April 2021. The said "Ministry of Internal Security and Border Peace and Conflict Resolution" was previously headed under Gov Dave Umahi by Mr. Etta Uka Ude as commissioner and presently headed by Mr. Stanley Okoro Emegha commissioner since June 2023 under Mr. Francis Nwifuru as present Governor of the State. Estimated 2000 unarmed and defenseless citizens are strongly believed to have been slaughtered or shot and killed in the State under "Ebubeagu Vigilante arrangements" particularly since April 2021. In Imo State where "Imo Ebubeagu Vigilante militias", officially gazetted in different names by the State House of Assembly, have slaughtered or shot and killed estimated 3000 unarmed and defenseless citizens since January 2021, the atrocities of the murderous outfit have been under the supervision and coordination of "the Imo State Ministry of Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters", with Dr. Ugorji Ugochukwu Ugorji as its pioneer commissioner from January 2021 to May 2024 and Mr. Osakwe Abiaeze Modestus as its present commissioner since May 2, 2024.

In Anambra State, where estimated 1000 unarmed and defenseless citizens are strongly believed to have been slaughtered or shot and killed particularly since April 2022 by "Anambra State Vigilante Service (AVG)", lately joined by "the Anambra Anti-Tout Strike Force", etc., the atrocities of the hooded and murderous outfit have been under the supervision and coordination of "the State Ministry of Homeland Security" headed by Hon Chikaodili Anara as commissioner since April 2022. Mr. Anara was Special Security Adviser to former Gov Willie Obiano for eight years (2014-2022) during which estimated 110 unarmed and defenseless citizens marking Igbo Heroes Day Anniversary were shot and killed by security forces funded by then Government of Anambra State and over 70 others critically injured at Nkpor and Onitsha between the night of May 29 and the night of May 30, 2016. The atrocities of the "Abia State Vigilante Service" including unlawful killing of estimated 1,100 unarmed and defenseless citizens since 2015 and estimated 300 slaughtered or shot and killed since June 2023 under the present Government of Dr Alex Otti are under the coordination of Retired Commander Macdonald Ubah, as Special Adviser on Security to Governor of Abia State.

The Special International Report (Ocean of Innocent Bloods Flowing in Eastern Nigeria) was therefore brought about by widespread reports of rising 'conduct-atrocities' of the deployed security forces and their officers and personnel and high commands. Such conduct-atrocities under evaluation are found to have been perpetrated unchecked and untracked against unarmed and defenseless members of the civilian population and their harmless properties. The most dangerous of it is that such conduct-atrocities or atrocity crimes are dotted with embryos of "Complex Humanitarian Emergencies", to the extent that if allowed unchecked and untracked to continue, they can snowball into "Complex Humanitarian Emergencies" in the East, with widespread consequences across the entire country.

In compilation and computation of the Special International Report, the Intersociety was expertly armed with various processes and procedures for modern law enforcement operations and policing clearly laid down in the 1999 Constitution, the Armed Forces Act of 2004, the Nigeria Police Act of 2020, the National Security Agencies Act (NSA) of 2004, the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act of 2004, etc., and their regional and international counterparts under AU and UN Systems. The processes and procedures under reference are those involving policing and management of democratic assemblies and troubling civilian societies other than such under situations of intrastate armed conflict(s). The management of intrastate armed conflict is also strictly regulated by processes and procedures clearly laid down in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005 under which Nigerian Government and its security forces must always be reminded that the country's signatory to the Conventions after attaining independence on October 1, 1960, is fundamentally inviolable and devoid of "permissible derogation".

All of the above is to further say that Nigeria and its drafted security forces in the East are mandatorily and inviolably obligated under UN System to at all times subject its security forces operations to processes and procedures strictly laid down under UN System such as those in the International Humanitarian Law, the International Human Rights Law, the Customary International Law, the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers involved in law enforcement operations, the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force by Law Enforcement officials, the general Principles on the Use of Force and its Proportionality as well as other processes and procedures applicable under the International Rules of Engagement and three International War guiding Principles of "Jus In Bellum", "Jus Ad Bellum" and "Jus Post Bellum". The Intersociety's detailed investigative intervention leading to this Special International Report was brought about by several strong accusations leveled against the drafted security forces and their officers and personnel and high commands that they have abandoned processes and procedures clearly laid down in written laws and codes of conducts including those contained in Nigeria's domestic and domesticated laws such as the 1999 Constitution and the regionally and internationally acceded Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaties.

The strongly leveled accusations or indictments against the drafted Security Forces in the East include indiscriminate harassments, unchecked brutalities in the line of their official conducts, infliction of fears, threats to lives and properties, mass arrests and indiscriminate abductions, unlawful or arbitrary detentions, perpetual captivity, open and custodial torture and other cruel treatments, custodial starvation, captivity killings, enforced disappearances; open shootings, deadly use of force and body lacerations, secret killings following mass abductions from indiscriminate civilian house and community raids mostly in the hours of the blue law (late night hours) and extrajudicial killings and unlawful executions arising from indiscriminate arrests or abductions at roadblocks particularly at night and wee hours of the morning, etc. It was further found that the conduct-atrocities or atrocity crimes, above highlighted, have arisen from corrupt, hate, discriminatory and crude policing and soldiering fueled by ethnic and religious radicalism and total abandonment of secularism, neutrality, professionalism and scientific and digital policing or soldiering and selfless and humanitarian services with which other global armies and policing institutions are known for and celebrated.

The conduct-atrocities of the drafted security forces and their officers and personnel and high commands have also been dotted with false labeling, class criminalization, ethnoreligious profiling, mass stigmatization, hearsay conclusions, prosecutorial vindictiveness, military's criminalization of civil wrongs and recriminalization of offenses of misdemeanors and non-capital punishment felonies as "capital punishment felonies"; all translating to 'extra jus, extrajudicial and extra-legal conducts. The drafted security forces and their officers and personnel and their high commands have also been found wanting in rabid corruption and gross misconducts such as open bribery and commercialization and monetization of official conducts including detention and criminal investigation. Sufficient pieces of evidence abound linking the Nigerian Military and various police crack and tactical squads to crimes against humanity and crimes against property including wanton burning and destruction of defenseless civilian properties (domicide) particularly dwelling houses, domestic properties and allied others.

One of the greatest discoveries contained in the Special International Report was the fact that the Government of Nigeria and its security forces and linked political actors in the South-East and the South-South are found to have been remotely responsible for not less than 70% of the conduct-atrocities and other subversive criminal activities perpetrated by armed non-State actors and others remotely linked to armed State actors. The Government of Nigeria, especially under Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari had been strongly suspected to have remotely squandered billions of naira in secret coordination of international falsehood campaigns against members of the defenseless Eastern civilian population, dominated by Igbo citizens, which has been continued till date. There is also strong suspicion of indiscriminate invasion, seizure and confiscation of defenseless Communal Lands by the Nigerian Army and other members of the military in different parts of the South-East and the South-South including discovery sometime in July 2024 of such invasion, seizure and confiscation of the vast Communal Farmland belonging to defenseless citizens of Ochima Igbo-Nsukka in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The militarily seized Communal Land was said to have stretched very large and long, covering three major communities with vast of it located in the Ochima Igbo-Nsukka Community. It is feared, in the end that such invaded, seized and confiscated Communal Lands will likely end up in the hands of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others for Jihadist Fulani settlements in the East. Discovered during our detailed investigation was 50 sources of military extortion and killing fields in the East. It was further found that not less than 80% of the law enforcement operations by the military and other security forces in the East since August 2015 till date has been conducted outside the law, due processes and procedures.

**THE RISE OF
Military Siege
AND Terror AND ALLIED ATROCITIES
IN EASTERN NIGERIA**

Until August 2015, Eastern part of the country, particularly the South-East States of Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Imo and Ebonyi and Igbo parts of the South-South, were relatively peaceful and secured. A sort of “negative peace” was also then put in place in the Niger Delta Region (Delta, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Edo and Cross River) following the 2009 “Niger Delta Amnesty Program” initiated under the Administration of Late President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua (May 29, 2007-May 5, 2010). Then, the major challenge facing the five South-East States was “blue-collar” or transactional crimes and “white-collar” or public/corporate office pen and computer crimes. A dangerous dimension was introduced in the East starting from August 2015, following the rise of pro Biafra self-determination and violent countermeasures introduced by then Central Government of Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari. “State Jihadism Project” and allied genocidal enforcement measures clandestinely put in place by then Fulani/Muhammad Buhari-controlled Government of Nigeria added salt to injury during which the IPOB self-determination agitation was seen as a major threat against actualization of the “State Jihadism Project” in the East, home to Nigeria’s largest Catholics, Anglicans and Pentecostals.

Totality of the above was therefore found by this Special International Report to have been remotely responsible for militarization and terrorization of Eastern Nigeria and its defenseless population and properties till date. The “State Jihadism Project” in the East further led to flooding of the Region with locally and regionally assembled Fulani, Bargara, Shuwa and Maghreb Jihadists armed with sophisticated weapons of war including illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunitions. The locally and regionally assembled Jihadists were joined later by Niger Delta Jihadist mercenaries and others drawn from Jihadist Fulani Bandits, Jihadist Boko Haram, Jihadist Ansaru and Jihadist ISWAP, rallied under “Nigerian Islamic Jihadists Alliance” formed in Niger State in June 2020. It must also be noted that the flooding of the East with these Islamic Jihadists under suspected remote protection and cover of the security forces was done using “the old Fulani Herdsmen cattle grazing routes and networks in the East”.

The above further explains why since August 2015, particularly after the April 2016 Fulani Herdsmen massacre of no fewer than 48 rural Igbo Christians in Nimbo, Uzo Uwani in Enugu State; till date, there is no single record of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others arrested by the deployed security forces in the East and held responsible for several violent criminal activities even when it is on indisputable public record that they have been responsible for the massacre of more than 6,500 defenseless Easterners on yearly average deaths of 650, translating to overall death toll of estimated 6,500 in the past nine years and four months or August 30, 2015 to December 31, 2024. These drafted and protected Jihadists have also been responsible for several cases of sexual violence, kidnap-for-ransoms and burning or wanton destruction of dwelling houses and allied properties. Several researchers and investigators have also expressed surprise as to why most of the violent criminal activities linked to the deployed Jihadists in the East are perpetrated unchecked, untracked and uncaught near military, police and other security forces’ formations, roadblocks and checkpoints.

The Special International Report further found that it was in response to security forces' crackdowns on defenseless and unarmed Easterners and massive flooding of motley of armed jihadists into Eastern forests, bushes, farmlands, etc., that the "Eastern Security Network (ESN)" was formed on December 20, 2020, to checkmate the influx and genocidal activities of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others, during which ESN was also strongly suspected to have engaged in revenge attacks targeted at security agencies, their personnel and facilities particularly between 2021 and 2022; which was later ended as a result of strong internal protests mounted by IPOB team of Defense Lawyers. It was further suspected that it is in brutal response to the formation of the Eastern Security Network that the Buhari Government became desperate and resorted to other extrajudicial countermeasures including remote hiring and engagement of Mujahadeen Asari Dokubo and his Niger Delta Jihadist Mercenaries, now one of the deadliest jihadist criminal entities terrorizing defenseless and unarmed citizens of Eastern Nigeria and their properties including farmlands, dwelling houses and other properties. It was therefore on account of all the above that this Special International Report was put in place and made to be so unbiased that it starkly called spade a spade without caring whose ox is gored.

THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



Several research methods were applied to assist in the compilation and computation of this Special International Report. Findings generated also came from multiple sources such as declassified military, police and DSS reports or documents bordering on law enforcement operations across Nigeria with reference to those of the South-East and the South-South covering August 2015 to Dec 2024, a period of nine years and four months. Among them are "the Defense Headquarters' monthly, quarterly, midyear and yearly reports on the country's security forces' operations in the South-East and the South-South" and press releases thereto. Through our grounded knowledge in law, security studies, criminology, victimology, peace studies and conflict resolution, such reports were subjected to thorough and forensic interrogations in a bid to unmasking the loopholes and inconsistencies inherent in them.

In the compilation and computation of the Report, the provisions of the country's body of criminal laws and their laid down procedures for law enforcement operations and procession of citizens accused of offending the criminal law were critically examined. The human rights laws including constitutional safeguards and country's regional and international human rights, and humanitarian treaty laws were critically evaluated and incorporated into the Report. Facts including "intelligence-facts" were gathered and obtained from close and open sources such as reports by security agencies, court processes, verifiable and verified media reports, "circumstantial facts" arising from available pieces of circumstantial evidence, reports by international human rights groups, investigative and research institutions; reports from religious groups, eyewitnesses and survivors' accounts and testimonies, reports from fieldtrips, documentaries, gathered and verified video clips and photos, interviews, findings arising from estimations, approximations, random samplings and logical analyses and scientific devices, etc.

It is important to further mention that simplified research methodology was adopted for the Report to gain a wide spectrum of audiences including members of the general population with limited education and those with higher education. That to say that the Report sets out to have as its reading and understanding audiences far and near including artisans, bricklayers, traders, commercial motorists, tricyclists and motorcyclists; community people and their leaders, community-based organizations, social institutions, body corporates, multinationals, religious and traditional institutions and their leaders, professional bodies and students associations, members of the diplomatic communities, security establishments and their heads, legal professions, women's groups, landlords and tenant associations, political parties and political actors, etc. The above further explains the simplification of the wordings of the Report in very plain English language and letters to attract the reading and understanding attention of a wide spectrum of audiences highlighted above. It must therefore be conclusively declared that the Special International Report is compiled and computed free of charge for the generations born and the generations unborn.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is important to note further that greater part of the findings contained in this Special International Report had come from several reports and statements previously issued by the Intersociety which included the "Nigerian Military Massacre Operations in the East: August 2015-September 2017", "Welcome to the Bleeding Republic of Nigeria: Feb 2017", "the Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions: Oct-Nov 2020", "the Imo Military Killings and Civilian House Burnings: May 2023", etc. Data forming part of the Report were also collected from human rights lawyers, group-victims and individual-victims of the Military Siege and Terror in Eastern Nigeria. We also extracted and used pieces of vital information contained in the reports compiled and issued by leading international democratic Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations including the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United States Department of State, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington) and other internationally respected human rights groups such as Amnesty International, UK, Human Rights Watch, USA, the Alliance Against Genocide, USA, Human Rights First, USA, Carter Center for Human Rights, USA, as well as reputable and well-researched course materials from the National Open University of Nigeria and speeches by national and international public figures in law, criminology, policing, security studies, peace and conflict resolution, media and journalism, diplomacy, history and international relations, etc.

The Report Rooted In Local And International Legal Frameworks, Constitutional Liberties

All the above was forensically evaluated by the Report bearing in mind the available local and international legal frameworks such as Nigeria's criminal laws and their procedures and law enforcement provisions (Armed Forces Act of 2004, Police Act of 2020, Terror Act of 2022, etc.) and international law enforcement provisions regulated under the international rules of engagement and the principles guiding the use of force and its proportionality. The atrocity crimes of the armed State actors and atrocities linked to armed non-State actors were also forensically evaluated bearing in mind the Nigeria's constitutional, regional and international human rights and humanitarian treaties and safeguards. The above is to the extent that the Report went extra mile to technically evaluate the patterns and trends of law enforcement operations and general policing under the country's democratic environment; and techniques, processes and procedures put in place. In the end, the Report found the processes and procedures in use to be crude, un-modern, unscientific, obnoxious, retrogressive, brutal, barbaric, draconian, stinkingly corruptive, monetized, commercialized, militarized, ethno-religious hateful, discriminatory, awkward, vindictively prosecutorial, persecutorial, unsecular, religiously extremist, torture-friendly, grossly rights abusive and devoid of "man-mental-machine policing and law enforcement".

GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT

The general objective of this Special International Report is to unmask those fueling insecurity and other unsafe conditions in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 till date. The Report also catalogued the perpetrators of the Military Siege and Terror in the East, both State actors and non-State actors and their victims including victims of arbitrary arrests and perpetual detention, victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, victims of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and unlawful killings, victims of dead body persons' disappearances and criminal interments, victims of depopulation, forced migration, internal displacement and homelessness, victims of late night or unlawful hour abductions and enforced or involuntary disappearances, victims of ethnoreligious intolerance and persecution, victims of persecution of human rights defenders, victims of false labeling, prosecutorial vindictiveness, class criminalization, ethnoreligious/hate profiling, mass stigmatization and hearsay conclusions, victims of "domicide" or State actor and non-State actor wanton destruction or burning of civilian dwelling homes or houses of defenseless civilian citizens of the East and allied properties, victims of military, police and paramilitary roadblock and custodial corruption including extortion. The Report was also geared towards quantification of the proceeds of crimes from roadblock and custodial extortions by the deployed military, police and paramilitary personnel and the armed non-State actor criminal entities such as kidnapers-for-ransom.

MAIN AIM OF THE REPORT

In the immortal words of Alice Stebbins Wels, the first woman to be recruited into the Los Angeles Police Service in 1910 and world's first woman police officer, "I don't want to make arrests, I want to keep people from needing to be arrested, especially the young ones". Ms. Alice Stebbins Wels was responding to a media question regarding what she was going into the Los Angeles Police Service to do. That immortal statement of hers later led to the invention "of crime prevention" or "preventive policing" in the world.

The above is therefore to say that the main aim of this Special International Report is to prevent, address and end the catalogued conduct-atrocities of the drafted security forces in the East particularly personnel and officers of the Nigerian Army and the Army High Command responsible for almost 50% of the atrocity crimes perpetrated in the ongoing Military Siege and Terror in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 till date. The Report also aims at ensuring that all drafted senior military, police and secret police officers in the East (served and serving), from Lieutenant Colonels to Lieutenant Generals and their equivalents in Air Force, Navy, Police and DSS are internationally held accountable including "international blacklisting and isolation" for egregious human rights violations and abuses during their past or present service careers. In other words, they must be severely punished for direct or vicarious roles played in the grisly and egregious violations and abuses of human rights in the East from August 2015 till date (end of 2024). It is also important to point out that it is to prevent a repeat of such conduct-atrocities or atrocity crimes that this Special International Report was put in place by presenting a true picture of the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Eastern Nigeria and providing a clearer picture of the deteriorating state of insecurity and other unsafe conditions in the two Regions. By the Report, true identities of "who is killing who" and "who is funding and fueling who to kill who" have also been unmasked.

The estimated 6000 defenseless Igbo Eastern civilians abducted by military and DSS at late night from the East and dumped uninvestigated and untried in prisons, lock centers and secret military detention facilities located in not less than seven Northern States of Niger, Kogi, Nasarawa, Benue, Kaduna, Zamfara and FCT (Abuja) must be freed unconditionally for serious breach of due process, rule of law and their fundamental human rights and constitutional liberties, having been arbitrarily arrested and detained far above constitutionally allowed timeframes and outside circumstances clearly stipulated under Sections 35 (4) and 36 of the 1999 Constitution particularly by having them inhumanly detained for over 900 days or ten times more than maximum of 90 days allowed by the Constitution for purpose of conclusive investigations regarding capital punishment offenses. The estimated 6000 unarmed Easterners are those controversially accused of involvement in "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism"; who were arbitrarily arrested and detained without investigation and trial for four-six months in the East by DSS or Police or Military from where they were blindfolded or face-bagged and bundled at late night to secret military detention facilities and allied others located in faraway Northern Nigeria and held for additional years uninvestigated and untried and left to rot away, out of which dozens have died on weekly basis, hundreds died yearly and thousands killed since January 2021 or earlier since August 2015.

Holding them in locations and jurisdictions that have nothing to do with the alleged offenses against them is also a clear case of "investigative and prosecutorial vindictiveness and abuse of criminal justice process". In other words, those holding them have rubbished themselves before the law and messed up the would-be merit or substance of the offenses against them, if any. It is also on the above premise that the Intersociety is strongly calling for unconditional release of thousands of others who must have been arrested or abducted under the pretext of "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" and held perpetually uninvestigated and untried across the country for years or since January 2021 or earlier since August 2015. In black and white wording of Section 35(4) of the 1999 Constitution, the victims are technically "no longer criminal or Biafra/IPOB/ESN terrorism suspects under investigation"; having been detained uninvestigated and untried for years against maximum of 90 days stipulated in Section 35(4) of the 1999 Constitution under "Right to Personal Liberty".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The constitutionally Section 35(4) is reproduced as follows: “any person who is arrested or detained in accordance with subsection 1 (c) of this section shall be brought before a court of law within a reasonable time and if he is not tried within a period of: (a) two months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who is in the custody or is not entitled to custodial bail; or (b) three months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who has been released on bail, he shall (without prejudice to any other further proceedings that may be brought against him) be released either unconditionally or upon such conditions as are reasonably necessary to ensure that he appears for trial at a later date”. The section specifically deals with citizens accused of having committed “violent crimes” (terrorism, armed robbery, premeditated homicide, insurrection, kidnap-for-ransom, etc.) or under reasonable suspicion of committing them, which on conviction carry life imprisonment or death penalty or punishment of fourteen years imprisonment and above. It must also be strictly clarified that the longer period of detention allowed is for purpose of conclusive criminal investigation(s).

The Intersociety is further calling for the unconditional release of thousands of the arrested or abducted unarmed Easterners secretly bundled at late night from the East and presently dumped inside different military barracks in the North including the WAWA Military Cantonment located in farthest part of Niger State where they have been held or secretly transferred since 2021 and 2022 or earlier since August 2015 and presently subjected to kangaroo military trials without legal representatives of their choice or those chosen by their families. The victims have perpetually been denied access to their families, lawyers and other associates, from the point of their secret arrest or abduction till date. The Intersociety has further gathered that the victims in their thousands have been forced and are still being forced at gunpoint under such kangaroo military trials to admit “being IPOB/ESN/Biafra members or terrorists”. From the available records, among them are hundreds that have been killed in such unlawful military detention facilities who are part of estimated 15,300 victims of Nigerian military killings in the ongoing Military Siege and Terror in the East since August 2015 till date.

It is also the aim of the Report to ensure that all corruptive, extortionist and atrocious military and police roadblocks and checkpoints on Eastern Roads are dismantled and replaced with CCTV cameras manned by ICT-trained police detectives and trained trackers and monitors during which all drafted military and police personnel and their officers on South-East and South-South roads must be withdrawn and returned to their barracks. There shall also be an immediate policy reversal by Government of Nigeria in the East particularly on the need to demilitarize and de-terrorize the South-East and the South-South Regions including disarming and flushing out tens of thousands of armed Jihadists led by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen in the old Region since 2016. The Report is further aimed at ensuring that something urgent is done about the estimated 2.7m illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunitions in criminal hands in Eastern Nigeria alone. Where the political will is found to be in place but the above seems domestically untenable, the Government of Nigeria should be made to seek the urgent intervention of the UN Disarming and Disarmament agencies to assist in tracking and seizing the illicit SALWs and their bearers and stop them from being used to inflict terror on defenseless Easterners using extremist ethnicity and religious extremism as a pretext to continuously threatening such vulnerable and defenseless members of the civilian population with mass murders, carnage, pogrom and genocidal property violence.

It is the aim of the Report that there shall be an independent regional or international body of investigative tribunal (when appropriate, to ensure secured and safe environment for the participation of the victims and their families) to statistically unmask those who have killed or maimed outside the law and others that perpetrated allied atrocities in the East (both armed State actors and armed non-State actors). Such international mixed tribunal of enquiry shall ensure adequate compensations for the victims including the slain, the incapacitated, the disappeared, the displaced and the homeless and further make strong recommendations for criminal prosecution and severe punishment of those behind such conduct-atrocities or atrocity-crimes' perpetrators. The above also brings to our mind a similar tribunal of enquiry headed by Hon Justice G.C.M. Onyiuke that investigated the anti-Igbo pogrom of 1966, which had in its 279-Page report found that “... between 45,000 and 50,000 civilians of former Eastern Nigeria were killed in Northern Nigeria and other parts of Nigeria from 29th May 1966 to December 1967; with estimated 1,627,743 (IDPs) Easterners fleeing back to Eastern Nigeria as a result of the 1966 pogrom.”

AUDIENCES

TARGETED BY THE REPORT



The Report targets a wide spectrum of audiences including local and international investors (arming them with accurate environmental security and intelligence), international humanitarian agencies, Nigeria's present and past political leaders, heads of military and other security forces, present and past Governors of the South-East and the South-South, families of dead and survived victims including victims of enforced disappearances and other survivors of the Military Siege and Terror, heads of the deployed security forces in the East and their high commands, Eastern Nigerian Self Determination groups and their leaders, leaders of credible Igbo groups particularly leaders of Ndigbo in Diaspora, serving and past Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from the East, serving and retired Security Service Chiefs including heads of the Police, the DSS, the Paramilitaries and present and past State Government Commissioners for "Homeland Security" in charge of sub-State actor vigilante militias, academicians of local and international standing, authorities of local and international institutions of higher learning, generations born and generations unborn, artisans, market associations and their leaders, Christian and Traditional institutions and their leaders including Organization of the African Instituted Churches (OAICs), local and international media and legal practitioners and their associations, members of diplomatic corps and their home governments especially those giving annual development, military, humanitarian, democracy, human rights and rule of law assistance to the Government and People of Nigeria, worth billions of dollars including UK, US, Canada, EU, France, Germany, Israel, Brazil, Russia, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Ireland, Australia, Austria, Portugal, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Mexico, Malta, and other democratic and human rights respecter countries too many to mention.

The Report also internationally targets the likes of Amnesty International, UK; Human Rights Watch, USA; Carter Center for Human Rights, USA; Human Rights First, USA; the International Organization for Migration, Geneva, Switzerland; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, India; National Democratic and International Republic Institutes, USA; United States Agency for International Development, USA; Canadian International Development Agency, Canada; the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK; and those of France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Australia, Norway, Ireland, Denmark, New Zealand, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, etc. Others are World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Switzerland; Society for the Threatened People, Germany; the Alliance Against Genocide, USA; the Christian Solidarity International, Switzerland; Human Rights Without Frontiers International, Belgium; the African Network Against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED), the Gambia; the International Red Cross Society, Geneva, Switzerland.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, London, UK; the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions; the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Religious Freedom; the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders; the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of the Internally Displaced People; the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Arrest and Detention; the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing (anti-Domicide); the UN Special Rapporteur on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Office; the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, New York, USA; likewise, several international research institutions including Physicians for Human Rights, the Open Society Foundations, the Freedom House, the Open Doors, the International Peace Institute, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and intergovernmental organizations such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the United Nations Human Rights Council, etc.

CHAPTER TWO

76 RECOMMENDATIONS



27 Recommendations To Government Of Nigeria, Armed Forces And Police High Commands:

- Dismantle all military and police roadblocks or checkpoints on all South-East and South-South Roads and have them replaced with CCTV cameras manned by ICT-trained police detectives and trackers/monitors; with well-trained and ICT literate rapid response police motorized squads kept standby at nearby barracks to strike if called upon under situations of extreme urgency or emergency; or apprehension of the violent criminals thereafter through tracking and monitoring devices.
- Withdraw and demobilize from South-East and South-South Roads all military and police officers and personnel and have them returned to their barracks.
- Revisit police and military daily duty postings at roadblocks and use them to fish out extortionist military and police personnel and punish them accordingly. Be reminded that Section 108 of the Armed Forces Act of 2004 defines "Extortion" as use of force to extort money or other valuable item and places 14 years jail term via court-martial for any military personnel caught in the act. Section 99 of the Criminal Code Act also outlaws and criminalizes extortion by public officers including members of the police and the paramilitaries and sub-State vigilante groups.
- Abolish and prohibit, as a matter of uttermost immediacy, all military, police and paramilitary roadblock and custody (barracks) extortions and their racketeers and racketeering (daily returns) in the South-East and the South-South and prohibit all forms of commercialization and monetization of arrest, detention, custodial bail and criminal investigation and prosecution.
- Order the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), the Independence Corrupt Practices and Related Offenses Commission (ICPC), the Police Service Commission and other oversight State anti-corruption or anti-graft establishments to individually and institutionally hold accountable extortionist military, police and paramilitary officers and personnel and their operational commanders and high commands stationed in Eastern Nigeria for their widespread involvement in roadblock extortions and aiding and abetting of related criminal activities perpetrated in the line of their official duties in the East. Such accountability must include strict penalties including dismissal from service, judicial prosecution using Section 99 of the Criminal Code Act of 2004 and Section 108 of the Armed Forces Act of 2004 as well as retrieval of criminal proceeds generated such as criminal properties and cash deposits located within and outside Nigeria.
- Issue firm and immediate directives for comprehensive and conclusive investigations into strong allegations regarding security forces' complicity in kidnappings, armed robberies, oil thefts and other money spinning violent criminal activities in the South-East and the South-South and further direct EFCC, NFIU, ICPC and other related bodies to specifically monitor ransom payments and suspicious financial transactions across the two Regions to ensure that funds used in such criminal activities are traced, seized and money laundering through the banking system frontally prevented and their perpetrators severely sanctioned.
- Carry out comprehensive investigations into cases of extrajudicial killings and unlawful executions in Eastern Nigeria in the past nine years and four months including cases involving torture and other cruel treatments, disappearances of dead bodies of victims of torture and their criminal interments. Be reminded that Morris Tidball-Binz, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions had on June 26, 2024, called on Member-States of the United Nations including the Government of Nigeria to respect and protect the bodies of victims of unlawful deaths for the purposes of Truth, Justice and Reparations.

Be reminded, too, that by Section 8 of Nigeria's anti-Torture Act of 2017, torture of an arrested or detained citizen by a law enforcement officer (army, navy, air force, police, DSS or paramilitary officer) attracts 25 years imprisonment while death arising from such torture attracts severe punishment including murder trial and capital punishment on conviction.

- There shall be comprehensive ICT-powered retraining of officers and personnel of the country's security forces particularly those of the Nigeria Police Force and digitalization of all its departments and formations. Our checks ahead of this Special International Report have identified Department of the State Security Services (DSS) and the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) as the most ICT-advanced and literate security intelligence establishments in Nigeria, followed by Police FCID and FIB (yet torture and extrajudicial killings remain their stock-in-trade). As a matter of fact, the Nigeria Police Force is still far from reach the average height of the Information Computer Technology (ICT) literacy and ICT-driven policing; to the extent that estimated 80% of the personnel of the Force and greater number of its CSPs to DIGs are still ICT illiterates. Departmentally, the Nigeria Police Forensic Department (inclusive of ballistic unit) and its crime libraries and laboratories and Central Crime Database or Registry are nothing to write home about and presently in a total mess. The Force still starkly lacks modern tools or techniques and skills capable of ensuring ICT-driven preventive, proactive, protective, detective, investigative, prosecutorial and human rights and rule of law compliant policing.
- Direct the Federal Executive Council, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Attorney General and the Accountant General of the Federation to set up a national probe panel to carry out unbiased investigation and audit into current lifestyles and sources of income of all senior army, navy, air force and police officers, from Lieutenant Colonels to Lieutenant Generals and their equivalents in the air force and navy; and CSPs to IGP in the Police and their equivalents in the paramilitaries (custom, immigration, NDLEA and FRSC) who are serving or retired or have served or still serving in the South-East and the South-South between August 30, 2015 and December 31, 2024. Their lifestyles and sources of income under investigation must include valuation of their service years' remunerations or ex-service years' pensions and gratuities visa viz their locally and internationally acquired properties in their names or by proxies, including located within and outside the country, such as immovable investments (hotels, choice landed properties, etc.) and moveable investments such as equity shares in quoted companies, etc.
- The outcomes of such comprehensive investigation and audit must be used in tracking down the whereabouts of estimated N3trillion or about \$2billion (at current exchange rate of N1,500 per US\$ or more than \$5billion using average previous exchange rates) seized by the referenced extortionist senior security officers and their subordinates at Eastern Nigerian roadblocks and custodial gun-points between August 2015 and December 2024, during which the criminal sums must have been shared and illicitly pocketed.
- When retrieved, the stolen and pocketed huge sums must publicly be returned to the consolidated revenue accounts of the eleven Eastern States of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Ebonyi, Imo, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa; according to amount estimated to have been stolen in each of the affected eleven States.
- It shall also be a strong recommendation of the probe panel for the serving and retired senior security officers involved to be severely punished, publicly disgraced and internationally blacklisted; in addition to headlong tackling of the pandemic and endemic corruption eating up the country's armed forces, the police and the paramilitaries including extortion racketeering or "daily returns" which must have to be totally abolished and prohibited.
- Ensure that total bans are perpetually placed on officers and personnel of the Armed Forces and their high commands from dabbling into civil and police law enforcement and investigation matters and restricting them to their establishment duties and conducts.
- There shall an end to indiscriminate criminalization of civil wrongs and re-criminalization of misdemeanors and non-capital punishment felonies by the drafted military officers and personnel, likewise, putting an end to their unchecked use of false labeling, class criminalization, mass stigmatization, ethnoreligious profiling and persecution, phantom accusations and hearsay conclusions against members of the defenseless civilian population such as indiscriminate labeling of Igbo-Christian name-bearers as "family members of IPOB/Biafra Terrorism".

- The Attorney General of the Federation and the National Security Adviser are found by this Special International Report to be aiding and abetting the conduct-atrocities or atrocity crimes above highlighted in which the AGF was found to be undermining the rule of law and the country's democratic process by allowing the military authorities or providing them with cover to be recklessly abducting thousands of defenseless and unarmed Easterners at late night and having them blindfolded or face-bagged and bundled to secret military detention facilities in the North where they are dumped uninvestigated and untried and allowed to die in their dozens weekly; using "IPOB/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext. The NSA is also found to be complicit in such unchecked atrocious acts.
- Time has come for Nigerian Government and the country's military and police to totally return to scientific, technical, digital and human rights friendly law enforcement operations and procession of citizens alleged to be conflict with criminal law. To this end, there shall be total end in Nigeria, particularly in the East, of arbitrary arrests and perpetual detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions or unlawful killings, dead body persons' disappearances and criminal interments, depopulation, forced migration, internal displacement and homelessness, late night and hours of the blue law abductions and enforced or involuntary disappearances, ethnoreligious intolerance, radicalism and persecution, persecution of human rights defenders, false labeling, prosecutorial vindictiveness, class criminalization, ethnoreligious profiling, mass stigmatization and hearsay conclusions, "domicide" or State actor and non-State actor wanton destruction or burning of dwelling homes of defenseless civilian citizens and allied properties.
- There shall be immediate demilitarization and de-terrorization of the South-East and the South-South Regions including disarming and flushing out tens of thousands of armed Jihadists led by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others and all the above-named non-State actor armed entities.
- There shall be strict regulations of the activities and conducts of all the drafted security forces and their officers and personnel including total elimination of rank-and-file impunity and command-structure aiding and abetting or vicarious liability.
- There shall be comprehensive retrieval of the estimated 2.7m illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunitions in criminal hands in Eastern Nigeria and genuine engagement and involvement by Government of Nigeria, of the UN Disarming and Disarmament agencies to assist in tracking and seizing the illicit SALWs and their bearers and stop them from being used to inflict terror on defenseless Easterners using extremist ethnicity and religious extremism as a pretext to continuously threatening such vulnerable and defenseless members of the civilian population with mass murders, carnage, pogrom and genocidal property violence.
- There must be immediate and unconditional release of the estimated 6000 defenseless Igbo Eastern civilians abducted by military and DSS at late night from the East and dumped uninvestigated and untried in prisons, lock centers and secret military detention facilities located in seven Northern States of Niger, Kogi, Nasarawa, Benue, Kaduna, Zamfara and FCT (Abuja) where they have been discriminatorily held for years or since 2021 or earlier since 2015 outside due process and rule of law and in gross violation of their fundamental human rights and constitutional liberties under Sections 35 (4) and 36 of the 1999 Constitution. The defenseless and unarmed citizens, numbering over 6000 have been languishing in Northern Nigeria after being abducted using "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext. They are victims of arbitrary arrest and detention without investigation and trial detained for four-six months in the East by DSS or Police or Military from where they were blindfolded or face-bagged and bundled at late night to secret military detention facilities and allied others located in faraway Northern Nigeria and held additionally uninvestigated and untried for years since 2021 and left to rot away, leading to dozens of deaths every week in such secret custodies.
- There shall be immediate and unconditional release of thousands of others arrested or abducted unarmed in the East and secretly bundled at late night and presently dumped inside different military barracks in Northern Nigeria including the WAWA Military Cantonment located in farthest part of Niger State where they have secretly been held since 2021 and 2022 or earlier since 2015 and presently subjected to kangaroo military trials without legal representatives of their choice or those chosen by their families. The victims have also been perpetually denied access to their families, lawyers and other associates, from the point of their secret arrest or abduction till date.

The Intersociety has further gathered that the victims in their thousands have been forced and are still being forced at gunpoint under such kangaroo military trials to admit "being IPOB/ESN/Biafra members or terrorists". From the available records, among them are hundreds who have been killed in such unlawful military detention facilities including not less than ten that were killed in the first two weeks of Sept 2024.

- There must also be immediate discontinuation and scrapping of such kangaroo trials which are strange and unfriendly to democratic environment governed by human rights and rule of law; more so when over 90% of the victims are victims of selective and discriminatory law enforcement operations, ethnoreligious profiling, false labeling, class or mass criminalization, hearsay conclusions and crude and unprofessional soldiering.
- There shall be created, when appropriate, to ensure secured and safe environment for the participation of the victims and their families; an independent regional or international or national body of investigative tribunal to statistically unmask those who have killed or maimed outside the law and others that perpetrated allied atrocities in the East (both armed State actors and armed non-State actors) in the past in the past nine years and four months or August 2015 to December 2024; which must ensure adequate compensations for the victims including the slain, the incapacitated, the disappeared, the displaced and the homeless as well as strong recommendations for criminal prosecution of the conduct-atrocities or atrocity-crimes' perpetrators who must also be internationally blacklisted including denial of visas to democratic countries, international appointments, engagement in international consultancies and recipients of international merit awards or beneficiaries of fellowship programs, international exchange programs, etc.
- Ensure that Genocide-enabler "State Jihadism Project" suicidally introduced by former Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari in July 2015 is totally abolished and discontinued in Nigeria or any part thereof including Eastern Nigeria, Old Middle-Belt, Former Northern Cameroon (now Taraba and Adamawa) and Former Kanem-Bornu Empire (now Borno and Yobe).
- Dismantle all traces of "Radical Islamism" including Islamization of security forces and the country's political space and ensure secularism in accordance with Nigeria's existing 1999 Constitution and have same enforced to the letter in the country's public institutions including the Armed Forces, the Police, the Intelligence Agencies, the Paramilitaries and non-coercive Federal Establishments including ministries, parastatals and departments; ensure equity, fairness and non-discrimination in federal political appointments, allocation and distribution of national resources; creation of States, Local Government, Federal and State constituencies and polling units; ensure that formulation and operation of the country's "socio-legal system" is secularly secured.
- Set credible plans in motion for convocation of an elective or plebiscite-powered 'National Conference by congregated and aggregated Representatives of the country's Ethnic Nationalities according to population size; to discuss and agree on the country's socio-economic and political future; including whether to go by 'Confederacy and Heterogenous Bicameral Parliamentary Constitution', or 'True Federalism and Heterogenous Presidential Constitution', 'Regionalism and Heterogenous Bicameral Parliamentary Constitution'; or 'Commonwealth of Nigeria's Independent States' with adoption of 'Homogenous Unitary or Bicameral Constitution' by each of the new 'Independent Nigerian States'; including incorporation of their religions and cultures in their respective new 'Constitution'.
- Nigeria's Presidency should direct the country's Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Lateef Fagbemi, SAN), to withdraw all criminal charges against IPOB Leader, Nnamdi Kanu, in accordance with Section 174 (1) (c) of the existing Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and release him on "Humanitarian Grounds" and end State Terror and Military Siege in the South-East and the South-South, in addition to dismantling all jihadist and subversive forces flooded in the East since beginning of 2016 till date.

20 Recommendations

to **IGBO LAND STATE GOVERNMENTS** AND GOVERNORS

- Strictly monitor and regulate the activities and conducts of various sub-State actor vigilante militias and their commanders and supervising ministries such as "Ministries of Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters" and "Govs Security Advisers"; and refrain from nocturnally arming them with prohibited assault rifles with which they extraordinarily engage in subversive criminal activities such as untracked kidnap-for-ransoms and violent cybercrimes; likewise, prohibiting them from maintaining illegal and secret detention facilities and allied torture chambers and killing fields.
- Refrain from using them to attack perceived political enemies and being complicit in sub-State actor murders, abductions, disappearances and wanton destruction or burning of defenseless civilian houses and other properties including those of perceived political rivals.
- Investigate all cases of sub-State actor killings outside the law, unlawful detention facilities, torture and other cruel or inhuman treatments, enforced disappearances and other atrocities perpetrated under their seals or vicarious orders or instructions by their sub-State actor vigilante militias.
- Disband and disarm all Government affiliated or linked armed death squads including those operating under the names of the sub-State actor vigilantes, anti-tout and market, parks and roadway revenue killer squads or killer taskforces and their likes and recover all arms and ammunitions in their possession.
- Join hands in retrieving estimated 1.5m illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunitions, out of estimated 2.7m in Eastern Nigeria, being proliferated by wrong hands in the South-East and desist from fueling their influx and proliferation through secret procurement from illicit channels of such arms and ammunitions for their vigilante militias and killer squads.
- Digitalize the security and safety of lives and properties in their respective States by massive deployment and activation of secret cameras and other tracking devices and creation of tracking or monitoring offices in different urban areas, satellite towns and local government areas; to be done in active collaboration with specially trained police departments such SIB, SCID and Police OPS. This is more so when the entire South-East with total landmass of 29,525km², is adequately covered by network providers including MTN, Glo and Airtel network providers, etc.
- Deploy drones and their likes to monitor the movements and activities going on in bushes, forests and farmlands and their locations across their States particularly those carried out by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their allies, Counterfeit Biafra Agitators, forest and bush-based street violent criminal entities (kidnappers-for-ransom), etc.
- Courageously disentangle, separate and free themselves and their States from the ongoing strongly suspected "Caliphate arrangements, entanglements and agreements" that seem to have placed them against the general and collective security, safety and welfare of those that supposedly elected them to govern including their properties and territories.
- Desist from harboring, aiding and abetting genocidal activities of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators, etc., across Igbo Land or Igbo parts of the South-East and the South-South and stop patronizing private armies of some ex-Niger Delta militants' leaders brought into Igbo Land including "security mercenaries" and "jihadist mercenaries" such as those belonging to the camp of Mujahid (an Islamic Jihadist) Asari Dokubo
- Adopt "UNDP's Human Security Governance Model of 1994" and an aggressive and natural environment friendly (including wildlife preservation) Regional Development model to revolutionize the art of governance in Igbo Land, with "Igbo/South-East Triangle" as a test case.
- Flush out all non-State actor armed criminal entities such as "street and bush-based kidnapers-for-ransom" wreaking havocs and thwarting free flow of direct foreign investments and public-private-partnerships and provide enabling environment for industrialization, job creation and employment opportunities.

- Desist from present habit of breeding violent crimes and allied cybercrimes by shunning recruitment of members of the criminal class into government revenue, road traffic, markets and parks and political death squad taskforces and sub-State actor vigilante security outfits.
- Stop steadily forcing or pushing people into violent crimes by indiscriminate over-taxation, criminal taxation, duplicity of taxation and reckless roadway haulage and petty trading extortions and general promotion of bribery and corruption and aiding and abetting drafted security forces' conduct-atrocities and corrupt practices in their respective States.
- Stop treating law abiding citizens as "criminal persons or members of the criminal class" and criminal persons or members of the criminal class as "protected law-abiding citizens".
- Desist from counter-funding human rights abusive security forces and arming them to extrajudicially kill, torture, abduct and permanently disappear unarmed and defenseless citizens in lieu of "criminals" in the line of their law enforcement operations in their respective States in the South-East.
- Insist and ensure that tools and logistics from their respective States' public vaults provided for law enforcement operations by the drafted security forces in the East are not deployed to further inflict or trample upon the fundamental human rights and other constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of members of the defenseless and unarmed civilian population.
- Avoid cowardly eulogizing security chiefs and their establishments even when it is glaringly obvious that they are a bunch of failures and atrocity crimes perpetrators.
- Make little use of the military officers and personnel and more use of the well-trained and ICT-literate officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police specialized departments and secret police in dealing with members of the civil population. The above is owing to military officers and personnel's lack of technical know-how, human rights knowledge and knowledge of civil and criminal laws for democratic society; all of which have brought about conduct-brutalities, conduct-crudities and conduct-barbarisms of the drafted military officers and personnel in the line of their law enforcement operations in the South-East segment of Eastern Nigeria.
- Channel greater part of logistical and technical supports to the police and secret police into digitalization of their law enforcement operations and their instruments.
- Stop turning blind eyes or being privy to posting of rogue and ethnic and religious bigotry senior security officers (police, military, secret police and paramilitary) to the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South and insist on making inputs into those being posted to ensure effective and unbiased protection and safeguarding of lives and properties of the vulnerable South-East and South-South Igbo civilian population.

21 Recommendations to **IGBO LEADERS IN DIASPORA** AND INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS GROUPS:



- Ensure that all security chiefs responsible for massacring no fewer than 32,300 unarmed and defenseless citizens of Igbo extraction in Eastern Nigeria, between August 30, 2015, and December 31, 2024, are regionally and internationally tracked down and held accountable for such grisly and egregious crimes against humanity and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts. The senior security officers under strong suspicion are the serving or retired Army officers from the ranks of Lieutenant Colonels to Lieutenant Generals and their equivalents in the Air Force, Navy, DSS and Police (CSPs and above) who have served or still serving in the eleven Eastern States of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Abia, Imo, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa from August 2015 to December 2024. Some of their names are listed in the "Nigerian Military Massacre Operations in the East: 2015-2017", released in January 2020; "the Imo Mass Killings and House and Other Property Burnings: May 2023", released on May 21, 2023; "the Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions: Oct-Nov 2020", released on Nov 17, 2023; and others mentioned in this International Special Report the following links are:

1. <https://intersociety-ng.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Under-Buhari-Osinbajo-Many-Have-Gone-Crippled-For-Life-In-Eastern-Nigeria.pdf>

2. https://intersociety-ng.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/INTERSOCIETY-MAGAZINE_compressed.pdf

3. <https://intersociety-ng.org/armed-state-actors-and-armed-non-state-actors-killed-1600-unarmed-citizens-in-29-months-in-imo-state/>

- The Nigerian Government must also, at appropriate time, be compelled through judicial processes and other international accountability processes to provide the details of other conduct-atrocity perpetrators posted to the East in the past nine years and four months (August 2015–December 2024) for international blacklisting and accountability.
- Ndigbo and their leaders and associations in Diaspora are called upon to use their spread in over 90 countries of the world including presence in super-power and other developed countries to declare international intellectual war and campaigns against serving and retired culpable senior security officers anywhere in the world who served or still serving in the East and directly or indirectly participated in the massacre of no fewer than 32,000 defenseless Easterners using "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism "as a pretext; during which thousands were permanently disappeared including their dead body persons and over 6000 abducted from the East at late night, blindfolded or face-bagged and bundled to seven far Northern States where they are presently languishing uninvestigated and untried, out of which dozens are killed in custody weekly; with thousands already killed since January 2021. Included are senior security officers responsible for wanton destruction or burning down of estimated 6000 dwelling homes and allied properties belonging to defenseless Easterners worth N450billion.
- Ndigbo and their leaders and associations in Diaspora shall extensively act on this Special International Report by organizing well-coordinated international justice actions including writing the world leading Heads of State and Government and their democratic Parliaments such as US Congress, UK Parliament, Canadian Parliament, etc., UN Peace and Security, Human Rights and Humanitarian agencies and Regional Blocs like EU Government and Parliament etc.; to present before them the true and unbiased state of insecurity and other unsafe conditions and accompanying grisly and egregious abuses and violations of human rights and other civic freedoms in Eastern Nigeria particularly in the South-East, using this Special International Report as a reference point.
- Such letters and petitions or visits shall specifically be geared towards informing the written or the petitioned how insecurity and other unsafe conditions and accompanying gross human rights abuses and violations in the South-East in particular were masterminded by the drafted security chiefs and their high commands and fueled by federal political actors and their regional collaborators using "structural violence", "physical violence" and "cultural violence" and dotted with embryos of "Complex Humanitarian Emergencies"; with capacity of snowballing into "Complex Humanitarian Emergencies" if left unchecked and untamed.
- Ndigbo and their leaders and associations in Diaspora should also use their cracking contacts and networks around the world to explore countries with "universal (civil and criminal) jurisdictions" and maximally use such instruments to track down the conduct-atrocities or atrocity crimes perpetrators and embarrass them internationally including putting them behind international iron bars of the prison and getting them to punitively pay and compelled to pay reparations towards rehabilitation and reintegration of those brutally harmed back home.
- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are further advised that there are dozens of developed and human rights conscious countries with jurisdictions and jurisprudences that offer adequate provisions for righting the egregious wrongs done beyond their domestic borders against citizens of such countries or those whose relatives by marriage, brotherhood and sisterhood or under circumstances of "public concerns"; have been grievously harmed through "State terror" back home. Gravely harmed back home are also defenseless properties such as dwelling houses.
- On this note, Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are further advised to explore such international justice opportunities by setting up a small clique of international Igbo lawyers practicing in Diaspora (under services pro bono publico or 'contingency arrangements/agreements') to navigate, dust up, simplify and amplify such "universal jurisdictional and jurisprudential opportunities", for purposes of deterring other would-be perpetrators, ending impunity and preventing "repeat-offenses" or "repeat-atrocities".

- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are also called upon to explore and make maximum use of free legal services available or at the disposal of world leading human rights groups like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, Human Rights Without Frontiers International, etc., and use their instruments to track down all the leading perpetrators involved. For instance, such perpetrators, when tracked, can be taken into custody in the United Kingdom through the metropolitan police, on presentation of a criminal complaint bordering on suspicion of perpetration of crimes against humanity; with a clear case in point being that of Senator Ike Ekweremadu (though it is unfortunate). In the United States, under "Torture Victims Act of 1993", civil claimant suits can be filed against them seeking for compensations worth millions of dollars. Such opportunities are also available in several EU countries including Belgium and Netherlands, etc.
- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are called upon to mobilize materially, intellectually and diplomatically to identify the country-locations of thousands of members of Igbo population (about 95% males and 5% females) in their productive age-brackets who are currently held in different prisons outside Nigeria. About 70% of them are generally identified as those fleeing 'State Persecution' in Nigeria who found their way out of the country only to be arrested by their host countries and dumped in their prisons. The global Igbo leaders' intervention on their behalf is urgently required following the hostile diplomatic attitudes of Nigeria's ministry of foreign affairs and the country's foreign missions against them in such countries of their detention including being discriminated against on the grounds of their ethnic-zone (Igbo Eastern Nigeria) and religion (Trado-Judeo-Christianity). Such hostile and lukewarm attitudes are believed to be an extension of the State persecution that forced them into fleeing their ancestral homes and the country to stay alive and survive through any means of livelihood.
- Our call for global Igbo leaders' brotherly intervention on their behalf is further brought about by the fact that thousands of them have unjustly been held and treated in different African, Asia and South American countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Angola, Liberia, Siera Leone, Libya, Togo, Gabon, and a couple of other Asian, Maghreb and South American countries. We also understand that dozens, if not hundreds are part of those who died since 2016 while crossing the Mediterranean and other Africa-Europe countries through Libya, Morrocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt into countries of Italy, Spain, Portugal, etc. It is our strong appeal to the global Igbo leaders to identify their locations, number, age-brackets, gender, marital status, and dates of detention and reasons for their present incarcerations outside Nigeria and -diplomatically intervene on their behalf as a matter of uttermost immediacy or urgency.
- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are also urged to strongly mobilize and challenge and counter those promoting "Igbo-phobia" and "anti-Igbo sentiments" in Nigeria or outside the shores of the country, with particular reference being the recent promotion of anti-Igbo sentiments in Canada and 2023 targeted unprovoked and unwarranted attacks against the "Igbo People of Lagos State" and their properties during and after the 2023 presidential and governorship elections in the State during which Igbo citizens were physically and violently prevented from exercising their inalienable human rights to vote or be voted for; followed by targeted destruction and demolition of billions of naira worth of Igbo properties (still ongoing). Such targeted attacks and associated killings are also dotted with embryos of ethnic cleansing and genocide which must not be allowed to further rise to uncontrollable level before being responded to.
- The global Igbo leaders should diplomatically and intellectually take up the matter with world leaders and top UN Human Rights bodies or agencies through strong-worded international petitions or letters and other international justice actions such as protests, face-to-face meetings and filing of public interest litigations, etc.
- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora (modeled after "the World Jewish Congress") are called upon to strongly unite for "positive peace, security and development" of Igbo Land. In the study of Peace and Conflict Resolution, "positive peace" is absence of "structural violence" and "physical violence" driven by industrial revolution, transparent elections, accountable governance and job creation. Specifically, there shall be "Vision Take Back Igbo Land 2035", requiring holistic overhauling of Igbo Nation and Igbo Land using EU, US and Asian Tigers' development model inclusive of natural environmental development, preservation and protection.

The "Vision Take Back Igbo Land 2035" shall also be internationally driven by the galvanized Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora aimed at channelization of their international material and intellectual wealth and security and safety expertise for revolutionary development of Igbo Nation-State and Igbo Land.

- The "Vision Take Back Igbo Land 2035" shall be all encompassing including flushing out most of the present crop of political actors (externally installed surrogates and puppets) occupying most of the elective and the appointive public offices in Igbo Land part of the South-East and the South-East and others externally meant for them; from councillorship, state legislative seats to house of reps and senatorial seats and their principal leaderships zoned for the Region; as well as from local governments' chairmanship/deputy chairmanship seats, governorship/deputy governorship seats, to top federal executive seats zoned for the Region.
- Targeted and included or incorporated into the recommended "New Global Igbo Vision 2035" are the ancestral Igbo parts and Igbo People of Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa and Edo States. The eleven years long period of the Vision's takeoff and consolidation is recommended to enable the Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora to mobilize enough resources including industrial machines and machineries for the actualization of the Vision. It is also geared towards having enough time to mobilize adequate international intellectual and material resources to flush out most of the externally assembled jihadist forces and other imported destructive instruments and elements from Igbo Land and physically take back the region and change it into investment friendly and intellectually empowered millennium Nation-State.
- To intellectually drive the Vision, there shall be "the International Igbo Center for Democracy, Development, Safety, Security and Strategic Studies", modeled after the following leading United States' think tanks: International Republican Institute, National Democratic Institute and Center for Strategic and International Studies. The International Igbo Center for Democracy, Development, Safety, Security and Strategic Studies shall be headquartered in one of the advanced Democracies with its offshoot centers located in safe and secured parts of Igbo Land where future political actors or post 2031 local political actors must be made to undergo refresher courses.
- One of the areas requiring radical reformation in present day Igbo Land which shall be part of the Vision is retirement and flushing out of the present set of political surrogates and puppets holding sway in Igbo Land particularly in Imo and Ebonyi States. An intellectual action requiring to be incorporated in the Vision and activated is harmless relegation of religion and its denominational extremism and politicking to "intercessory level" between "individual humans and the Almighty God and his Heavenly embodiments".
- The above is urgently, intellectually, harmlessly and thinkably required to free the Igbo Society from the bondage of moral and intellectual incapacitation and formidably rechanneled Ndigbo towards strategic thinking, development and collective welfarism embedded in empiricism, logic and critical thinking. The current state of elevation of religion and its denominational extremism and politicking have drained brain-cracking and mental creativity and advanced mental and material poverty. The worst of it all is that they have provided breeding grounds for conning a mass of millions of uneducated and unconscious followers through fake prayers and ministrations. They have also robbed the House of God of the true followers and defenders of Faith and dangerously distracted and diverted the attention of the Igbo Society and her population from their Oracular period good ways of life and nobility; to the extent that 80% of today's gospel preachers in Igbo Land are sobriquet "scavengers who feed and become stupendously rich from miseries and lifetime challenges of multitudes of their brainwashed followers"; to the extent, too, that "any gospel preacher that walks into a crusade arena with a capacity crowd, pocketless, will assuredly emerge from the same crusade arena a multi-millionaire".
- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are strongly called upon to galvanize their immense intellectual and material resources in Diaspora by mobilizing and channeling them into more meaningful and futuristic collectivist-gains. They are specifically urged to use them to make serious inroads into high profile politics of the likes of the United States and its legislature, the UK and its legislature, the Germany and its legislature, the France and its legislature, the Portugal and its legislature, the Spain and its legislature and developed others with large Igbo population and naturalized citizenship.

Such moves are strongly needed to internationalize challenges facing the indigenous people in Eastern Nigeria such as those enumerated or highlighted in this Special International Report. This is more so when the Somalians in the United States successfully have some of their nationals with US citizenship elected to represent their interests in the US Congress; also, in UK where Pakistanis presently wield a strong voice on issues affecting them back home in the UK Government and Parliament.

- Ndigbo and their associations and leaders in Diaspora are further urged to channel more of their intellectual and material energies into international lobbying and influentially penetrate key international political, diplomatic and legislative arenas the same way the Diasporan Yorubas and the Fulanis have internationally infiltrated and partly influenced key issues bordering on Nigeria in the UK Parliament, specifically the House of Lords where they have a Briton of Fulani descent as their “Lord” points-man; the Nigerian Unit of the US State Department for African Affairs and office of the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, etc.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO NIGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, UN AND AU BODIES:

- Critically study this Special International Report and reflect and arm themselves with it during the review of future development, military, policing, democracy, rule of law, human rights and humanitarian supports to the Government of Nigeria, to ensure that such supports are not channeled into “instruments of war” against defenseless members of the Eastern civilian population, their properties, religious faith, collective welfare and security and defenseless territories.
- Further ensure that such development, military, democracy, rule of law, human rights protection and humanitarian supports amounting to billions of dollars yearly are not channeled into extrajudicial killings, abductions, torture and other cruel treatments, enforced disappearances, civilian house burnings, false labeling, class criminalization, ethnoreligious profiling and persecution, prosecutorial vindictiveness and hearsay conclusions, etc., all targeted at defense Eastern civilian population on the grounds of their ethnicity and religion.
- Compel the present Government of Nigeria and the country's security forces and their high commands to rewind and reverse all their genocide-enabler law enforcement policy directions and anti-human rights and unscientific procession of suspected criminal citizens in the East; and discontinue such development, military, policing, democracy, rule of law, human rights and humanitarian supports if they remained unaddressed.
- Compel the Government of Nigeria and the country's police and military authorities to frontally address pandemic and endemic corruption in the country's security (military and police) sector and comprehensively abolish the country's crude policies on military and policing and embark on digitalization of law enforcement operations and preventive, detective, combative or reactive, investigative and prosecutorial policing; all of which have become a modern trend around the world for more than ten years. It must further be noted that “Digital Policing/Soldiering” has become the speediest way by which struggling countries have leveled up with advanced countries because it is quantitative, qualitative, cheaper, available, avoidable, less corrupt, human rights and rule of law friendly and importable or exportable.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAMILIES OF THE SLAIN, THE WOUNDED AND THE ABDUCTED AND DISAPPEARED

- Families of the slain, the abducted and disappeared victims of military siege and terror in Eastern Nigeria, comprising unarmed and defenseless Igbo Easterners and non-Igbo Easterners (husbands, wives, male and female children of 18 years and above; cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws, business associates, etc.) whose whereabouts have remained unlocated or untraced since August 2015 or October–November 2020 or January 2021 till date (Dec 2024) are called upon to compile biodata of their missing loved ones and others who must have been shot and killed unarmed and defenseless, and maintain storage of such biodata in soft and hard copies and ensure that they are kept intact and in safe custody. Members of the security forces involved include army, air force, navy and secret police officers and personnel and officers and personnel drawn from the Nigeria Police tactical and crack squads.

Apart from such biodata being part of the victims' immortalization, it is the position of law and criminology that "where (heinous) crimes are perpetrated without being properly investigated and documented, then, no crimes have been committed and no victims and perpetrators have been identified for reparations and accountability or punishment". That is to say that keeping the biodata of the unlawfully slain and the abducted and disappeared victims of military siege and terror in Eastern Nigeria will forever haunt, disquiet and ruffle the feathers of their killers or abductors and those that aided and abetted such heinous crimes. Such biodata will also aid and stimulate local and international justice actions against the killers and the abductors at appropriate time.

- There shall also be biodata of those unarmed and defenseless family members, shot and killed by members of the security forces above named whether at roadblocks and checkpoints particularly at late night and wee hours of the morning; or during invasion or raiding of communities, dwelling houses and compounds and other facilities belonging to defenseless Easterners; or during law enforcement patrols and operations; or during street protests including processions, picketing, vigils, anniversaries and "ghost street protests" or sit-at-homes, etc. Such biodata involving the abducted and disappeared and the slain victims should include their full names, genders, ages, occupations, marital statuses and names, ages and genders of children, if married with children. Other relevant information to be included in such biodata include victims' villages, communities, local government areas and States of birth or origin; location of the abduction and disappearance of the missing or slain victims, when and where such abduction and disappearance or unlawful/extrajudicial killing took place, and their date, month and year; location or fate of the dead body persons, if openly shot and killed by atrocious members of the drafted security forces; and branch of the security forces and their location and names (if possible) being fingered or strongly suspected. Such biodata should also be attached with preliminary findings arising from such long search by families of such victims including how long such search has lasted.
- Families of the abducted and disappeared or the slain are further called upon to take advantage of the release of this Special International Report by going through it and checking if their loved ones being looked for years, were among those secretly killed in detention or killed after having been abducted, face-bagged and bundled to secret military facilities and prisons and lock centers in Northern Nigeria particularly those located in Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Kaduna, Zamfara and Niger States and FCT(Abuja) including the WAWA Military Cantonment in Niger, the Army Alpha Commando in Niger and the Mogadishu (Abacha) Army Barracks in Abuja; or the Kuje Prisons in Abuja and the Lafia, the Keffi (1) and the Keffi (2) Prisons in Nasarawa State, etc.
- The defenseless Igbo Eastern Nigerian families are further called upon to restrict the movements of their unarmed and defenseless loved ones across and beyond the East particularly night travels and late night "waka-about" and others engaging in early morning errands or business hustling. The Igbo Eastern Nigerian families being called upon are further alerted to be aware that members of the defenseless and unarmed Eastern civilian population particularly those of Igbo extraction are potentially, if not substantively endangered in the hands of the drafted security forces and rampaging armed non-State actors. Going by the findings of this Special International Report, members of the defenseless Igbo civilian population are six times more endangered in the hands of security forces particularly the military than in the hands of armed non-State actors. While they risk being abducted and forced to pay ransoms or get killed or bodily lacerated by armed non-State actors, they run higher risk of being shot and killed or shot and wounded in the open or disappeared after having been arrested or abducted alive and taken into perpetual detention; or false-labeled, arrested and clamped into perpetual detention amidst grievous torture and other bodily harms; or seized and brutalized at roadblock and checkpoint and extorted at gunpoint; exposed to Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen attacks including aiding their attacks against persons and properties on the grounds of defenseless Igbo civilians' ethnicity and religion, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As many as those that contributed for the successful compilation, computation and printing of this Special International Report ("NIGERIA: Ocean Of Innocent Blood Flowing In The East") are acknowledged and deeply appreciated. They include those who generated and authored several reports, and their sources cited or used in the Special Report. The above is more so when the International Report was built on verifiable facts and information generated from several open and closed (declassified) sources of local and international standing.

It is also gratifying that even among senior military officers of Northern Muslim extraction, there are still some of them that are detribalized and still uphold respect for the dignity of human person and the sanctity of human life. As a matter of fact, it was one of the senior military officers (a serving Colonel of Hausa-Fulani Muslim extraction) that secretly disclosed to our disguised undercover activists sent to the WAWA Military Cantonment in New Bussa, Niger State in September 2024 that assisted in furnishing our undercover team with information regarding the horrible humanitarian condition of hundreds, if not thousands of defenseless Easterners who were face-bagged at ungodly hours of the night from the East, bundled to faraway Northern Nigeria and dumped inside the WAWA Military Cantonment, to rot away or die in their dozens monthly. The Colonel had added: "your people are questionably labeled and dumped here to rot away or die because your leaders keep quiet, and no media is made to be aware". It was during the above encounter that ten of the abducted and criminally detained Easterners died inside the Cantonment one week in September 2024.

Our special acknowledgement and thanks also go to the Intersociety Lead-Researcher and a university-trained Criminologist, Emeka Umeagbalasi and his team of activist lawyers especially Chidinma Udegbonam Esquire and their field research assistants as well as scores of several "in-kind contributors or donors". Acknowledged also are friends and supporters of the Intersociety both in Nigeria and in diaspora who ensured that estimated N15m (approximately \$9,000) individually sourced and spent on this research work was successfully secured. Efforts and supports of the Intersociety's Friends and Supporters in this regard particularly from the United States of America, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Nigeria or any part thereof, particularly Onitsha and Enugu are specially acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

It must further be clarified and celebrated that this research work was not internationally funded by any grant institution or politically funded by any political group or politically exposed persons. As a matter of fact, we strictly avoided approaching them for assistance or support; not only to ensure the independence, neutrality, thoroughness and credibility of the International Special Report, but also going by findings made by this International Special Report, the insecurity and other unsafe conditions ravaging the South-East and the South-South particularly since 2021 are majorly linked to State Actors and politically exposed persons for criminal and selfish political purposes.

The Intersociety Team, Sunday, December 15, 2024

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GIWA PROJECT

GIWA PROJECT/G1/300/49



Headquarters
GIWA PROJECT
Wawa Cantonment
Kainji
Niger State.
Email: projectgiwa@gmail.com

HQ NACMP

23 Mar 22

TRANSFER OF BOKO HARAM AND IPOB TERRORIST SUSPECTS TO THE NIGERIAN ARMY

Reference:

A. HQ NACMP/G3/240/221/2 dated 22 Mar 22.

This is to acknowledge the receipt of 32 suspects listed at Annex A transferred to this Facility on 23 Mar 22 through Mr Mohammed Hafiz Yusuf of the Department of State Services (DSS), Abuja as requested vide Reference A. Please acknowledge.



AZ USMAN
AZ USMAN

Lt Col
Comd

Annex:

A. List of Boko Haram/IPOB Suspects.

Copy:

Department of State Services.



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H. J. ... (Sgt) [Signature]
Handing over officer

Lt. J. ... (Warrant Officer) [Signature]
Taking over officer

Bishop ... (Sgt) [Signature]
Witness

Capt. J. ... (Sgt) [Signature]
Witness

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ANNEX A TO
GIWA PROJECT, G1/300/49
DATED 23 MAR 22

LIST OF BOKO HARAM/IPOB SUSPECTS

Serial (a)	Name of Suspect (b)	Remarks (c)
1.	Kache Yaga	
2.	Bana Bama Ibrahim	
3.	Modu Hassan	
4.	Modu Gamboi	
5.	Muhammad Muqau Ahmadu	
6.	Hadi Abdulkareem (AKA Attalawi)	
7.	Ando Musa	
8.	Mohammed Muazu (AKA Arama)	
9.	Mustapha Kolo	
10.	Aliyu Dogo Bawa (AKA Aliyu Dogo)	
11.	Aliyu Musa Chuwa	
12.	Usman Mamman	
13.	Ari Kurumme	
14.	Igwe Johnson Dike	
15.	Odo John Adoga	
16.	Sunday Chizoba Cornelius	
17.	Ndubuisi Emmanuel Nweke (AKA One time Allied Ltd)	
18.	Arinze Ifeanyi Thomas	
19.	Ikechukwu Chukwu Nwaite	✓
20.	Calista Ogochukwu Ifedi	
21.	Joy Godwin (AKA Idara Gold Biafra)	
22.	Paul Okechukwu (AKA Afam/Okechukwu Ugboaja)	
23.	Chuchukwu Dim (AKA Anti-Christ)	
24.	Ifesinachi Raphael Chinaka	
25.	Chidiebere Luke Echefu	
26.	Malachi Nwokwu	
27.	Henry Ikechukwu	
28.	Sunday Ifedi	
29.	Gift Nwali (AKA Piccolo)	
30.	Uchechukwu Francis Nkama (AKA Marine)	
31.	Ebuka Obinna Okpara	
32.	Chibuike Nkorum Chinonye (AKA CSO)	

A-1

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Exhibit 5555

"SECRET// FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY"

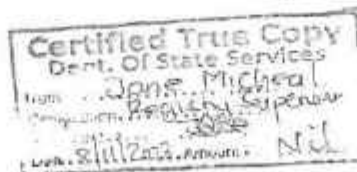
LIST OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS FORWARDED FOR TRIAL IN WAWA MILITARY HOLDING FACILITY ON 21ST FEBRUARY, 2023

A. BOKO HARAM/ISWAP SUSPECTS

1. F. C. BUKARI	-	10938
2. G.Y. MURAWA (AKA MANI)	-	09898
3. A.S. UMARA (AKA BABAWO)	-	10928
4. W. ABUTU	-	10886
5. A. O. ABUBAKAR (AKA ABU TAWHEED)	-	10920
6. M. MOHAMMED (AKA BABA ONISHIA)	-	10889
7. G. U. SALIHU (AKA ABU HANAN)	-	10927
8. A. MUSAWA	-	10924
9. B. BAKARI (AKA JAM)	-	10967
10. K.O. ARDO	-	10979

B. IPOB SUSPECTS

1. I. UBAH	-	2935
2. U. OKORONKWO	-	2933
3. I. M. NDUKA	-	2934
4. N.A. OKENA	-	2948
5. IKE BASIYA	-	2936
6. C. FRANK OKPO (AKA ASA)	-	2943
7. N.D OKORIE	-	2945
8. EMELE U. IBE (AKA EMELEWA)	-	2900
9. SUCCESS. JOHNSON	-	2947
10. CONFERENCE LUDLAW	-	2882
11. JOHN O. ORJI	-	2803
12. O.P. GENTLE	-	2942



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CHAPTER THREE

International Legal Frameworks And Human Rights Instruments



UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEVOID OF 'PERMISSIBLE DEROGATION' UNDER UN:

What Are Human Rights? As defined by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: "Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings — they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental — the right to life and freedom of conscience and worship — to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, shelter, and liberty. While all people have human rights regardless of the legal system in which they live, many documents have enshrined human rights so that all can develop rules and processes for the realization of human rights. The foundational document doing so is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which provided the basis for more than Seventy (70) human rights treaties. Domestic laws in many countries also enshrine human rights so that people can seek remedies for harms done at the national level using domestic judicial, legislative, executive and advocacy means or mechanisms".

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR) (DEC 1948)

Why It Was Created: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a document that acts like a global road map for freedom and equality – protecting the rights of every individual, everywhere. It was the first-time countries agreed on the freedoms and rights that deserve universal protection for every individual to live their lives freely, equally and in dignity. The UDHR was adopted by the newly established United Nations on 10 December 1948, in response to the "barbarous acts which outraged the conscience of mankind" during the Second World War. Its adoption recognized human rights to be the foundation for freedom, justice, and peace. Work on the UDHR began in 1946, with a drafting committee composed of representatives of a wide variety of countries, including the USA, Lebanon, and China. The drafting committee was later enlarged to include representatives of Australia, Chile, France, then Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom, allowing the document to benefit from contributions of states from all regions, and their diverse religious, political and cultural contexts. The UDHR was then discussed by all members of the UN Commission on Human Rights and finally adopted by the General Assembly in 1948. The Declaration outlines 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us and that nobody can take away from us. The rights that were included continue to form the basis for [international human rights law](#). Today, the Declaration remains a living document. It is the most translated document in the world.

The future of the UDHR: The UDHR legacy [challenges us to go on the offensive](#). It demands that we **resist** the globalized, transnational, and localized attacks against rights. But it also tells us this won't be enough. It asks of us too that we **disrupt** the building of world orders that reproduce historical privileges and injustices, violate rights and silence defenders; and that we **transform** global governance by re-imagining, innovating, leading. We can, we must – build bold, visionary leadership, institutions, and systems – that can protect our planet, for future generations, and from all that torments us. The UDHR is a milestone document. For the first time, the world had a globally agreed document that marked out all humans as being free and equal, regardless of sex, color, creed, religion, or other characteristics. The 30 rights and freedoms set out in the UDHR include the right to be [free from torture](#), the right to [freedom of expression](#), the right to [education](#) and the right to [seek asylum](#). Included are the civil and political rights, such as the rights to life, liberty, and privacy; likewise, the economic, social and cultural rights, such as the rights to [social security, health and adequate housing](#).

Knowing The Human Rights In The UDHR: Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal. **Article 2.** Everyone is equal regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, politics, or where they were born. **Article 3.** Everyone has the right to life (and to live in freedom and safety). **Article 4.** Everyone has the right to be free from slavery. **Article 5.** Everyone has the right to be free from torture. **Article 6.** Everyone has the right to be recognized before the law. **Article 7.** We are all equal before the law. **Article 8.** Everyone has the right to seek justice if their rights are violated. **Article 9.** Everyone has the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile. **Article 10.** Everyone has the right to a fair trial. **Article 11.** Everyone has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. **Article 12.** Everyone has the right to privacy and freedom from attacks on their reputation. **Article 13.** Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and to be free to leave and return to their own country. **Article 14.** Everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution. **Article 15.** Everyone has the right to a nationality. **Article 16.** Everyone has the right to marry and to have a family. **Article 17.** Everyone has the right to own property. **Article 18.** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. **Article 20.** Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. **Article 21.** Everyone has the right to take part in government and to have equal access to public service. **Article 22.** Everyone has the right to social security. **Article 23.** Everyone has the right to work, to equal pay, to protection against unemployment and the right to form and join trade unions. **Article 24.** Everyone has the right to rest and leisure. **Article 25.** Everyone has the right to a decent standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, and social services. **Article 26.** Everyone has the right to education. **Article 27.** Everyone has the right to participate in and enjoy culture, art, and science. **Article 28.** Everyone has the right to a social and international order where the rights in this Declaration can be fully realized. **Article 29.** We have a duty to other people, and we should protect their rights and freedoms. **Article 30.** Nobody can take away these rights and freedoms from us. **Source: Amnesty International 2024.**

Drafters Of The UDHR: In February 1947, a group consisting of Eleanor Roosevelt, Pen-Chun Chang and Charles Malik began drafting the International Bill of Human Rights. With assistance of the UN Secretariat, the task of formulating a preliminary draft was given to John Humphrey, Director of the UN Secretariat's Division for Human Rights. Following a letter from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to the President of the Economic and Social Council, dated 27 March 1947, (E/383), this Drafting Committee was enlarged and increased to 18. It was then composed of the members of the Commission on Human Rights for Australia, China, Chile, France, Lebanon, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It must be included here that the UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 (which came into force in 1976) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the same 1966 (which came into force in 1976) are today jointly referred to as "the International Bill of Rights".

Among the Six Organs of the United Nations (formed in 1945), "the UDHR-led International Bill of Human Rights" is placed under the Economic and Social Council Organ and managed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council. The UDHR is also the modern foundation of 'the International Human Rights Law'. While International Law is categorized into: 'International Public Law, International Private Law and Supranational Law', there are also 'International Human Rights Law (consist of international treaties and customary international law) and Customary International Humanitarian Law'. The latter's example includes the 1951 UN Statute on Refuge and First, Second, Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions or Laws of the Armed Conflicts of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005 (First Protocol was ratified by Nigeria in 1961 regarding the treatment of prisoners of war and Second Protocol in 1988 regarding protection of civilian persons in time of war or armed conflict). By Nigeria having become a Member-State of the United Nations since Oct 7, 1960, it is automatically bound by the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

DOMESTICATED HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS UNDER AFRICAN CHARTER (1981)

Nigeria as a key Member-State of the African Union is legally and morally bound by its key treaties and obligations especially the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of 1981, which came into force on Oct 21, 1986.

The African Rights Charter, a fully part and parcel of Nigeria's body of laws is comprehensively in agreement with the Chapter Four (Fundamental Human Rights) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution (as amended). The African Rights Charter, ratified on July 22, 1983, and domesticated by Nigeria on 26th June 1983 in accordance with Section 12 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, is presently cited as African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights Ratification and Enforcement Act, Cap A9, Laws of 2004. The Charter in its Section 20 guarantees right to self-determination using nonviolence or through peaceful democratic assemblies. The Charter also provides for rights to ethnic or indigenous existence and identity and Freedom of Religion or Belief. Specifically, the Charter had in its Article 8 provided for 'Freedom of Conscience and Profession and Free Practice of Religion'. The operability and enforceability of the African Rights Charter in Nigeria's municipal laws or legal system was decided affirmatively by the country's Supreme Court in *Gen Sani Abacha and Others v. Chief Gani Fawehinmi* (2000) 4 FWLR 533.

The **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** (also known as the Banjul **Charter**) is a regional and international **human rights** instrument, designed to promote and protect **human rights** and fundamental freedoms in the **African** continent. Its Civil and Political Rights version recognizes most of what is regarded as universally accepted civil and political rights. The civil and political rights recognized in the Charter include the right to freedom from discrimination (Article 2 and 18(3), equality (Article 3), life and personal integrity (Article 4), dignity (Article 5), freedom from slavery (Article 5), freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5), right to due process of law regarding arrest and detention (Article 6), right to a fair trial (Article 7 and 25), freedom of religion (Article 8), freedom of information and expression (Article 9), freedom of association (Article 10), freedom to assembly (Article 11), freedom of lawful movement (Article 12), freedom to political participation (Article 13), and the right to property (Article 14). The Charter also recognizes certain economic, social, and cultural rights, and overall, the Charter is considered to place considerable emphasis on these rights. It recognizes right to work (Article 15), right to health (Article 16), and right to education (Article 17).

Through a decision by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, *SERAC v Nigeria* (2001), the Charter is also understood to include a right to housing and a right to food as "implicit" in the Charter, particularly considering its provisions on right to life (Art. 4), right to health (Art. 16) and right to development (Art. 22). In addition to recognizing the individual rights mentioned above, the Charter also recognizes collective or group rights, or peoples' rights and third-generation human rights (environmental rights). As such, the Charter recognizes group rights to a degree not matched by the European or Inter-American regional human rights instruments. The Charter awards family protection by the State (Article 18), while "peoples" have right to equality (Article 19), right to self-determination (Article 20), right to freely dispose of their wealth and natural resources (Article 21), right to development (Article 22), right to peace and security (Article 23) and right to "a generally satisfactory environment" (Article 24).

LEGALLY BINDING HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS UNDER ICCPR AND ICSEC 1966 (RATIFIED IN 1976)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966. It took another 10 years before the necessary 35 States became parties to it and it formally entered into force for those States on 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49. This covenant and the [ICESCR](#) build on the rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together, the Universal Declaration and these two Covenants form the [International Bill of Human Rights](#). The ICCPR aims to ensure the protection of civil and political rights including: Freedom from discrimination, Right to equality between men and women, Right to life, Freedom from torture, Freedom from slavery, Right to liberty and security of person, Right to be treated with humane in detention, Freedom of movement, Freedom of non-citizens from arbitrary expulsion, Right to fair trial, Right to recognition before the law, Right to privacy, Freedom of religion and belief, Freedom of expression, Right of peaceful assembly, Freedom of association, Right to marry and found a family, Right of children to birth registration and a nationality, Right to participate in public affairs, Right to equality before the law and Minority rights.

Parties to the Covenant may also become parties to either or both of its two Optional Protocols. The first Optional Protocol came into force on 23 March 1976. It sets out a system by which the Human Rights Committee can receive and consider complaints from individuals who allege that their human rights have been violated. As its name makes clear, the Protocol is not compulsory, but once a State party to the Covenant also becomes a party to the Protocol, any person subject to the jurisdiction of the State party may lodge a written complaint with the Human Rights Committee (subject to any permissible reservations). The Second Optional Protocol came into force on 11 July 1991. The second Optional Protocol abolishes the death penalty for States parties.

Therefore, Nigeria as a key Member-State of the United Nations which it voluntarily joined Oct 7, 1960, is bound by key international treaties and obligations under UN System. Specifically, Nigeria is State-Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (**ICESCR**), adopted by UN in 1966 and entered into force in 1976, having signed and ratified them in 1993. The two Covenants are also legally binding international instruments. The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** in its **Part 1** (Article 1) recognizes the right of all indigenous peoples including the Igbo People of Nigeria to self-determination through nonviolence, including right to "freely determine their political status, pursue their economic, social and cultural goals, and manage and dispose of their own resources". All the fundamental freedoms or civic rights and some group rights contained in the African Charter are also provided in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Specifically, Article 18 of the ICCPR guarantees 'Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief'.

The **International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**, also signed and ratified by Nigeria in 1993, in its **Part 1** (Article 1) recognizes the rights of all peoples to self-determination, including the right to "freely determine their political status, pursue their economic, social and cultural goals, and manage and dispose of their resources". The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 2200 A (XXI)) on 16 December 1966. As one of two international treaties that make the 'International Bill of Human Rights' (along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), the ICESCR provides the legal framework to protect and preserve the most basic economic, social and cultural rights, including rights relating to work in just and favorable conditions, to social protection, to an adequate standard of living, to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, to education and to enjoyment of the benefits of cultural freedom and scientific progress.

For this reason, most of the rights contained in the ICESCR are related to tackling VAW (Violence against Women), given that VAW is a cause and consequence of women's enjoyment of their human rights on a basis equal to men. Some of the ICESCR's articles most relevant to tackling VAW include: Article 2: right to non-discrimination and the right to an effective remedy, Article 3: equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the ICESCR, Article 6: right to work, Article 7: right to just and favorable conditions of work, Article 10: protection of the family, mothers, children and young persons, Article 11: right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, Article 12: right to health, Article 13: right to education, Article 14: right to primary education and Article 15: right to participate in cultural life. The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/63/117) on 10 December 2008 and entered into force on May 5, 2013. It establishes mechanisms for bringing violations of economic, social, and cultural rights before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, specifically: an individual complaints mechanism, an inter-state complaint mechanism and an inquiry procedure.

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL VICTIMS OF HEINOUS HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMES OR ABUSES UNDER UN

According to **the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Office (1985)**, "Victims of Crime are persons, who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within Member-States of the United Nations, including those laws prohibiting abuse of power. The victims include, where necessary, the immediate family or defendant of the direct victim and persons (. i.e. human rights defenders) who have suffered harm in intervening to assist people in distress or to prevent victimization".

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (1998)

The United Nations Declaration on human rights defenders was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly including Nigeria as a UN Member State in 1998, on the occasion of the fiftieth (50th) anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), after 14 years of negotiations, through the instrumentality of the UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/53/144](#) adopting the Declaration on human rights defenders. A collective effort by several human rights non-governmental organizations and some State delegations helped to ensure a strong, useful, and pragmatic final text. Whereas the Declaration is not a legally binding instrument, it contains principles and rights that are based on human rights standards enshrined in other legally binding international instruments that are legally binding. Moreover, the adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly by consensus represents a very strong commitment by States to its implementation. The declaration:

- Identifies human rights defenders as individuals or groups who act to promote, protect, or strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means.
- Recognizes the key role of human rights defenders in the realization of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and legally binding treaties and in the international human rights system.
- Represents a paradigm shift: it is addressed not just to States and to human rights defenders, but to everyone. It emphasizes that there is a global human rights movement that involves us all and that we all have a role to fulfil in making human rights a reality for all.

The Declaration's full name is the "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms". However, it is often abbreviated to "The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of 1998".

HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATIONS, CHARTERS AND CONVENTIONS IN WORLD'S REGIONS:

Continently, Citizens of Nigeria residing outside the country and those of other countries found within and outside Africa including in places like the African, European Union, the Asian, the North American and the South American (inclusive of the Caribbean) Continents; fourteen counties in the Oceania; the Countries of the former Soviet Republics or Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS); the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Arab Countries including the Middle East and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC: Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates); etc., also have their human rights and fundamental freedoms protected under various Regional Human Rights Declarations, Charters and Conventions. These include: the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981 (Banjul Charter), etc.; the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR: 1950), the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1987), etc.

There are also the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR: 1969), the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (1985), etc.; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Declaration of 2012, the Asian Human Rights Charter of 1998, the Commonwealth of Independent States Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1995 (CIS Convention), the Arab Charter on Human Rights (ACHR) of 2004, and the Cairo (Egypt) Declaration of Human Rights in Islam of 1990. There are also the European Court of Human Rights of 1959, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of 1979 and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1998, which came into force in 2004; etc. It must further be noted that citizens of those countries under a regional bloc without with regional or continental Human Rights Declarations or Charters or Conventions, are protected under the United Nations' 'International Bill of Rights' (. i.e. UDHR, ICCPR and ICESCR) and the International Customary Law provisions. Also protected under the above are the 2022 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated 4.4m "Stateless Persons in the world or Persons of undetermined nationalities".

CHAPTER FOUR

International Humanitarian Instruments For Management Of Disputes In Democratic Societies



GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN TREATY LAWS BINDING ON NIGERIA:

By 'a State-Party', it involves being legally or morally bound by any international treaty agreement willingly entered into by a Member-State of the United Nations through two internationally mandatory processes of 'signing and ratification'. Every Member-State of the United Nations or a Regional Grouping (i.e. AU or EU) is also expected to optionally undertake the process of 'Protocol Ratification' or 'Domestication' of any International Treaty it has willingly signed and ratified. The latter is in accordance with Section 12 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. However, internationally, or under United Nations System, a non-domestication of a legally binding International Human Rights or Humanitarian Treaty is not 'a permissible derogation' so long as such treaty is signed and ratified by UN Member-State. Similarly, non-ratification of the ICC's Rome Statute of 1998 by a UN Member-State is also not 'a permissible derogation' or a legitimate excuse or a license to commit the four heinous crimes recognized and criminalized by the ICC Statute (i.e. crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and crimes of aggression). Specifically, under Chapter Seven (VII) of the United Nations Charter of 1945 and Article 13b of the 1998 ICC Statute, "a non-ratification of the Rome Statute by a UN Member-State is not 'a permissible derogation' under the United Nations Security Council referral powers".

Under the UNSC 'referrals', the UNSC can refer or direct the ICC Chief Prosecutor to open an investigation against a UN Member-State (its head of government and others) that is not a State-Party to the ICC Statute of 1998 for perpetrating the Four ICC Heinous Crimes in part or in whole. A clear case in point was the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1593 of 2005 on Sudan, indicting and referring for investigation against the country's maximum ruler, General Omar Hassan el-Bashir and some of his top officials over suspicion of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country's Darfur Region. On the other hand, the International Criminal Law's 'Principle of Complementarity and Zero Impunity' or 'inability and unwillingness' of a State-Party to the ICC's Rome Statute to effectively tackle and stop Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes perpetrated in its country using its own judicial mechanisms; is a clear invitation to the ICC to expressly exercise its international criminal jurisdiction against the affected perpetrator State-Party. Under this, no 'permissible derogation' is allowed or granted.

Therefore, by available statistics or records, Nigeria has signed, ratified and become 'a State-Party' to the following legally binding international Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaties or Charters or Statutes or Conventions: UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976, UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1976; UN Genocide Convention of 1948, UN Convention against Torture of 1985, UN Convention for Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 2009, UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1984, UN Child Rights Convention of 1990, UN Convention against All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1969, UN Statute on Refuge of 1951, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ('Rio Convention') of 1992 and its Kyoto Protocol (ratified by Nigeria in 1994 and 2004), Four Geneva Conventions or Laws of the Armed Conflicts of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1976 and 2005 (for regulation of inter-State and intra-State armed conflicts including treatment of non-combatants such as refugees and IDPs not directly involved), Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2009 (ratified by Nigeria in 2010), African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981, Moputo Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women of 2003 (ratified by Nigeria on June 26, 2004), and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1999 (ratified by Nigeria on July 23, 2001); etc.

Nigeria is also morally bound by the following important International Human Rights Management Declarations or Principles or Rules or Guidelines or Codes of Conduct: Universal Declaration of Human Rights of Dec 10, 1948, UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, adopted via Resolution 36/55 by the UN General Assembly on Nov 25, 1981, UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials of 1979, UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People of 2007, UN Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders of 1998, UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Office of 1985, UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions of 1989, UN Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and other prison inmates and custodial detainees of Dec 2015, 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 of Dec 2005, International Rules of Engagement under the Geneva Conventions or Laws of the Armed Conflicts of 1949, and the 2001 Law Enforcement Oath of Honor, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Canons of Police Ethics, issued by the International Association of the Chiefs of Police; etc. It must further be reminded that as at this 2024, Nigeria is signatory to international agreements involving at least 310 international organizations and a State-Party to no fewer than 90 international rights and humanitarian treaties.

THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 | **AND THEIR THREE PROTOCOLS OF 1977 AND 2005**

The Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocols of 1977 and 2005 originally came from the three modern war doctrines of Jus Ad Bellum (justification and ground for going to war); Jus In Bellum (ethical rules of conduct during war including ethical standards expected of soldiers or combatants in wartime or rules of engagement); and Jus Post Bellum (regulations on how wars are ended and facilitation of transition from war to peace including war crimes tribunals or permanent war and atrocity crimes courts such as ICC). The Geneva Conventions are also called the Standard Rules for the People of the War or parties in the conflict who occupy the conflict areas such as fighting parties, non-combatants, or civilians or IDPs and refugees and other third parties directly or indirectly participating or affected by the armed conflict. **The First Geneva Convention** "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field" was the fourth update of the original 1864 convention and replaced the 1929 convention on the same subject matter. **The Second Geneva Convention** "for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea" replaced the Hague Convention (X) of 1907. It was the first Geneva Convention on the protection of the victims of maritime warfare and mimicked the structure and provisions of the First Geneva Convention.

The Third Geneva Convention "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" replaced the 1929 Geneva Convention that dealt with prisoners of war. In addition to these three conventions, the conference also added a new elaborate **Fourth Geneva Convention** "relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War". It was the first Geneva Convention not to deal with combatants, rather it had the protection of civilians as its subject matter. The 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions had already contained some provisions on the protection of civilians and occupied territory. Article 154 specifically provides that the Fourth Geneva Convention is supplementary to these provisions in the Hague Conventions. The third protocol of 2005 emblem became known as [the Red Crystal](#). Considering these developments, two Protocols were adopted in 1977 that extended the terms of the 1949 Conventions with additional protections. In 2005, a third brief Protocol was added establishing an additional [protective sign](#) for medical services, the [Red Crystal](#), as an alternative to the ubiquitous [Red Cross and Red Crescent](#) emblems, for those countries that find them objectionable.

THE CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW DEVOID OF PERMISSIBLE DEROGATION

The UN's new concept of **sovereignty as a responsibility or citizens' sovereignty** and **maintenance of international peace and security** as the core foundation of the Purposes of the 193-Member Organization; is inviolably binding on Nigeria as a key Member-State of the United Nations. Nigeria is also bound by the Customary International Law under UN System particularly those that are inviolable under their doctrine of "substantial uniformity by a substantial number of States". The UN and the International Law Principle of *Opinio Juris* binding on its 193-Member States including Nigeria, literally means a general belief binding on all Member-States that a non-treaty (including supranational law) is legally binding on States; in addition to another essential Principle of UN and the International Law called "*Jus Cogens*" (meaning compelling law in which no derogation is permitted). The latter means absolute rules of general international law binding on all United Nations Member-States for which no derogation is permitted. It designates norms from which no derogation is permitted by way of agreements and stems from the idea already known in Roman law that certain legal rules cannot be contracted out, given the fundamental values they uphold. Most states and authors agree that *jus cogens* exists as the foundation of the International Law.

Examples of the '*Jus Cogens*' include laws or rules prohibiting and punishing "mala in se" or universal criminal offenses and offenders of violent crimes against persons and properties such as use of deadly force on vulnerable and unarmed citizens during democratic assemblies or free speeches in a UN Member-State; laws or rules prohibiting and punishing 'heinous mala in se' offenses and offenders of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in situations of intra state or interstate armed conflicts; laws or rules prohibiting and punishing "mala in se" offenses and offenders of defenseless civilian massacre in non-war provoked or peaceful protest situations; laws or rules prohibiting and punishing "mala in se" offenses and offenders of slavery, mass rape, torture, depopulation, forced migration, 'domicide' (wanton burning down or destruction of civilian homes and sacred places of worship), abductions and disappearances in circumstances of national or regional promotion of policies of 'structural violence', 'cultural violence' and 'physical violence' against members of a particular ethnic or religious grouping; and laws or rules prohibiting and punishing "mala in se" offenses and offenders of other internationally prohibited acts or conducts.

Generally, there are: **Public International Law or 'Laws of the Nations', Private International Law or 'Conflict of Laws', Supranational Law or 'Limitations of Sovereignty Rights Law' and International Customary Law (including International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law)**. By 'Supranational Law', it is an international or regional morally and legally binding agreement whereby a set of international Member-States agreed to transfer or limit their sovereignty rights to a supranational organization such as United Nations or International Criminal Court for **purposes of promoting international or regional peace and security and ensuring international justice for victims of heinous State crimes and punishment of their perpetrators; etc.** By **Supranational Organization**, it is a multinational union or association in which Member-States or Member-Countries cede authority and sovereignty on key internal matters of public-interest to the association or union, whose decisions are binding on its member-countries. The 'Customary International Law, on the other hand, consists of rules that come from a general practice accepted as law and made to be independent of treaty law. Supranational Law also incorporates treaty laws. The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 on land warfare are considered as embodying rules of the International Customary Law.

SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS MANAGEMENT LAWS FOR POLICING DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLIES

Nigeria as a key Member-State of the United Nations and the African Union is bound by Basic Standards, Procedures and Processes of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws or Principles. Under UN and African Union founding Charters and their principles, Nigeria will not be allowed to exist and operate like a zoo especially in matters of the country's public governance by political actors and exercise of policing and defense responsibilities by its Armed Forces, Police, Paramilitaries and Intelligence Agencies.

Specifically abound are the Ten International Rules for Policing and Managing Violent and Peaceful Assemblies by Armed and Political State Actors; which expressly recognize the rights of the citizens of all Member-States of the UN and the African Union including Nigeria to peaceful assemblies and expressions such as democratic free speeches.

Under the provisions of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws and Principles, these guaranteed rights include: (1) everyone is entitled to equal protection of the law without discrimination on any ground especially against violence or threat of same; (2) treat all victims of crime with compassion and respect, and protect their safety and privacy; (3) do not use force except when strictly necessary and to the minimum extent required under the circumstances (use of crude or deadly force forbidding during free speeches or democratic assemblies), (4) avoid using force when policing unlawful but nonviolent assemblies; (5) when dispersing violent assemblies, use force only to the minimum extent necessary (i.e. in line with proportionate use of force and avoidance of application of excessive force on unarmed or those not bearing automatic rifles or firearms or aggressive or angered assemblies); and provoked violent assemblies do not amount to insurrection, mutiny or armed struggle, (6) lethal force should not be used when arresting nationals suspected of committing simple offenses, misdemeanors and nonviolent criminal offenses.

Use of deadly force is forbidden to be applied in the case of suspected violent criminals who are not armed and offensive with corked rifles when being placed under arrest. When arresting offensive violent criminals on rampage, shooting them at terminal and sensitive parts of their bodies is forbidden and outlawed, (7) arrest no person unless there are legal wounds to do so and ensure that the arrest is carried out in accordance with lawful arrest procedures; (8) ensure that all detainees have access, promptly after arrest to their families and legal representatives and any necessary medical assistance, (9) all detainees must be treated humanely and avoid infliction, instigation or toleration of any act of torture in any circumstance and refuse to obey order to do so; and (10) do not carry out order or cover up extrajudicial executions or disappearances of the arrested or the detained and refuse to obey any order to do so; and report all breaches of these basic standards to your senior officers and to the office of the public prosecutor and do everything within your powers to ensure steps are taken to investigate these breaches.

Relatedly, in policing or managing democratic assemblies and free speeches, particularly if they become uncontrollable, capable of breaching public peace and safety; policing agencies and their officers must apply or use the following modern crowd control and personal safety kits: tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper spray, electric tasers (minimum use), batons, whips, water cannons, long-range acoustic devices, aerial surveillance, police dogs, etc. Approved personal and body protective or safety kits for crowd controllers include: anti-crowd helmets, face visors, body armor (i.e. vests, neck protectors, knee pads, etc), gas masks and anti-crowd shields, police dogs, etc.

THE INTERNATIONAL **Rules Of Engagement** **GUIDING INTRA STATE ARMED CONFLICTS**

Under the situation of internal armed conflict, the roles of the military and policing authorities are strictly monitored and regulated in accordance with internationally laid down rules in the Member-State's acceded international human rights and humanitarian instruments. Specifically, Nigeria is bound by the provisions of the UN Statute on Refuge of 1951 on the treatment of the internally displaced persons or IDPs and those that are found in borders between Nigeria and its neighbors. As a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998 and the 1949 Geneva Conventions' Rules of Engagement, Nigerian armed forces and the police (i.e. NPF, SSS, NIA and the Paramilitaries) are strictly bound and regulated by the country's human rights and humanitarian management provisions; likewise, the provisions of the United Nations' Convention against Genocide of 1948 and the United Nations' Convention against Torture of 1985; all which Nigeria has signed and ratified. The country's Security Forces are also bound and regulated by the provisions of the United Nations' Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials of 1979 and the United Nations' Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990.

Under the Four Geneva Conventions or Laws of Armed Conflict of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005, the Nigerian Security Forces (NSFs) are strictly bound by the principles of use of force and proportionality of the same; 'military necessity', lawful or legitimate self-defence and others. The Nigerian Security Forces are also prohibited by the referenced international human rights and humanitarian instruments and operational ethics and codes of conduct from using or resorting to the use of globally outlawed 'Cultural Violence' of 'class criminalization', 'mass criminalization', 'false labeling and criminalization', 'ethnic and religious profiling', and killing, maiming, torturing, abducting and disappearing unarmed and defenseless citizens on account of their ethnicity and religion. The Nigerian Security Forces are also strictly restricted and prohibited from heavy reliance on 'false labeling' and 'hearsay conclusions' as excuses to perpetrate mass murder and related conduct-atrocities against defenseless citizens of the country or any part thereof.

Specifically, under International Law, there are ten key features of the Rules of Engagement applicable in situations of armed conflicts. They are (1) legitimate use of force, (2) proportionality of use of force, (3) legitimate self defense, (4) humane treatment of prisoners of war or armed conflict, (5) avoidance of attacks on non-military necessity or civilian targets or properties, (6) avoidance of attacks on civilians or non-combatants, (7) treatment of the wounded, (8) avoidance of attacks on culture symbols or places of worship, (9) avoidance of attacks on humanitarian agencies and personnel, human rights activists and journalists; and (10) legitimate or lawful treatment of other people of the war (i.e. spies, journalists, wounded and surrendered members of the fighting parties, etc.).

Under Article Seven of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): 'no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment'. The UN Convention against Torture similarly requires Nigeria as a State-Party 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 with criminal penalties'. The 'domesticated version' of the above is unambiguously provided in Section 34 (1) (a) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended; which provides as follows: "every individual is entitled to respect for dignity of his or her person, and accordingly- no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment; and no person shall be held in slavery or servitude". By Section 8 of Nigeria's Anti-Torture of 2017, "torturing a citizen under whatever guise or disguise is an offense punishable with 25 years' imprisonment, and if murder is committed from such torture, the torturer will be charged for murder and held liable for offense of murder".

CHAPTER FIVE

Scholarly Look Into Three Major Violence Types, State Terrorism And Conduct-Atrocities



Empirical Definition Of: State-Actor and Non-State Actor Physical Violence: By the account of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR: 2024): “Violence (both state actor and non-state actor originated)” refers to the intentional (mens rea) use of force by the State or a dominant entity; whether physical or psychological, threatened or actual, against individual-citizens or a group of people or a community or an ethnic or religious grouping. State Violence can either be targeted or indiscriminate, motivated by certain aims, including political, religious, social, economic, ethnic, racial, or gender-based, and can be initiated with the aim to directly or indirectly inflict harm, injury or death (Krug et al., 2002). Under the above are different types of violence by state-actors and non-state actors, categorized and defined as follows: **political violence**, defined as hostile, aggressive or violent acts motivated by political objectives or a desire to directly or indirectly affect political change or change in governance. As a phenomenon, political violence includes a range of (genocidal) political acts from mass protest, (state repression and terrorism to reactionary) riots, rebellions, uprisings and terrorism (as well as other) violent acts committed by state and non-state actors; (with capacity to snowball into) pogroms, ethnic cleansing, and genocide (Kalyvas, 2013; Balcells, 2015).

Reprisal Radicalism, which can snowball into widespread violence, by definition, does not involve the use of violence from the beginning of it. Reprisal Radicalism refers to a process, often a multidimensional, complex and long-term process, by which individuals are introduced to extremist ideologies that motivate them to defy and challenge the status quo. This often leads to the eventual adoption of violence or 'violent extremism', which on its own refers to the “the willingness of the repressed and suppressed to use or support the use of violence as appropriate means to achieve ideological, social, religious or political objectives (Elshimi, 2018; Mansour-Ille, 2019; additions by the Intersociety's Author-in-Chief: Oct 2024).

The term: **Religious Violence** refers to violent acts committed by either state or non-state actors and motivated by religious convictions, ideologies or belief systems. Religious violence is closely associated with religious radicalism or extremism (i.e. Nomadic Jihadism in Nigeria under National Jihadism Project introduced by the Buhari Government in July 2015) and it further refers to acts ranging from inciting violence against particular religious groups, discrimination or segregating certain religious groups, persecution, genocide, random physical aggression, gang or mob violence and defaming or injuring verbal abuse or violence (Clarke, 2011; additions by the Intersociety's Author-in-Chief: Oct 2024). **Ethnic or Racial Violence** refers to violence between different groups of people or Government sponsored violence using a non-state actor group against another based on ethnic or racial differences or differences in culture, religion or language motivated by ethnic or racial diversity. Violent acts motivated by ethnic or racial differences take many forms, ranging from segregation and institutionalized discrimination to genocide, ethnic cleansing, pogroms, rebellions, violent self helps organized by violent separatist movements (Bergmann and Crutchfield, 2009; Rutherford and Bar-Yam, 2010; additions by the Intersociety's Author-in-Chief: Oct 2024).

Social Violence (also referred to as Societal Violence) refers to any type of violence employing physical or emotional acts of aggression committed by individuals or a community of individuals with the aim to have a social or societal impact or cause serious physical and emotional harm to a group of people or to society. These acts can be direct or indirect and can take various forms across countries varying from targeted social discrimination, segregation, terrorism, physical aggression to gang violence. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) refers to various forms of discriminatory acts based on gender, which may impair or nullify “the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women” of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms equal to men “in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field” (Art. 1). Social violence can also be politically motivated (Kelly, 2014).

Gender-based Violence is defined as acts or threats of acts intended to cause harm, injury, physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women based on their gender or acts affecting women disproportionately (Krantz and Garcia-Moreno, 2005). It is defined by the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life" (Art. 1). Gender-based violence is also used in the context of domestic violence or intimate partner violence and can result in various forms of abuse and exploitation, including economic exploitation. A form of gender-based violence is sexual violence and exploitation, which refers to any form of abuse or exploitation that is sexually motivated targeting vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. Convention C190 of the ILO (2019) defines gender-based violence as violence and harassment "directed at persons because of their sex or gender or affecting persons of a particular sex or gender disproportionately and includes sexual harassment" (Art. 1b).

Child Abuse, Violence and Exploitation refer to acts of violence, cruel or harmful treatment of a minor for profit, labor, sexual gratification, vengeance or other personal or financial gains (Legal Dictionary, 2015). The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989) explicitly prohibits "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child" (Art. 19.1). **Terrorism** refers to acts – either politically or religiously motivated – that aim to instill fear and/or the intimidation of fear in society (i.e. mass terror). Terrorism includes acts of aggression or violence that causes either directly or indirectly physical or psychological harm or injury to a group of people. Terrorism can both be perpetrated by as well as against the State (Teichman, 1989). Acts of terrorism perpetrated by the State is referred to as "State Terrorism". While there is no global communities' agreement one central definition of terrorism, one of the most widely used definitions of terrorism in the current world is that of the US Department of State, which in 1983 defined terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience" (Sinai, 2008). 'Non-combatants' refer to both civilian and military personnel, who neither armed nor on duty. The definition, however, excludes state terrorism (Sinai, 2008: additions by the Intersociety's Author-in-Chief: July 2024).

Psychological Violence refers to any intentional or unintentional conduct that aims to cause serious emotional or psychological harm to another person (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2017). The Istanbul Convention (2011) outlines examples of such acts to include verbal aggression, coercive threats and intimidation, control, harassment or stalking, insults, humiliating and defaming conducts as well as acts that render another person isolated from family, friends and any sort of support. Such acts mainly occur in interpersonal relationships, such as familial, parental or intimate partner relationships (Chapter V of the Istanbul Convention: 2011 or the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence). **Torture** is defined in the Convention against Torture (CAT) (1984) as "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" (Art. 1.1). The Convention, however, excludes pain or suffering arising from the enforcement of lawful sanctions.

The prohibition against torture and other forms of ill-treatment are embodied in several international human rights treaties and declarations, including: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (Art. 5, 1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Art. 7, 1966), and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984).

Several regional human rights treaties also uphold and reaffirm the prohibition against torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including: The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) (Art. 3, 1950), the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR) (Art. 5, 1969), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) (Art. 5, 1981), the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (1985), and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1987).

Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment refers to ill-treatment, which is premeditated and applied for prolonged periods of time that amounts to be cruel, inhumane and violating human dignity aimed at causing bodily injury, harm or intense physical and mental suffering (European Court of Human Rights, 2000). **Gang-related Violence** refers to violence that is perpetrated by a group of people who associate themselves to what can be referred to as a 'gang' – a relatively well-defined, durable and predominately street-based group of young people dominating a particular territory and known to the wider community (UK Government, 2016). **Organized Crime**, on the other hand, refers to violent crimes or criminal activities committed by a group of people in an organized manner for profit, using coercion, retaliation and extortion (UK Department of Justice, 2020). Organized crimes are not confined to territories or borders and can be 'state actor' or 'non-state actor' originated. The unchecked extortionist activities of military personnel or soldiers of the Nigerian Military (Army, Navy and Air Force) and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force on Nigerian roads are a typical example of "Organized Crimes".

Structural Violence And Its State Actor Deployment In Nigeria: Structural or Indirect Violence is a form of violence wherein key social structures and public institutions are discriminatorily structured, skewed and controlled in such a way as to exclude and harm people of a particular ethnic or religious grouping by preventing them from collectively meeting their basic needs and being protected of their fundamental human rights including freedom of worship or belief and right to ethnic identity; as well as their social, economic and political emancipation through popular political process participation or involvement. Structural Violence is built on oppression, suppression, discrimination, exclusion and segregation; perpetrated in "industrial scale" against any vulnerable or defenseless ethnic or religious grouping on the grounds of their ethnicity and religion. Structural Violence arises from politico-economic exclusion, discrimination and segregation such as sectionalization of the distribution of key public offices and discrimination arising from national or regional creation of political constituencies. The term, "Structural Violence" was originally coined by Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung in his 1969 article "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research".

In Nigeria, while Structural Violence is historically found to have originated from the "Anti-Igbo Sentiments" traced back to the 1937 "Ant-Igbo Railway Riots" in Katsina (present Katsina State), the Structural Violence against members of the Christian Faith across the country is traced to the promotion of "Anti-Christian Sentiments" as a State policy since July 2015 when a group of intolerant Islamists led by Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari rose to the State Power and took over the control of the country's political and coercive establishments. Examples of Structural Violence in Nigeria are lopsided promotions and postings in the Nigerian Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Police Force, the SSS, the NIA and the Paramilitaries. Others are inequitable, imbalanced and discriminative creation of political constituencies such as Electoral Polling Units, Electoral Wards, Local Government Areas, States and Federal Constituencies; promotions and postings in the Federal Public and Civil Services including top juridical and non-juridical Offices; and lopsided allocation and distribution of key federal infrastructures and economic resources.

Structural Violence in Nigeria is so deepened, recklessly and indiscriminately promoted and implemented that the Christian-held areas in Northern Nigeria have been gravely discriminated against in matters concerning creation of polling units, electoral wards and appointments into public offices and distribution of economic resources. The former Government of Nasiru el-Rufai in Kaduna State, for instance, in 2015 abolished the State's "Charter of Equity" including scrapping the age-long zoning of the posts of Deputy Governor and Deputy State Assembly Speaker to Christians, among others.

Other examples of Structural Violence perpetrated on the grounds of ethnicity and religion in Nigeria are electoral or political process manipulations such as skewed and discriminatory 'Continuous Voters' Registration (CVR) and Issuance of Permanent Voters' Cards' (PVCs) whereby Christian and Igbo controlled areas or communities across Nigeria are systematically discriminated against while members of Northern and Southern Muslims are optimally captured in the 'Continuous Voters' Registration and issuance of the Permanent Voters' Cards.

It also involves creation of more voters' registration centers in Muslim areas across Nigeria and its borders with neighboring West and Central African countries than those created in non-Muslim held areas. Another clear case of Structural Violence being promoted across the South-East or Igbo Land is elevation of externally recruited puppets and surrogates to key elective and appointive positions of authority reserved for Igbo-Christian Easterners at Federal and State levels. Structural Violence is a key 'Genocide-Enabler' which can lead to perpetration and perpetuation of heinous crimes including mass killings, ethnic cleansing or ethnocide, pogrom, forced migration, depopulation, domicide, mass rape, trafficking in persons, abductions, enforced disappearances, under circumstances of 'extra jus, extra-legal and extrajudicial under 'Heinous Physical Violence'.

Cultural Violence And Its State Actor Deployment In Nigeria: Cultural violence occurs when a group of persons or members of an ethnic or religious grouping are harmed or targeted for harm as a result of practices that are part of their culture, religion or tradition through systematic and consistent use or promotion by politically or religiously or culturally organized violent another, of foul language, falsehood and propaganda to gain suppression and dominance; with intent to blackening the victim-group and putting them in fear and danger of ethnoreligious cleansing or genocide or mass killings and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts. Cultural Violence is built on Structural Violence, which if not stamped out or constructively managed, can snowball into "Heinous Physical Violence". Cultural Violence can be promoted or sponsored against individual or group members of an ethnic or religious grouping, by a national or regional government or authority; or by a larger ethnic or religious grouping that has access to political power and coercive institutions.

Example of Cultural Violence was the ethnic cleansing policy of the Hutu-led Government of Late Gen Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda (in office between July 5, 1973, and April 4, 1994) and its Interahamwe genocidal militias which ran a genocidal cultural violence policy of operation "nettover" or "cleanup the Tutsis" dubbed "cockroaches". The anti-Tutsi ethnic cleansing policy and its operation was executed using the Hutu-led Government funded Radio Station: "Radio Télévision Libre des Milles Collines". The then Genocidal Government in Kigali had armed the Hutus (about 85% of the Rwandan population) to "kill all cockroaches (defenseless Tutsi civilians and moderate Hutus) seen or sighted anywhere around the country". The Government-level promotion and sponsorship of such genocidal arming and incitement immediately paid off, leading to the massacre of over 800,000-1000,000 defenseless Tutsis and moderate Hutus in three months (between April 6 and July 21, 1994).

In Nigeria, 'Cultural Violence' has been responsible for fueling the 'Anti-Igbo Sentiments' since 1937, starting with the 'Anti-Igbo Railway Riots' in Katsina and had since then metamorphosed into different dimensions and was particularly extended to members of Christian and Traditional Religious Faiths since mid-2015. A cross section of local and international observers also estimated that more than \$700m was squandered in international propaganda campaigns against the People of the South-East and general Igbo civilian population under the former Government of Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari and has been continued and deepened till date. The illicitly channeled public fund was spent to lobby key international actors to label members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality as "members of terrorist ethnic nationality". To achieve this, several academicians of a particular ethnic nationality in Nigeria were recruited within and outside the country and paid to promote in their books, seminars and reports an international falsehood and propaganda campaign against members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality.

Several attempts were also reported to have been made to coerce or influence some international actors including parliamentarians and diplomats in places like UK Government and Parliament, US State Department, ICC, UN bodies, etc., to spearhead the international falsehood and propaganda campaigns against members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality during which some of their citizens were also installed as puppets and surrogates in places like the International Criminal Court, Nigeria's National Rights Commission, or appointed as image makers of the country's national security establishments to cover their conduct-atrocities perpetrated against their fellow Ethnic Nationality defenseless civilian population. The international Presidency of the International Criminal Court was occupied for three years (2018-2021) by a Nigerian of Igbo extraction, yet nothing was done about the unchecked conduct-atrocities captured and catalogued by this Special International Report despite being perpetrated against members of the Igbo South-East and South-South defenseless civilian population.

Other Examples of Cultural Violence against the People of the South-East include the Nigerian Security Forces' indiscriminate application of ethnic and religious profiling, class criminalization, false labeling, mass stigmatization, frameups, phantom allegations, hearsay conclusions, etc., and general use of "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext. Innocent and defenseless citizens of the Igbo South-East and South-South are also indiscriminately rounded up and openly killed or taken into detention and custodially killed or tortured to death or permanently disappeared as "criminal class" including tagging them "IPOB members", "ESN combatants", "ESN sympathizers", "IPOB supporters" or "ESN and IPOB spouses, relatives and girlfriends" or "ESN/IPOB charms suppliers and herbalists"; etc. The Nigerian military, police crack squad and secret police personnel are also found to have severally launched ferocious attacks on thousands of members of the African Instituted Churches ("White Garments") and their Synagogues (churches) and Sanctuaries of the Traditional Religionists during which many of them were shot and killed and their sacred places of worship burned down or wantonly destroyed.

As a matter of fact, under the Government of Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari and the present Government of Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu, 'Cultural Violence' has been used as a major policy direction, leading to ceaseless and countless massacre of Christians and wanton destruction of their properties including farmlands, churches, schools and dwelling houses. Another stark instance of 'Cultural Violence' at the State level promotion in Nigeria are systematically organized religious killings and property violence covered under the so-called: "Farmers-Herders Clashes"- which has been responsible for Government inaction, inability and unwillingness regarding the massacre of Christians and destruction of their sacred places of worship, learning and dwelling homes and confiscation of farmlands and other properties belonging to Christians and non-Muslim others. Investigations into the above are hardly carried out, not to talk of arresting, investigating and prosecuting their perpetrators and providing adequate compensations to the victims including rebuilding their burned down or destroyed homes and rehabilitating and restoring them back to their communities.

As a matter of fact, the Nigerian Government, in addition to promotion of Cultural Violence, is widely believed to be tacitly providing supports to the country's Islamic Jihadists as well as protecting them and aiding and abetting their genocidal activities. The present Tinubu-led Nigerian Government has recently gone to the extent of creating the "Federal Ministry of Livestock Development"; in other words, the "Ministry of Nomadic Jihadism Development". The former Nigerian Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari had between 2016 and 2021, "Fulanized" Federal Ministry of Agriculture and key federal security, defense and policing establishments and others and made them rooted in 'Nomadic Jihadism'. Among them are: "RUGA (Government settlement of armed Fulani Jihadists and extremist others among Nigeria's indigenous Christian and other non-Muslim communities)", "Waterway Control", "National Livestock Transformation Plan", "Nigerian Military (Army) Ranching", "Fulani Settlements near military formations" in the South-East, South-South, Christian parts of South-West and Christian dominated parts of the old Middle-Belt, the North-West and the North-East. There are also "National Cattle Ranching and Fulani Settlement on Lands under Trunk A or Federal lands, roads and facilities" across the East.

There are also indiscriminate invasion, seizure and confiscation of Igbo communal lands including forests, bushes and farmlands by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their patrons on one hand and authorities of the Nigerian Army on the other as elaborately captured in this Special International Report. Governments of various States across the East are also being remotely forced or coerced by Government of Nigeria under Tinubu to deceitfully grab community farmlands and fallow others from their indigenous owners for onward remote transfer for permanent Nomadic Fulani settlements. As a matter of fact, the Nigerian Governments since 2015 have earned notoriety in the use of 'Cultural Violence' as major security, defense and law enforcement strategies including recent times' elevation of the lives of Fulani cows, their owners and herders beyond those of natural non-Muslim citizens of Nigeria particularly Igbo citizens of the East.

The above is to the extent that presently, lives and properties of Muslims in Nigeria particularly in the North look much more protected in the hands of the country's Security Forces than those of their Christian and other non-Muslim counterparts. In the area of law enforcement operations, Muslims are much more likely to be overlooked in matters of perpetration of violent and non-violent crimes than their non-Muslim counterparts particularly members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality and Christians in the North. It has been investigated and found that estimated 90% of those killed, arrested and detained in the East are members of unarmed and innocent civilian population who are also victims of class criminalization, false labeling, ethnoreligious profiling and hearsay conclusions. Cultural Violence was also the order of the day against Igbo residents and other Christian citizens in Lagos State during the 2023 Presidential and Governorship Elections—during which key top functionaries of the Government of Lagos State directly or indirectly spearheaded the campaign that made Igbo residents in the State terrified and unsafe during which hundreds of millions of naira worth of their properties and scores of lives were lost.

The Crime Of Aggression Under The International Criminal Court: Under the Rome Statute, as amended in the 2010 Kampala Review Conference, the Crime of Aggression "means the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations". A Crime of Aggression, also called "Crime against Peace", is further described as "planning, initiation, or execution of a large-scale and serious act of aggression using state military force against another sovereign State". It is generally accepted that the crime of aggression exists in International Customary Law. The definitions and the conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction over this crime by the International Criminal Court were adopted in 2010 at the Kampala Review Conference by the State Parties to the Court. Aggression is criminalized according to the Statute Laws of some countries and can be prosecuted under Universal Jurisdiction. Aggression is one of the core crimes in the ICC, alongside Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, and War Crimes.

CHAPTER SIX

International Standardization Of Law Enforcement Operations And Their Legal Limitations



TERMINOLOGICAL DEFINITION OF CONDUCT-ATROCITIES:

Extrajudicial Executions: they are defined by international law as unlawful and deliberate killings carried out by policing and other security agents including soldiers by order of a government or with its complicity or acquiescence. See African Rights Charter of 1981 (ratified in 1983) and Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976, ratified by Nigeria in 1993.

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 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 6.1) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Article 4), ratified and domesticated by Nigeria in 1983.

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.

Summary Or Arbitrary Executions: they are executions in which persons are accused of a crime or crimes and immediately killed outside conclusive criminal investigations and without benefit of a full and fair trial. See African Rights Charter of 1981 (ratified in 1983) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976, ratified by Nigeria in 1993. **All forms of** killings and maiming contrary to or in gross breach of the above international due processes and laws are technically or legally referred to as extra jus (beyond the law), extra-legal (beyond what the written criminal law provides) and extrajudicial (beyond court or judicial pronouncement or verdict).

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. These are defined by the International Convention against Torture of 1985, signed and ratified by Nigeria in 2001.

Offences Against Properties: they are international criminal offences that affect another person or a group of persons' rights of ownership of properties including possession and control and are criminal by way of premeditated infliction of damage or destruction or unlawful possession of such properties by the attacking person or persons including members of the security establishments who perpetrate such conduct-atrocities in the course of their law enforcement operations and management; or malicious attacks on such properties by armed or unarmed non-state actors.

Internationally, violent attacks targeted at destruction of homes or dwelling houses or properties including centers of worship or learning are referred to as "domicide", which, simply, is destruction of dwelling places or violently rendering an area uninhabitable. Property offences are also domestically categorized under 'violent street crimes' including theft, fraud, deception and making off without payment, criminal damage, arson, forgery, burglary, forcible entry or housebreaking, armed robbery, carjacking, kidnap-for-ransom, sea piracy, aircraft hijacking, etc.

The genocidal offense of 'domicide', is presently placed under the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Balakrishnan Rajagopal (Mr.), a Professor of International Law and Development. In Nigeria, 'offenses against properties' are a serious breach of the fundamental human right of any Nigerian citizen to acquire and own immovable property and to be adequately compensated, if maliciously or legitimately destroyed or dispossessed by public officials; or unlawfully destroyed or dispossessed by malicious non-state actors. These are provided under Sections 43 and 44 of the 'Chapter Four' of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution as amended.

Perpetrators Of Conduct-Atrocities: They are a group of state actors or non-state actors involved in perpetrating and perpetuating heinous crimes against humanity; involving heinous offenses against persons, properties and society. There are also single perpetrator and a group of perpetrators. Perpetrators are further divided into "punished perpetrators" and "unpunished perpetrators". Also abound are vicarious perpetrators and direct perpetrators; and "direct and indirect responsibility perpetrators".

Direct Responsibility Perpetrators: They are perpetrators or atrocity criminals that ordered, supervised and executed the heinous crimes or conduct-atrocities who also facilitated or attempted to facilitate the destruction of evidence-and colluded in protecting the command structure and rank and file culprits of the culpable coercive establishments-resulting in their culpable officers and personnel not being fished out and brought to justice.

Vicarious (Indirect) Responsibility Perpetrators: They are identified as those superior officers or heads of coercive establishments or senior political actors vicariously responsible for the acts of their subordinates or, third parties that have the "right, ability or duty to control the activities of a violator, but failed or declined to do same". Vicarious liability or responsibility is also a liability assigned to an employer or other principal for his agent's or employee's acts performed in the course of employment or other duty. In the case of premeditated homicide, for instance, such employer may be arrested and charged for "manslaughter" while his employee who committed the act goes in for murder.

Criminal Persons: A Criminal Person is anybody that has globally attained 18 years of age who violates criminal laws generally categorized under 'mala in se' and 'mala prohibita' applicable and enforceable in his or her country or state or province of birth or naturalization or residency and has been procedurally subjected to the processes of **suspicion**, investigation, arrest and detention within prescribed timeframe, indictment, prosecution, fair trial and fair hearing; conviction and custodial or monetary penalty or community service sentencing.

Strict Exceptions

Under Which **A CRIMINAL PERSON** CAN PREJUDICIALLY LOSE HIS/HER LIFE:

Exceptions to the above are strictly applicable when a suspected criminal person is violently on rampage with firing assault rifle or detonating explosives (i.e. improvised explosive devices) in the case of a suspected armed robber or armed abductor (kidnapper) or armed murderer or armed insurrectionist or armed terrorist or armed sea pirate or armed aircraft hijacker and their likes. Under the circumstances above, lawful or professional force (minimum) or that maximally proportionate to that use by any of the above categorized violent criminal persons may be applied by armed state actor(s) in order to stop the violent crime, apprehend the rampaging offender and restore sanity and safety to the affected environment.

It must, however, be noted that the intent (not to kill or destroy life or property) of the application of maximum proportionate force by armed state actor(s) must be different from that of any of the categorized violent criminal persons: to kill and destroy life and property or seize them.

In other words, it is atrocious and severely punishable for armed state actor(s) to terminally shoot or kill a reasonably suspected violent criminal person who is unarmed at the time of his or arrest or attempted arrest. It is also an atrocious criminal act or conduct for armed state actor(s) to terminally shoot or kill any of the categorized suspected criminal persons who has been taken into custody; using "escape" or "attempted escape from the custody" as an excuse.

Strict exception applies only when there is organized armed jail break in a maximum security prison during which use of maximum force is strictly applied. The digitalization of criminality processes involving determination of the status of a 'criminal person', offense gravity and procedures for processing him or her has been made easy through electronic tracking and management devices. It must be noted that the overall aim of international standardization of the above highlighted procedures is to protect and preserve **the sanctity of human life and ensure freedom from torture and other inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments.**

Criminal Persons Categorized: Being 'a Criminal Person' locally and globally is irrespective of the gravity of offence he or she is alleged to have been committed or reasonably suspected to be committing; whether misdemeanor: including individual cybercrimes, property cybercrimes, criminal assaults, wandering, etc..... attracting up to three years imprisonment in Nigeria; or treason, treasonable felony and felony: including government cybercrimes, arson, burglary, housebreaking, rape, murder, attempted murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, insurrection, etc.....attracting more than three years and life imprisonment on conviction in Nigeria. It must be globally noted that criminal persons under 15 years of age including in Nigeria are categorized and processed under Juvenal Delinquency Laws applicable and enforceable in different countries. In Nigeria and many UN Member-States, a child under seven years and a person of insanity, are incapable of committing criminal offenses-owing to absence of a mandatory coherence between guilty act (actus reus) and guilty mind (mens rea). Directors of corporate bodies indicted for criminal homicides in Nigeria, for example, are liable for offense of manslaughter; likewise, perpetrators of road, aviation and marine accidents.

In Strict and Statutory Liability Offenses such as road traffic and safety offenses, etc.; other than road accidents, they are categorized under "Simple Offenses" in Nigeria and, generally, 'coherence of actus reus and mens rea' (physical action or act and mental mind) are not required as a condition for prosecution. **'Strict Liability Offenses'** are a civil or criminal circumstance whereby a defendant is held accountable for behavior regardless of intentions or 'mens rea'. **'Statutory Liability Offenses'**, on their part, exist both in tort and criminal law and, criminally, they exist when a defendant is liable for committing an action, regardless of what his or her intent or mental state was when committing the action.

Offense of 'Manslaughter' is a crime of killing a human being without malice afterthought, or in in circumstances not amounting to murder. A clear case of 'Manslaughter' is a killing arising from a road accident. Generally speaking, **offenses of 'mala in se'** (i.e. murder, terrorism, rape, insurrection, kidnapping, armed robbery, sea and air violent crimes, etc.) are simply a set of criminal laws with universal applicability and enforceability while **offenses of 'mala prohibita'** (i.e. gay crimes, drug-related offenses, gambling, sexual profligacy: adultery, harlotry, etc.) are simply a set of criminal laws without universal applicability and enforceability; differing from one country to the other.

Victims Of Heinous Humanity Crimes Under UN: According to the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Office (1985), they are "persons, who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm including harms arising from physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental human rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within Member-States of the United Nations including those laws prohibiting abuse of power. The victims include, where necessary, the immediate family or dependant of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist people in distress or to prevent victimization".

OTHER INTERNATIONALLY PROHIBITED ACTS OR CONDUCTS:

They include unlawful imprisonment, unlawful killings, unlawful executions, extrajudicial killings, abduction and disappearance of slain victims' bodies, sexual violence including mass rape, persecution against an identifiable group on the grounds of tribe or ethnicity and religion; enforced disappearance of persons, torture and other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health and acts of propagation and promotion of radical ethnicity or religion (i.e. Nomadic Jihadism or Radical Islamism in Nigeria) leading to ethnic or religious cleansing or ethnocide or 'religocide'; etc. Widespread and unchecked perpetration and perpetuation of the above can snowball or lead any of the three out of the Four ICC Crimes: Crimes against Humanity or War Crimes or Genocide. In the Rwandan Genocide of April-July 1994, all the internationally prohibited acts or conducts listed above were brazenly manifested, perpetrated and perpetuated.

UNDERSTANDING THE PREEMINENCE OF "POSITIVE PEACE" IN PLACE OF STRUCTURAL, CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE:

Absence of 'Physical Violence' brings about "Negative Peace" while absence of the trio of 'Structural Violence, Cultural Violence and Physical Violence' brings about "Positive Peace" including stability, development and great transformations. Typical cases in point are recent years' great developments and transformations recorded in the Republics of Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China and their turnarounds in 1980s and 1990s. For the record, Taiwan was formerly known as "the Republic of China (ROC)" under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek (born Oct 31, 1887 and died on April 5, 1975) and represented the People of China as foundational Member-State of the United Nations until Oct 25, 1971 when it was replaced by the "People's Republic of China (PRC)" via Resolution 2758 adopted by the 26th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Flowing from the above, the People's Republic of China's socioeconomic 'Great Reforms and Opening Up' of 1980s is attributed to one of its famous leaders: Deng Xiaoping (born on August 1904 and died on Feb 19, 1997)-also reputed as "Architect of Modern China". Today, China is the world's most populous country substantially devoid of 'provincial, ethnic and religious cleavages and 'structural, cultural and physical violence'.

Historic Construction Of China's "Great Hall Of The People" Of Sept 1959 Through Direct Labor Before the Chinese turnarounds of 1980s through 1990s, the country had experienced "Great Leap Forward" and "Great Chinese Famine" arising from unchecked promotion and escalation of structural, cultural and physical violence. After the first [Five-year plans of China](#) was completed ahead of schedule in 1956, the [CPC Central Committee](#) began to consider about building a larger auditorium in Beijing. At the [Beidaihe meeting in late August 1958](#), the CPC Central Committee decided to build a number of major architectural projects in Beijing including the Great Hall of Ten Thousand People, and requested that it be put into use in October 1959 before the tenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Since the decision to build to be completed in just over a year and a month, time is very intensive. On September 5, 1958, [Wan Li](#), the vice mayor of Beijing, conveyed the central government on the preparations for the [10th Anniversary](#).

Beijing immediately set up by [Feng Peizhi](#) responsible for the project and headed by [Zhang Bo](#) as the chief architect of the Great Hall Design Group, in a very short period of time selected the design of the Great Hall of the eight programs, and in a wide range of opinions on the basis of [Tsinghua University](#), [Beijing Municipal Bureau of Planning Administration Design Institute](#) (President Shen Bo), [Beijing Municipal Bureau of Planning Administration](#), to draft a comprehensive program respectively. In early September 1958, the Beijing Municipal Planning Bureau determined that the Great Hall of Ten Thousand People and the [Museum of Revolutionary History](#) would be located on both sides of Tiananmen Square. In the early morning of September 9, 1959, [Mao Zedong](#), Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, visited the construction site. During the visit, Wan Li, the vice mayor of Beijing, suggested that the Great Hall of the People had not yet been officially named. After some discussion, Mao finalized the name "Great Hall of the People".

In that night, the Great Hall was fully completed and put into use, and [Mei Lanfang](#) performed [the Drunken Beauty](#) in the 10,000-strong auditorium to show his condolences to the construction troops.

The Great Hall of the People was opened in September 1959 as one of the "[Ten Great Constructions](#)" completed for the [10th Anniversary](#) of the PRC. The decision to build the Hall was made by the [politburo](#) in August 1958. [Zhou Enlai](#) believed the final design should give the message that "the people are the masters of the country". After design proposals were submitted, a group of architects from across the country chose the winning design by [Zhao Dongri](#) and Shen Qi. Zhang Bo was appointed as the chief architect. The construction took 10 months, 7,785 workers and was fashioned with military-like strategies that emulated the [Great Leap Forward](#).

Designed to symbolize the national unity and ethnic equality of the nation, the Great Hall embodied the new Chinese character of time in its features, proportion and details. The building covers 171,801 square meters (1,849,250 sq ft) of floor space, it is 356 meters (1,168 ft) in length and 206.5 meters (677 ft) in width. The center's highest point reaches 46.5 meters (153 ft). At the eaves of the main gate hangs the national emblem of the PRC. The Great Hall of the People consist of three sections.

1. The central section principally includes the Great Auditorium, the Main Auditorium, the Congress Hall (Standing Committee of SCPCC meets in conference), the Central Hall, the Golden Hall and other main halls.
2. The northern section consists of the State Banquet Hall, the Salute State Guest Hall, the North Hall, the East Hall, the West Hall and other large halls.
3. The southern part is the office building of the Standing Committee of the [People's Congress of China](#).

Among them, the central hall covers an area of 3,600 square meters. The retaining walls and floor are paved with colored marble. There are 20 white marble pillars around. There is a 12-meter (39 ft 4 in)-wide corridor on the middle floor. There are 6 main entrances leading to the Great Hall of Ten Thousand. Each province, special administrative region, autonomous region of China has its own hall in the Great Hall, such as Beijing Hall, Hong Kong Hall and Hainan Hall. Each hall has the unique characteristics of the province and is furnished according to the local style. Upon its completion, the Great Hall became China's largest auditorium which had previously been the [Sun Yat-sen Auditorium](#). The Great Auditorium, with volume of 90,000 cubic meters (3,200,000 cu ft), seats 3,693 in the lower floor, 3,515 in the balcony, 2,518 in the gallery and 300 to 500 on the [dais](#). Government leaders make their speeches; and the representatives do much of their business. It can simultaneously seat 10,000 representatives.

The ceiling is decorated with a galaxy of lights, with a large red star is at the center of the ceiling, and a pattern of a water waves nearby represents the people. Its facilities equipped with audio-visual and other systems adaptable to a variety of meeting types and sizes. A simultaneous interpretation system is also provided with a language booth. The State Banquet Hall with an area of 7,000 square meters (75,000 sq ft) can entertain 7,000 guests, and up to 5,000 people can dine at one time (as was done when Richard Nixon visited China in 1972). Smaller gatherings can be held in the Main Auditorium, with larger groups having the use of one or more of the conference halls, such as Golden Hall and North Hall, and the smallest assemblies accommodated in one or more of the over 30 conference halls that are named after provinces and regions in China. The above not only marked the turning point in China's politico-socio-economic transformation but also marked the first invention of direct labor approach to nation's building

CHAPTER SEVEN

Human Rights Made In Nigeria



Justiciable FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN NIGERIA

The 'Justiciable' Fundamental Human Rights are contained in the Chapter Four of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution from Section 33 to Section 46 and they include guaranteed rights to life (s.33), dignity of human person (s.34), personal liberty (s.35), fair hearing (s.36), privacy and family (s.37); freedom of worship (s.38), expression (s.39), assembly and association (s.40), lawful movement (s.41), freedom from discrimination (s.42); and rights to acquisition and ownership of immovable properties (s.43). Fundamental Human Right to compensation over property dispossession and destruction by state actors, sub-state actors and non-state actors is contained in Section 44 while limitations to the exercise of rights to privacy and family, worship, expression, assembly, association and movement are contained in Section 45 while citizens' rights to 'judicial safeguards and remedies' are guaranteed under Section 46 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution or in 'Section 46 of the justiciable Chapter Four'.

Fundamental Liberties: By Section 35 (4) of the justiciable Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution: "any person who is arrested and detained in accordance with subsection 1(c) of this Section shall be brought before a Court of Law within a reasonable time and if he is not tried within a period of- (a) two months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who is in the custody or is not entitled to bail (in the case of a person arrested and detained over capital offenses of treason, treasonable felony, terrorism, insurrection, armed robbery, abduction, murder, etc.); or (b) three months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who has been released on administrative bail, he (or she) shall (without prejudice to any other further proceedings that may be brought against him (or her) be released either unconditionally or upon such conditions as are reasonably necessary to ensure that he (or she) appears for trial at a later date". It must further be stated that other than the circumstances highlighted above for purposes of subsection 4, an arrested person in Nigeria is not liable to be arrested and detained beyond 24 hours or 48 hours without fair trial and fair hearing.

Relatedly, by Section 36 (8) of the justiciable Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution, "no person shall be held to be guilty of a criminal offense on account of any act or omission that did not at the time it took place, constitute such an offense, and no penalty shall be imposed for any criminal offense heavier than the penalty in force at the time the offense was committed". By Section 36 (12), "subject as otherwise provided by this Constitution, a person shall not be convicted of a criminal offense unless that offense is defined and the penalty therefor is prescribed in a written law; and in this subsection, a written law refers to an Act of the National Assembly, or a Law of a State, and any subsidiary legislation or instrument under the provisions of a law (subject to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution)". Similarly, by Section 4 (8) of the 1999 Constitution, "save as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the exercise of legislative powers by the National Assembly or a State House of Assembly shall be subject to the jurisdiction of courts of law and of judicial tribunals established by law; and accordingly the National Assembly or a State House of Assembly shall not enact any law, that ousts or purports to oust the jurisdiction of a court of law or of a judicial tribunal established by law".

By Section 4(9), "notwithstanding the following provisions of this Section, the National Assembly or a State House of Assembly, shall not, in relation to any criminal offense whatsoever, have power to make any law which shall have retrospective effect".

By Section 315 (1) "subject to the provisions of this Constitution, an existing law shall have effect with such modifications as may be necessary to bring it into conformity with the provisions of this Constitution and shall be deemed to be- (a) an Act of the National Assembly to the extent that it is a law with respect to any matter on which the National Assembly is empowered by this Constitution to make laws; and (b) an Law made by a House of Assembly to the extent that it is a law with respect to any matter on which a House of Assembly is empowered by this Constitution to make laws". In other words, Sections 4 (8) and 315 (3) of the 1999 Constitution forbid the National Assembly or a State House of Assembly from making laws that oust the jurisdiction of courts over all laws made in Nigeria or any part thereof.

Citizens' Rights To Self Defense In The Criminal Code And The Penal Code Acts Of 2004

Under Sections 286-293 of the Criminal Code Act of 2004 for Southern Nigeria and Sections 59-67 of the Penal Code Act of 2004, private citizens or civilians have rights to self-defense. Right to Self-Defense applies: "when a person is unlawfully assaulted, and has not provoked the assault, it is lawful for him to use such force to the assailant as is reasonably necessary to make effectual defense against the assault: Provided that the force used is not intended, and is not such as is likely, to cause death or grievous harm. If the nature of the assault is such as to cause reasonable apprehension of death or grievous harm, and the person using force by way of defense believes, on reasonable ground, that he cannot otherwise preserve the person defended from death or grievous harm, it is lawful for him to use any such force to the assailant as is necessary for defense, even though such force may cause death or grievous harm".

Invalidity Of 'Ouster-Clause' On Constitutional Right To Life

The smuggled in of an 'ouster clause' by insertion of subsection 2 into the Constitutional Right to Life in Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution is impracticable especially for those in security-intelligence, defense and policing establishments who have wrongfully and unlawfully taken refuge in the subsection 2 as a 'license to kill at will' and on the basis of 'hearsay conclusions' or 'hate, crude and unprofessional policing or soldiering'. The erroneously understood and misinterpreted subsection 2 provides: "a person shall not be regarded as having been deprived of his life in contravention of this section (s.33) if he dies as a result of the use to such and in such circumstances as are permitted by law, of such force as is reasonably necessary- (a) for the defense of any person from unlawful violence or for the defense of property; (b) in order to effect a lawful arrest, or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained; or (c) for the purpose of suppressing a riot, insurrection or mutiny". The Principal Section 33 has guaranteed as follows: "every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offense of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria".

Clear And Unambiguous Meaning Of The Subsection 2 Of Section 33: It must be noted that the inserted subsection 2 is not 'a permissible derogation' or license to kill at will any member of the unarmed civilian population in Nigeria including unarmed protesters or picketers or an unarmed and defenseless detainee or inmate or a group of unarmed and defenseless detainees or inmates running for safety in the event of armed confrontation between law enforcement agents and invading armed non-state actors. Rather, the subsection 2 is a failed defense for relatives or families of members of the Nigerian security forces including military, police, secret police and paramilitary personnel who may have claimed that their family members in the security forces have been 'killed unlawfully' by armed non-State actors in defense of persons or properties. The subsection 2 is also a failed defense for relatives or families of armed non-State actors killed while violently armed during exchange of gunfire with members of the drafted security forces during law enforcement operations. The two, though morally reprehensible, but they technically represent "legitimate killings" in the eyes of international humanitarian law and its international rules of engagement and principles of use of force and its proportionality.

It therefore follows the constitutional subsection 2 of Section 33 is strictly restricted to killings arising from verified armed confrontations between armed State actor and armed non-State actor fighting parties during law enforcement operations and allied circumstances.

Hiding under the pretext of “the subsection 2” to open fire at unarmed citizens with live bullets, shoot them at close range and terminal body parts and instantly kill them, is a clear case of mass murder and not within the literal contemplation of the subsection 2; likewise rounding up or mass-arresting unarmed citizens alive and taking them alive into detention where they are shot and killed or tortured to death in custody. The above is also irrespective of the gravity of offense under allegation.

The intendment of the 1999 Constitution on subsection 2 under is therefore clear and unambiguous going by the 'literal rules of interpretation' under which the 1999 Constitution and its wordings are strongly believed to have been framed and worded. The 'literal rules of interpretation' prescribes that “words should be given their ordinary meaning when statutes are being interpreted”. The application or enforcement of the subsection 2 of Section 33 is also strictly regulated by Seven Elements of Crime or Criminal Behavior: (a) harm, (b) legality, (c) actus reus, (d) mens rea, (e) causation, (f) concurrence and (g) punishment. The provision of subsection 2 is similar to those under Sections 286-293 of the Criminal Code Act of 2004 and Sections 59-67 of the Penal Code Act of 2004, under 'Citizens' Rights to Self Defense'; which respectively provide: If the nature of the assault is such as to cause reasonable apprehension of death or grievous harm, and the person using force by way of defense believes, on reasonable ground, that he cannot otherwise preserve the person defended from death or grievous harm, it is lawful for him to use any such force to the assailant as is necessary for defense, even though such force may cause death or grievous harm. The above is strictly in line with the International Criminal Law's Principle of Use and Proportionality of Force.

Right To 'PERSONAL FIREARMS' **In Aid Of Right To Self Defense In Nigeria**

In Nigeria, except 'personal defense weapons' or “personal firearms”, others including pistols, revolvers, submachine guns, shotguns, battle rifles, assault rifles, sniper rifles, machine guns, carbines, designated marksman rifles, multiple-barrel firearms, grenade launchers, underwater firearms, anti-tank rifles, anti-materiel firearms, improvised explosive devices and other variants; other than personal defense weapons, are classified as “prohibited firearms”. The above is according to the Firearms Act of 2004. 'Light Weapons' such as small caliber cannons, improvised explosive devices, light support weapons, combat grenades, anti-personnel landmines, mortars, anti-tank weapons, anti-tank mines, machine guns, grenade launchers, submachine guns, anti-tank rifles, under-water firearms, etc., are also categorized under “Prohibited Firearms” by Nigeria's Firearms Act of 2004. According to Section 3 of the Firearms Act of 2004, “No person shall have in his possession or under his control any firearm of one of the categories specified in Part I of the Schedule to this Act (in this Act referred to as a “Prohibited Firearm”) except in accordance with a license granted by the President acting in his discretion.

On the other hand, the use of “unprohibited firearms” or personal defense weapons (for self-defense, hunting, gaming and other domestic uses) in Nigeria mandatorily requires a renewable license issued by the Inspector General of Police while the special use of Prohibited Firearms is subject to issuance of a license directly by the President of Nigeria. Unprohibited or personal firearms include pump action, single barreled, double barreled, Dane guns and their likes and allied ammunitions. By Section 4 of the Act, “ No person shall have in his possession or under his control any firearm of one of the categories specified in Part II of the Schedule to this Act (in this Act referred to as a “Personal Firearm”) except in accordance with a license granted in respect thereof by the Inspector-General of Police, which license shall be granted or refused in accordance with principles decided upon by the President”. Penalties for breach of the two are stipulated under Section 27 of the Act, attracting Five Years to Ten Years Imprisonment on conviction.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

Subjected To Human Rights Laws In Nigeria

All Law Enforcement operations in Nigeria or any part thereof, by law, are strictly regulated by the country's 'justiciable' Fundamental Human Rights provisions or laws and provisions of Nigeria's ratified or domesticated regional and international human rights instruments; otherwise called "Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaty Laws of the Federation 2004". These Fundamental Human Rights Provisions are contained in the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended. This is by virtue of 'the Chapter Four' of the Constitution. Other 'morally binding' Collective or 'Social Contract' Human Rights provisions are contained in the 'Chapter Two' of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. Going by Section 1(3) of the Constitution, these Constitutional human rights in the Chapter Four and the Chapter Two solidly maintain their supremacy over all the law enforcement provisions in the Nigerian Criminal Laws, enacted or deemed to have been enacted by National Assembly of Nigeria and Houses of Assembly of the country's 36 States.

By order of seniority and superiority, the country's law enforcement provisions are under the strict regulation of Nigeria's regional and international human rights and humanitarian instruments including the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981 (ratified and domesticated by Nigeria in 1983) and the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976 (ratified by Nigeria in 1993). Others are the UN Statute on Refugees of 1951, the Rome Statute for International Criminal Court of 1998 and the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005, etc. Specifically, by Section 4 (5) of the 1999 Constitution, "if any law enacted by the House of Assembly of a State is inconsistent with any law validly made by the National Assembly, that made by the National Assembly shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void".

It also follows that by order of seniority and superiority, the provisions of the 1999 Constitution including the Fundamental Human Rights and the 'Collective or Group Human Rights' provisions are supreme and above all law enforcement provisions in Nigeria. The second most supreme in this category are Nigeria's Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaty Laws. The third supreme laws in Nigeria are the Laws of the Federation or Acts of the National Assembly; enacted or deemed to have been enacted; after which; the Laws made by Houses of Assembly of the country's 36 States follow; followed by laws of the Local Governments or Local Government Areas' Bylaws. The supremacy and seniority status of the Fundamental Human Rights provisions in the Chapter Four of the Constitution are so grounded and fundamental that several draconian provisions in the likes of the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2013 (and its 2022 amended versions), the EFCC Act of 2004, the Cybercrime (Stalking) Act of 2015 including Section 24 of the Act and obnoxious others; can never invalidate Section 35 and its subsection 4 of the 1999 Constitution or Personal Liberty provisions.

'Social Contract' Or 'State Responsibility' Human Rights Provisions In Nigeria

The Constitution of Nigeria, 1999; the country's subsisting 'Mother-Law' grandly provides for 'Social Contract' or 'State Responsibility' Human Rights in which the country's elected and appointed public office holders, numbering about 17, 500, are charged with their protection, implementation and enforcement responsibilities. The Nigeria's Constitutional 'State Responsibility Human Rights' are provided in the 'Chapter Two' under Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy or 'Social Contract Chapter' (Sections 13-24); and according to Section 13 of the Constitution: "it shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers or duties, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter (Two) of this Constitution."

Observed was an attempt to legally neutralize the Chapter Two with an 'ouster clause'. This is by insertion of Section 6 (6) (c) into the Constitution, otherwise called 'the Chapter Two Ouster Clause'; which attempted to bar the Judiciary from litigating or enquiring on matters containing in the Chapter Two including judicial declarations, compensatory justice and punishment of any erring member of the country's 17, 500 elected and appointed public office holders over the breaches of the Constitutional 'State Responsibility Human Rights' provisions and their implementations under the Chapter Two. It must however be noted that the militarist provision of Section 6, (6) (c) is a serious affront to Sections 4 (8) and 315 (3) of the 1999 Constitution which recognize the powers of the Judiciary to assume jurisdiction or take jurisdictional charge of all the constitutional provisions and other legislative activities of Federal, State and Local Government Legislatures and their Executive Arms including passage of Acts of National Assembly and their Subsidiary Legislations; Laws of the 36 States and their Subsidiary Legislations; Byelaws and Legislative Actions of Nigeria's 774 constitutionally recognized Local Government Areas and all the Executive Actions of the Federal, the State and the Local Government Executives Arms of Government in Nigeria.

However, the undemocratic intents of the smugglers of the 'Chapter Two Ouster Clause' into the 1999 Constitution have been dealt a heavy blow by virtue of the provisions of the Chapter Two having strong moral binding effect on the country's elected and appointed public office holders. The above is also on account of the fact that many, if not most of the Chapter Two's 'Collective and State Responsibility Human Rights' are substantially 'justiciable' or litigable going by the provisions of the country's Human Rights Treaty Laws or international human rights instruments which Nigeria is signatory to; with most important of them being the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981 (ratified and domesticated by Nigeria since 1983). Also going by the universally standardized "Principle of Indivisibility and Indesolubility of Human Rights", the (justiciable) Fundamental Human Rights Provisions in Sections 33-46 has made it compelling for Superior Courts of Record to enquire or litigate on the Civil and Political Rights, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Environmental Rights (Third Generation Human Rights) and the Group Rights (Fourth Generation Human Rights; i.e. Rights to Self Determination, Development and Ethnic Identity). The above is more so when Superior Courts of Record in Nigeria cannot competently enquire or litigate on the breaches of citizens' Fundamental Human Right to life without inclusion of their human rights to safety, shelter, clothing, work, food, health and standard education and right to information.

The 'Social Contract' Or 'State Responsibility Human Rights' in the Constitutional Chapter Two and their protection and enforcement mechanisms as a morally mandatory governance duty for the country's elected and appointed public office holders are provided as follows: Section 13 of the Constitution: "it shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers or duties, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter (Two) of this Constitution", Section 14(1), "the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on Principles of Democracy and Social Justice"; 14 (2) "it is hereby declared that sovereignty belongs to the People of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority"; 14 (2) (b) "the security and welfare of the People (human-security) shall be the primary purpose of the Government"; 14 (2) (c) "the participation by the People in their Government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution"; Section 14 (3), "the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or any of its agencies"; Section 15 (1), "the motto of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress"; 15 (2) accordingly, "national integration shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited".

Others: Section 15 (3): "for the purpose of promoting national integration, it shall be the duty of the State to-(a) to provide adequate facilities for and encourage free mobility of people, goods and services throughout the Federation; (b) secure full residence rights for every citizen in all parts of the Federation; (c) encourage intermarriages among persons from different places of origin, or of different religious, ethnic or linguistic associations or ties; and (d) promote and encourage formation of associations that cut across ethnic, linguistic, religious or other sectional barriers; 15 (4) the State shall foster a feeling of belonging and of involvement among the various peoples of the Federation, to the end that loyalty to the nation shall override sectional loyalties; 15 (5) the State shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power." It must also be pointed out that the establishment of the ICPC Act of 2000, the EFCC Act of 2004 and the Money Laundering Act of 2022 was predicated on Section 15 (5) of the 1999 Constitution, which "abolishes all forms of corrupt practices and abuse of office in Nigeria". The Code of Conduct Act of 2004 is also a creation of Sections 15 (5), 153 (1) (a) and 315 of the 1999 Constitution as amended. Corruption, generally, is concisely defined as "the abuse of entrusted power or influence for private gain".

Further, Section 16 of the Constitutional Chapter Two charges the State on citizens' inclusion in its economic policies including empowerment and balanced distribution. By Section 17 "the State Social Order is founded on ideals of Freedom, Equality, and Justice"; 17(2) (a) "in furtherance of this social order: (a) every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations, and opportunities before the law"; 17 (2) (b) "the sanctity of human person shall be recognized and human dignity shall be maintained and enhanced"; 17 (2) (c) "government actions shall be humane". Section 17 (2) (d) "exploitation of human and natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons, other than the good of the community, shall be prevented"; 17 (2) (e) "the independence, impartiality, and integrity of courts of law, and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained". By Section 18 (1) "Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels; 18 (2) Government shall promote science and technology; (3) Government shall eradicate illiteracy; and to this end, Government shall as and when practicable provide: (a) free, compulsory and universal primary education, (b) free university education and (c) free adult literacy program".

By Section 20 of the Chapter Two: "the State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria". By Section 21 "the State shall (a) protect, preserve and promote the Nigerian cultures which enhance human dignity and are consistent with the Fundamental Objectives as provided in this Chapter; and (b) encourage development technological and scientific studies which enhance cultural values". By Section 22 "the press, radio, television and other agencies of the mass media shall all times be free to uphold the Fundamental Objectives contained in this Chapter and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the Government to the People." By Section 23 "the national ethics shall be Discipline, Integrity, Dignity of Labor, Social Justice, Religious Tolerance, Self-Reliance and Patriotism". By Section 24 "it shall be the duty of every citizen to-(a) abide by this Constitution, respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, the National Anthem, the National Pledge, and legitimate authorities; (b) help to enhance power, prestige and good name of Nigeria, defend Nigeria and render such national service as may be required; (c) respect the dignity of other citizens and rights and legitimate interests of others and live in unity and harmony and in the spirit of common brotherhood; (d) make positive and useful contribution to the advancement, progress and well-being of the community where he resides; (e) render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order; and (f) declare his income honestly to the appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly".

Relatedly, by Section 10 of the 1999 Constitution, "the Government of the Federation or of a State shall not adopt any religion as State Religion" and its Section 1 (3), "if any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void". It must clearly be pointed out that **"the indivisibility and indissolubility" of the Federation of Nigeria as contained in Section 2 (1) of the 1999 Constitution is strictly dependent on strict compliance with the above explained provisions of the Chapter Two by the country's elected and appointed public office holders exercising legislative, judicial and executive powers and duties: presently numbering about 17,500.**

In other words, their non-substantial compliance cannot and will never secure Nigeria to the extent of its 'indivisibility and indissolubility'. Apart from the Constitutional Fundamental Human Right to "SPEAK OUT" or right to freedom of expression granted to Democracy and Human Rights Advocacy CSOs such as **the Intersociety, people of the mass media or media practitioners** and others including Nigerian individual or group citizens; guaranteed under Sections 22 and 39 of the 1999 Constitution; Section 1A (f) of the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2013 and its amended 2022 version also empower Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by directing the Government "to partner with them and the Nigerian Public to provide necessary education, support, information, awareness and sensitization towards the prevention and elimination of acts of terrorism".

PHOTOs OF THE VICTIMS OF RIGHTS ABUSES UNDER FORMER GOVERNMENT OF MUHAMMADU BUHARI IN NIGERIA COVERING JUNE 2015 – JAN. 2017 PERIOD

(Exclusively Compiled By International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law – Intersociety)

SHOT AND WOUNDED VICTIMS OF NIGERIAN ARMY MASSACRE OF MAY 30, 2016, IGBO HEROES DAY IN ANAMBRA STATE, SOUTHEAST NIGERIA
(In the massacre, the Nigerian Army led by then Army Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai, opened fire on unarmed and defenseless celebrants and massacred over 140 and shot and wounded over 130 others who gathered to mark the Igbo Heroes Day at Nkpor and Onitsha (110 deaths) and Asaba (30 deaths))



A shot and critically wounded female victim receiving treatment at a private hospital in Onitsha



A young male victim of the massacre shot at his head.



Hospital workers attending to a badly Wounded victim of the massacre



A victim of the massacre shot at his leg.



Another victim of the May 30, 2016 massacre shot at his neck.



Battered and lacerated body of another victim of the massacre



A victim of the massacre shot in his leg.



Sympathizers battling to save the life of a shot and wounded victim of the massacre



Another victim of May 30, 2016 massacre shot and injured in his head.



Operated victim of the massacre shot at the back of his head.



A victim of the massacre shot in his leg.



Hospital workers battling to save the life of another victim of May 30, 2016 massacre.



Another shot victim of the May 30, 2016 massacre lying helpless.

Sympathizers bawling to save the life of another victim of the massacre

Yet another victim of the May 30, 2016 Army massacre shot at his back

Another victim of the massacre shot at his waist region.

A victim of May 30, 2016 massacre with part of his body shattered by bullet.

Another victim of the massacre shot in his head.

Another shot and wounded victim of the May 30, 2016 Massacre.

Another victim of the massacre shot at his lung.

Another victim of the May 30, 2016 massacre shot and wounded at his head and stomach regions.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Management And Regulation Of Criminal Offenses And State Actor Misconducts In Nigeria Laws And Procedures Checkmating Law Enforcement Excesses



Criminal offenses in Nigeria are defined according to penalties or punishments attached and their regulatory and punishment laws are enacted in mandatory conformity with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution and the country's Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaty Laws. There are 'Statutory Criminal Laws' and 'Decided Case Criminal Laws', put in place to identify and process criminal offenses and their offenders; and to regulate and curtail the excesses of the Law Enforcement Agencies, Agents and their operations and other official conducts in Nigeria or any part thereof. Criminal offenses in Nigeria are contained in the Criminal Code Act of 2004 (for the South) and the Penal Code Act of 2004 (for the North) and are the creation of the 1999 Constitution by amendment or retention in accordance with the provisions of Section 315 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. Their processing or management procedures are contained in the recently unified 'Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015', replacing the Criminal Procedure Act for the South and the Penal Procedure Act for the North. The Code of Conduct Act of 2004 is another key statutory law in Nigeria put in place to checkmate public officers corrupt and other criminal conducts or criminal excesses of the elected and appointed public office holders in the country.

It must be pointed out that By Section 287 (1) of the 1999 Constitution, "judicial decisions or pronouncements arising from the Supreme Court of Nigeria shall be enforced in any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons, and by any court with subordinate jurisdiction to that of the Supreme Court". By Section 287 (2), "the decisions of the Court of Appeal shall be enforced in any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons, and by courts with subordinate jurisdiction to that of the Court of Appeal"; and by Section 287 (3), "the decisions of the Federal High Court, a State High Court and of all other courts established by this Constitution shall be enforced in any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons, and by other courts of law with subordinate jurisdiction to that of the Federal High Court, a State High Court and those other courts, respectively". It must also be noted that no judgment of any of these courts mentioned in subsections 1, 2 and 3 of the Constitutional Section 287 shall make pronouncements or give decisions that are not in conformity with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution or interpret any of its provisions out of context or vaguely outside the literal meaning of the wordings of the Constitution; using the Literal Rule of Interpretation upon which the provisions of the 1999 Constitution are worded or framed.

The Evidence Act of 2011 with amendments carried done and completed in Sept 2023; is a key statutory Act of the National Assembly, amended to bring its provisions in conformity with global technological advancements in evidence and in tandem with human rights provisions in Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and the country's International Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaty Laws. The amended Evidence Act of 2023 is mandatorily applicable to all judicial proceedings in or before courts in Nigeria. In matters of criminal investigation and prosecution under the Evidence Act, the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 and the Police Act; a prosecutor including a 'police-lawyer prosecutor' is allowed to file before a trial court a criminal complaint arising from any prosecutorial offense which investigation has been concluded. Such a prosecutor including 'a police-lawyer prosecutor' is allowed to continue with the investigations into other allegations connected to the main criminal offense under investigation by approaching the same trial court by way of 'amendment of charges' when their investigations are completed. The above is to forestall delayed trial and delayed justice including denial of speedy trial, fair hearing and endless criminal investigations.

By the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2020 (ACJA) and the Police Act of 2020, 'Police Lawyers or Police-Lawyer Prosecutors' in Nigeria are empowered to prosecute criminal cases at all levels of courts include Magistrate, State High Court, Federal and FCT High Court and form part of appellate "prosecuting legal teams" or "defense legal teams" before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. By Section 174 (b) of the 1999 Constitution, the Attorney General of the Federation "can take over and continue any such criminal proceedings that may have been instituted by any other authority or person; and (b) to discontinue at any stage before judgment is delivered any such criminal proceedings instituted by him or any other authority or person". The Attorney General of a State is granted the same constitutional powers in Section 211 (b) (c) of the 1999 Constitution. Law enforcement provisions in Nigeria are contained in the Nigeria Police Act, the EFCC Act, the ICPC Act, the Money Laundering Act, the National Agency for Trafficking in Persons Act, the NDLEA Act, the Terrorism Prevention Act, etc.

The Nigeria Police Act of 2020 and the Armed Forces Act (for Army, Navy and Airforce) of 2004 are also a creation of the 1999 Constitution. This is by virtue of Sections 214 (for the NPF) and 217 (for the Armed Forces) of the 1999 Constitution. The National Security Agencies Act of 1986 as amended (for the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Intelligence Agency and the State Security Service) is also a creation of the 1999 Constitution and its Section 315 (5). By Sections 4 (1) and 315 (1) of the 1999 Constitution, the Federal Road Safety Act of 2004, the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2013, the ICPC Act of 2000, the EFCC Act of 2004, the NDLEA Act of 1989 as amended, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act of 2022, the Firearms Act of 2004, the Armed Robbery Act of 1986 as amended, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Act of 2007, the Nigerian Customs Service Act of 2004, the Nigerian Immigration Act of 2004, the Nigerian Fire Service Act of 2004, the Nigerian Correctional (Prisons) Service Act of 2019, etc.; are the creation of the 1999 Constitution. The operations and enforcement of these federally enacted law enforcement laws in Nigeria are primarily subject to the provisions of the Criminal Code Act of 2004, the Penal Code Act of 2004 and their unified Administration of Criminal Justice Procedure Act of 2015.

Included in the list above are Procedural Rules of States' High Courts, Federal and FCT High Courts, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. These Rules of Courts are also created or made according to the dictates of the Fundamental Human Rights provisions in the 1999 Constitution, and Nigeria's municipally incorporated African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights provisions and other international human rights and humanitarian instruments in the country's International Treaty Laws. The Laws of the 36 States are existentially made to be obedient to or bow before the Acts of the National Assembly and their Subsidiary Legislations while the Local Government Bylaws are existentially created to be obedient to or bow before the Laws of the 36 States and their Subsidiary Legislations including Procedural Court Rules of the States' High and Magistrate Courts. Created under Section 153 of the 1999 Constitution are 'certain federal executive bodies' including Code of Conduct Bureau, Council of State, Federal Character Commission, Federal Civil Service Commission, Federal Judicial Service Commission, Independent National Electoral Commission, National Defense Council, National Economic Council, National Judicial Council, National Population Commission, National Security Council, Nigeria Police Council, Police Service Commission and Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission. They are jointly called "Oversight Federal Executive Bodies" and are subject to the dictates of the provisions of the 1999 Constitution and its Fundamental and Collective Human Rights provisions in the Chapter Two and the Chapter Four.

For purpose of further clarity, criminal offenses in Nigeria are classified into: 'Crimes against the State' such as treason, treasonable felony, terrorism and insurrection; 'Crimes against Persons' such as murder, rape, abduction; 'Crimes against Properties' such as armed robbery, kidnap-for-ransom, cybercrimes and attacks on dwelling houses and facilities; and 'Offenses against Environment' such as environmental pollution, bush burnings, deforestation, etc. Nigeria is under international justice jurisdiction and jurisprudence regarding the international heinous crimes against persons or group of persons, properties and environment such as crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, crimes of aggression, depopulation, forced migration, pogrom, carnage, ethnocide, infanticide, domicide and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts clearly defined in regional or international written criminal laws.

BODIES OF THE DEAD VICTIMS OF THE MAY 30, 2016, MASSACRE IN ANAMBRA STATE SIGHTED BEING CONVEYED IN THE NIGERIAN MILITARY TRUCKS TO SECRET MASS GRAVES FOR CRIMINAL INTERMENT



A Nigerian military truck caught conveying dead bodies of Igbo Heroes Day celebrants shot and killed by soldiers on May 30, 2016, in Nkpor and Onitsha, Nigeria. The truck was sighted heading to Onitsha Army Barracks graveyard where they were criminally interred or buried in 12 dug shallow graves on May 31, June 1 and 2, 2016



Another military truck of the Nigerian Army conveying bodies of slain Igbo Heroes Day celebrants massacred on May 30, 2016 to Onitsha Military Cantonment cemetery where they were criminally interred between May 30 and June 2, 2016



Another military truck of the Nigeria Army conveying more dead bodies of defenseless citizens killed by soldiers on May 30, 2016, in Onitsha to Onitsha Army Barracks Burial Ground.

CHAPTER NINE

The Good, The Bad And The Ugly In Nigeria's Law Enforcement Establishments' Laws



Evaluation of

The Recently Amended Nigeria Police Act Of 2020 Grounded In Human Rights Accountability:

By the provisions of the re-enacted Nigeria Police Act 2020, with additional (dictatorial) amendments carried out in July 2024; the Act has the Fundamental Human Rights provisions in the justiciable Chapter Four of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act of 2004 as foundation of the Nigeria Police Force powers and duties. The Police Act of 2020 was signed into law on September 16, 2020. In Section 1 of the Part 1 of the Act (General and Specific Objectives of the Nigeria Police Force), the NPF 'general objectives' are: "to provide for a more efficient and effective police service that is based on principles of: (a) accountability and transparency; (b) protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and (c) partnership with other security agencies". By Section 2 (b) and 2 (h) of the Act (Specific Objectives of the Nigeria Police Force): they include: "reposition the police to uphold and safeguard the fundamental human rights of every person in Nigeria in its operations".

The functions or duties of the Nigeria Police Force as outlined in Section 4 under Part 11 of the NPF Act are: "(a) prevent and detect crimes, and protect the human rights of every person in Nigeria as provided in the Constitution, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and any other law, (b) maintain public safety, law and order; (c) protect the lives and property of all Nigerians; (d) enforce all laws and regulations without any prejudice to the enabling Acts of other security agencies; (e) discharge such duties within and outside Nigeria as may be required of it under this Act or any other law; (f) collaborate with other agencies to take any necessary action and provide the required assistance or support to the persons in distress, including victims of road accidents, fire disasters, earthquakes, and floods; (g) facilitate the free passage and movement on highways, roads, and streets open to the public; (h) adopt community partnership in the discharge of its responsibilities under this Act or any other law; and (i) vet and approve the registration of private detective schools and private investigative outfits".

Section 5 (1) of the Nigeria Police Act (2020) further provides: "the Police is responsible for promoting and protecting the fundamental human rights of persons in police custody as guaranteed by the Constitution". Section 5 (2) further states "for the purpose of subsection (1), the Police Force shall collaborate with and maintain close working relationships with any government agency or relevant private initiatives in the establishment of schemes or mechanisms offering legal services to accused persons or detainees in police custody in the need of legal services to ensure that they have full access to justice as laid down under the relevant provisions of Chapter 1V of the Constitution". Section 5 (3) "in addition to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2), the Police Force is also charged with the responsibility for promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of all persons as guaranteed under the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act and other international legal instruments on human rights to which Nigeria is a signatory".

Under 96 (2) of the Police Act 2020, "a police officer shall not, in discharging his duty; (a) discriminate against a person in Nigeria, based on the person's- (i) place of birth, (ii) gender, (iii) socio-economic status, (iv) ethnic, political or religious afflictions, or (v) any form of disability; and (b) use a language, or act in such a way that suggests a bias towards a particular group".

The Nigeria Police Force is also rooted in the 1999 Constitution as amended-which in Section 214 provides: "there shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as 'the Nigeria Police Force'; and subject to the provisions of this Constitution, no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof". By Section 104 of the Act: "Persons acquitted by the Court cannot be tried for the same offense under this Act". The Police Code of Conduct and Regulations provisions also outlaw and prohibit officers and personnel of the Force from demanding and accepting bribes or engaging in acts of extortion (use of force to extort money or other valuable item) and other immoral and dishonest conducts in the line of their official duties or operations. Prescribed penalties range from harsh disciplinary measures: demotion and dismissal to judicial conviction and imprisonment.

14 Ranks In The Nigeria Police Force

- (1) Inspector General of Police
- (2) Deputy Inspector General of Police
- (3) Assistant Inspector General of Police
- (4) Commissioner of Police
- (5) Deputy Commissioner of Police
- (6) Assistant Commissioner of Police
- (7) Chief Superintendent of Police
- (8) Superintendent of Police
- (9) Deputy Superintendent of Police
- (10) Assistant Superintendent of Police
- (11) Sergeant Major
- (12) Sergeant
- (13) Corporal
- (14) Constable

Scholarly Analysis of **THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE POLICE ACT OF 2020**

According to "the Nigeria Police Act 2020: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities": June 2023, scholarly Joe Augustus-Ddadie, Ph.D., Ashiegbu, Victor Iheanyichukwu, Ph.D., and Okoro Issabela N. (Mrs.), (The Nigerian Police Act, 2020: An analysis of some key issues and opportunities), "The Police Force in any nation-state is seen as the enforcement and regulatory body which help in crime management, prosecution and investigation. In a bid to support the police in their duties various laws and regulations have been enacted to assist the police in carrying out their duties of protecting citizens'. One of such legislation is the Nigerian Police Act, 2020 which came into existence in September 2020.

Reasoning a priori, it is obvious that the Act is expected to enthrone and accountable, dedicated and even more civilized Nigerian Police Force. As earlier noted in this study, Adediran (2020) avers that while the repealed Police Act had 11 parts and 69 sections, the new Nigerian Police Act has 17 parts and 145 sections: with 76 new sections. However, this study shall be discussing some sections, their provisions and how they are interpreted. Section 1 and 2: States clearly the General Objectives of the Act, which include the provision of an efficient and effective police service based on the principles of accountability and transparency, protection of human rights, respect for the dignity of all people, and safeguarding of the Constitution's fundamental rights. According to the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) (2020), the Nigerian Police Force over the years have suffered from lack of well-articulated vision and mission which has being highlighted as a huge gap by police reform experts. This omission can be attributed to the background and history of the Police, which was set up in colonial times to protect colonial interests, thus the new Act sets in to correct the anomaly".

They further informed that "Section 3 and 4: Section 3 of the Act establishes the Nigeria Police Force while Section 4 sets out the general duties of the Police which include among others: the protection of the rights and freedom of every person in Nigeria as provided in the Constitution, provision of required assistance for citizen(s). These sections are or are in line with Section 214 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution which recognizes the Police and at same time clarifies its duties and responsibilities. Section 9: Section 9 (e) of the Act makes it mandatory for the IGP to make sure the mental and psychological needs of police officers are catered for. It is important that officers of the Police Force undergo regular mental and psychological checkup to always regulate their fitness.

Section 19(4): This clause requires all police personnel to regularly retrain in both fundamental policing and law enforcement courses and specialized law enforcement courses, investigation and gathering of evidence, human rights, gender issues, prosecution and defense. But in Nigeria today, public service officers are said to be lacking some of the required policing and technical skills. Section 20 and 21: Stipulates that police officers shall not be police officers shall not be paid a salary below what is payable to officers in other security agencies. Section 21(4) establishes that Police Officers who are sent to watch or secure individual property, administrative duties on police premises, and to act as orderlies. Their salaries, allowances, entitlements, cost of uniform, accoutrements and ceremonial dress of the supernumerary officer are to be paid by the private company or government department requesting the service of such officer. Section 26 and 27: These sections cover the general funding for the Police that includes annual budgetary allocations and states contribution for the effective management of the police. Section 27(1) creates a general fund for the Police that include annual budgetary allocations, contributions from States, aid from international bilateral and multilateral organizations as well as sums generated by the Police. (This is different from the Police Trust Fund) and compels states to keep records of their contributions. Section 27 further states that the funds should be used for cost of administration and operations, payment of salaries, allowances, pensions and other retirement benefits, investments and trainings.

Section 31, 32 and 34: Gives the Police powers to investigate and section 32 empowers them to arrest. By virtue of section 34, a suspect may not be handcuffed, bound or subjected to restrain except on (a) there is reasonable apprehension of violence, (b) the restraint is considered necessary for the safety of the defendant or court order and (c) except on court order. Thus, making it unlawful for officers to subjugate or manhandle any suspect. Section 35(3) & 36: Section 35(3) establishes that an agency or police officer having custody of a suspect shall notify the next of kin or relative of the suspect at no cost. More so Section 36 states that a person cannot be arrested in place of a suspect. This is one of the Act's most important sections because it discusses how police powers compare to protections for human rights and due process. The former law's authority to search and arrest was vague and lacked any procedural protections The Act goes further to provide that were a warrant has been gotten it must be shown to the suspect within 24 hours of their arrest (section 78).

Section 38: Provides that a police officer can arrest a suspect without a warrant on certain grounds e.g. where there are reasonable grounds of suspecting the person committed an offence, the person has committed the offence in the presence of the officer, or obstructs the officer's ability to execute their duty, etc. It expressly states that if none of the stated conditions are met, a person cannot be arrested without a warrant. Section 43 and 44: States that an arrested person must be taken to a police station immediately and the police officer should complete the record of the person's arrest including the offence, contact details, details of identification etc. Section 44 (1) establishes that were a suspect is arrested with or without warrant and taken to a police station or any security effecting such arrest, the officer making the arrest must take record of the time and place of arrest, the reason for the arrest, full name, address and occupation of the offender amongst others.

Sections 50 (2) (3): Contains provisions on search warrant safeguards, i.e., requirements that must be met before a search warrant can be obtained, such as the warrant's grounds, the premises to be searched, and so on.

Section 50 stipulates that a police officer must be in uniform and carry a visible Police identity card before conducting a search, as well as advise the person in charge of the vehicle of his or her name, police station, object, and search grounds. Section 62: Provides for a person arrested to be brought before a court within 24 hours. A suspect may be discharged on entering a recognizance or bail bond, with or without sureties for a reasonable amount. The reverse is most times the case in some police stations, as offenders are held and detained against their will.

Section 92(a)(b) (c): Introduces a new clause on recognizing and praising valorous and exceptional service. This is for police officers who have excelled at carrying out their tasks, distinguishing themselves in the process. The Police Force shall honor and formally recognize them for their valiant and exceptional service, either by suggesting that they be given national honors or by publicly presenting them with awards and certificates of commendable service from the communities. In addition to improving police morale, this will go a long way toward solidifying service delivery and dedication on the part of public officials. Section 93, 95 & 99: Section 93 makes it illegal for a police officer to be in debt while on the job. Creditors can now file for earnings attachment, which will cause the debt to be withdrawn directly from the officer's monthly compensation (up to 30% of total salary) until the debt is paid in full. According to Section 95 of the Act, serving officials are not permitted to engage in any business other than farming. It is now an offence under Section 99 of the Act if a police officer requests for your assistance after being assaulted and you fail to provide it. This is punishable by three months in prison or a fine of N100,000.

Section 100: Section 100 makes it illegal to supply an intoxicating substance to a police officer or to enable a police officer to remain in your home after ingesting an intoxicating substance. A minimum fine of N50,000 is imposed for this offense. Section 103: Very importantly, this section provides that police officers are not exempted from the ordinary course of law or other laws, meaning that officers can still be prosecuted for offences not listed in this Act. This is a good development as hitherto; police officers have been seen disrespecting laws and acting as though they are above the law. According to Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) (2020), Police Officers are by this Act expected to abide by all laws of the land and can be prosecuted for offences in other laws. In essence, it mandates that police officers to be law abiding citizens and enshrines the rule of law principle of no one being above the law. The Challenges of the Nigerian Police Act, 2020: The new Act's overall goal is to create an effective police force based on the principles of accountability and openness, human rights protection, and collaboration with other security authorities. The Act improved on the provisions of the previous Act, but also contains new provisions and if religiously implemented, the Act has the capacity of entrenching good and effective policing reforms which will strengthen the police operations in Nigeria. No doubt the provisions of the new Act are beautiful, its implementation has faced a lot of challenges.

According to Section 19, all police personnel must regularly complete training and retraining in fundamental law enforcement and policing skills as well as specialized courses related to law enforcement, evidence gathering and investigation, human rights, gender issues, prosecution, and defense. It appears this section has not been achieved reasons being that over time some police officers seen performing or enforcing their duties below expectation and this is because some lack the required law enforcement skills and training. Babalola (2017) in a Vanguard report reveals that the deplorable nature of our training institutes all over the country affects the efficiency of police officers. This is because they lack required policing skills. More so, paucity of the funds contributes to this challenge. When officers lack training, they will find it difficult to carry out their constitutional functions and responsibilities. Wilson and Asiegbu (2020) reveals that due to the global dynamics and changing organizational demands, it is imperative for organizations to improve their human capital by adopting programs and trainings that will help them to sustain targets of the organizations and take advantage over their competitors in the industry. Thus, lack of training affects the brightness of the new Police Act and therefore hinders its progress.

More so, Section 35(3) further states that when an officer arrests a suspect, the relatives or family members of such a suspect must be contacted. This is a good development, as it requires the police to without any financial attachment contact the family of the suspect.

But this is most times not the case as suspects is kept in custody for days without their family members knowing their way about.

In line with the above, Onanuga (2020) states that the Act prohibits a police officer to torture a suspect or melt upon such any inhumane force and as well the respect for the fundamental human right of every citizen. The right to human dignity is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of 1999. This right must also be extended to someone who has been arrested. He must not be tortured or subjected to any cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. In Lagos, Lambo (2021) reports that family members and acquaintances of a murdered suspect (Omolola Ejioye) were seen protesting the circumstances surrounding their brother's murder while in the custody of the Lagos State Police Command leading to a peaceful protest by some friends and family members of the deceased against police violence.

Furthermore, Section 46 of the Act states that when officers visit a crime scene or go for arrest, there should be a detailed record of the recovered items from the house of the victim and after which unrelated items be returned to the owner. However, it has being noted that police officers are accused of taking items and belongings of suspects who are seen to be indigents and who have no legal counsel. Again, section 54 of the Act states that police force should not because of a person's color, age, hairstyle or manner of dress; previous conviction for possession of an unlawful article; or stereotyped images of certain persons or groups make any arrest. But this is not the case as officers are recorded to have arrested many youths because of the above. Egbas (2019) reports that young men have been on the receiving end of brutality at the hands of men of the police force because of how they look. Egbas further informs how men of the Police Special Anti-Cultism Squad (SACS) arrested young Nigerians around Sabo, Yaba in Lagos states on March 21, 2019, because of his hairstyle and how boys are picked up because they carry laptop bags. It is believed that with the new Act, all of these will be reduced.

Section 38 grants a police officer the power to arrest a suspect without a warrant on certain grounds e.g. where there are reasonable grounds of suspecting the person committed an offence, the person has committed the offence in the presence of the officer, or obstructs the officer's ability to execute their duty, etc. It expressly states that if none of the stated conditions are met, a person cannot be arrested without a warrant. But the problem now is some officers because of bias, ethnic connotation, religious affiliation and creed arrest their perceived enemies because of the enormous powers given to them to make arrest without warrant. Lack of awareness on the side of the citizens about the content of the Act and their fundamental human rights in general is a major challenge to achieving the provisions of the Act. As rightly noted by Epelle and Asiegbu (2021), majority of citizens are not informed about existing government policies and laws, and this is because of weak government-citizen relationship and communication over time. It therefore becomes necessary that the government communicates its policies and laws to the citizens to get them informed. More so, section 36 of the Act, state that a person shall not be arrested in place of a suspect. But most citizens do not know their rights as contained in the Act and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with regards to the above section of the Act thus giving some officers the room to abuse their rights.

Akpuke (2017) states that the bureaucratic condition of most public officers as well as the widespread corruption in most public institutions affects the implementation of the Act. Sometimes, police officers are seen extorting citizens and collecting bribes while on duty. Ukpon (2019) reports how an officer identified as Onuh Makedomu, a non- commissioned officer, with Force No.431625, who was caught on camera collecting bribe from a motorist was arrested by the Nigerian Police Force for collecting bribe. The corruption cases reported against some members of the Nigerian Police Force have over time reduced citizens confidence and trust on police officers. No doubt the Nigerian Police Act 2020 is a veritable tool for a better policing and citizen management, but the Nigeria Police Force is still bedeviled by some challenges all of which hinders the realization of the Act".

EXTORTION BY PUBLIC OFFICERS DEFINED AND CRIMINALIZED

By Section 99 of Nigeria's Criminal Code Act (applicable in Southern Nigeria, under "Extortion By Public Officers", it provides "Any person who, being employed in the public service (including personnel and officers of the Nigeria Police Force), takes or accepts from any person, for the performance of his duty as officer, any reward beyond his proper pay and emoluments, or any promise of such reward, is guilty of felony and is liable to imprisonment for three years and above".

It further follows that using the standard practice in differentiation of "robbery" and "armed robbery", if such criminal reward is solicited under the use of force such licensed assault rifles, the perpetrator-public officer such as armed police and military personnel at roadblock, shall be charged for offense of "armed robbery" and its prescribed imprisonment or jail sentence. Similar provisions are contained in Section 408 of the Penal Code Act (for Northern Nigeria) where not only that extortion, such as police or military roadblock/checkpoint extortion, by public officers is outlawed but also punishable by three years to fourteen years imprisonment depending on the gravity of harms involved. Section 108 of the Nigerian Armed Forces Act of 2004 specifically prescribes fourteen years imprisonment via court-martial for any military officer or personnel caught.

DICTATORIAL ALTERATION OF THE POLICE ACT (2020) TO EXTEND THE TENURE OF IGP

The glaring odd side of the Fundamental Human Rights-grounded Nigeria Police Act of 2020 was the recent (July 23, 2024) strongly condemned dictatorial and militarist alteration of the Act to now read as "the Amended Police Act of 2024". The Nigerian Presidency, headed by Senator Ahmed Tinubu has controversially forwarded 'a Presidential Bill' to the National Assembly (Senate and House of Reps), seeking to extend the tenure of his kinsman, IGP Kayode Agbetokun, who he appointed as Nigeria Police Inspector General in June 2023. The Presidential Bill, without debate and inputs from Nigerians including Civil Society Organizations and credible representations at the plenary session; was hurriedly passed by both Senate and House of Reps, guaranteeing a four-year tenure for IGP Agbetokun who was statutorily supposed to retire from the Force in Sept 2024. The hurriedly passed Presidential Bill also controversially and dictatorially raised the retirement age of police officers from 60 to 65 years and extend their tenure of service from 35 to 40 years. There are strong allegations that the Presidential Bill on extension of IGP's tenure and years of service from 60 years to 65 years and 35 years to 40 years, respectively, was heavily influenced by the office of IGP Agbetokun and the Nigeria Police High Command. It is therefore conclusively correct to say that the way and manner the Presidential Bill was passed into law is nothing short of a serious threat to the principal provisions of the Police Act including Fundamental Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms' provisions upon which the Act was popularly re-enacted in 2020. As expected, the IGP was in September 2024 given a four-year tenure and is expected to leave office by June 19, 2027, at age of 64 years.

ROGUSH ENFORCEMENT OF The Provisions Of The Armed Forces Act Of 2004

The Nigerian Armed Forces Act was enacted on July 6, 1994, and presently known as 'the Armed Forces Act of 2004'. The Armed Forces Act is also a creation of the 1999 Constitution as amended, which in Section 217 provides: "there shall be an armed forces for the Federation, which shall consist of an army, a navy, an air force and such other branches of the armed forces of the Federation as may be established by an Act of the National Assembly". Section 217 (3) of the 1999 Constitution further provides: "the composition of the officer corps and other ranks of the armed forces shall reflect the Federal Character of Nigeria". The Armed Forces Act of 2004 has 292 sections. The Act provides for the command, maintenance and administration of the Armed Forces of the Federation of Nigeria. According to Section 1 (1) of Part 1 of the Act under: "Establishment and Composition of the Armed Forces", "there is hereby established for the Federation an Armed Forces which shall be maintained and administered as set out in this Act and comprise the Nigerian Army, the Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian Air Force (in this Act referred to as the "Army", "Navy" and "Air Force") respectively. 1 (2) The Armed Forces shall consist of such- (a) establishments and number of equipment; (b) officers and non-commissioned officers; and (c) soldiers, ratings and aircraftmen, as the President may, in consultation with the National Assembly, determine. 1 (3) The Armed Forces shall be charged with the defense of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by land, sea and air and with such other duties as the National Assembly may, from time to time, prescribe or direct by an Act".

It must be noted that provisions of the Nigerian Armed Forces have been and are still being observed in gross breach. Having thoroughly searched the whole of the 292 sections of the Armed Forces Act, we never came across any section or subsection that links the Act to members of the civilian population as being subject to the Act. In other words, the Act is strictly for members of the Armed Forces, from Private (Recruit) to Commanding Officers or highest rank (field marshal in the Army and its equivalent in the Navy and Air Force). The power of arrest and detention granted to members of the Armed Forces by Section 121 of the Act, is strictly restricted to be used against members of the Armed Forces alone. That is to say that the Act does not empower members of the Armed Forces (Army, Airforce and Navy) to arrest and detain, investigate and prosecute members of the civilian population, whether unarmed or defensively armed or criminally armed or unarmed. It is in accordance with the above that a landmark judgment was delivered by Hon Justice Taiwo Taiwo of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court on 17th Feb 2021 who held that "Nigerian Army (as an embodiment of the Armed Forces) lacks power to arrest, detain, (investigate) and prosecute citizens who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 or any other Military law". "Citizens who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act" are members of the Nigerian civilian population irrespective of whether they are unarmed or defensively armed or criminally unarmed or criminally unarmed. There are also several 'Decided Cases' to that effect.

For those civilians or non-military citizens caught or reasonably suspected by a member or members of the Armed Forces to have breached criminal laws, the members of the Nigerian Armed Forces that caught or reasonably suspected them can arrest and immediately transfer them to the Nigeria Police Force for proper investigation and prosecution or discharge and acquittal. The general power of arrest provided in the Nigerian Criminal Laws and their Procedures is granted to every lawful Nigerian citizen including policing, military, intelligence, paramilitary, private security, vigilante and civilian citizen. However, strict restrictions or limitations are imposed barring or banning such members of the Armed Forces or private guards or vigilantes or civilians, forbid them from holding or detaining them in their custodies or torturing and killing them under captivity. In other words, the arrested civilians or non-military persons must be transferred to the Nigeria Police Force within 24 hours of their arrest. Right to Arrest is contained in several Criminal Laws in Nigeria including the Criminal Code Act of 2004, the Penal Code Act of 2004 and the Access to Criminal Justice Act of 2015. It must further be noted that none of the 292 sections of the Armed Forces Act of 2004 was found to have empowered members of the Nigerian Armed Forces; as presently is the case, to abduct, torture and kill in detention or on transit; disappear those abducted; and disappear dead bodies of those killed in their unlawful custodies or the shot and wounded civilian persons who died on transit or in unlawful military custodies. The 'ouster-power' of arrest by members of the Nigerian Armed Forces over members of the Nigerian civilian population is holistically applicable in matters involving simple offenses, misdemeanors, violent street crimes, and treason and treasonable felony other than mutiny and war-like insurrection or military uprising or other circumstances in which the perpetrators "are subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 or any other Military Law".

The provisions of the Armed Forces Act of 2004 are found to have also contained criminal offenses and punishments against erring or unlawful members of the Nigerian Army, Airforce and Navy (Armed Forces of the Federation of Nigeria) who engage in gross misconducts or conduct-atrocities and other misconducts in the line of their official or operational duties. Specifically, members of the Armed Forces are forbidden from irregular arrest of those citizens that are subject to the provisions of the Armed Forces Act who are not members of the Nigerian civilian population. The above is contained in Section 84 of the Armed Forces Act-attraction punishment on 'court-martial' conviction of not less than 2 years jail term. Section 77 of the Act forbids military personnel from engaging in offenses of rape and carnal knowledge which attracts 14 years jail term on court-martial conviction. Others are: Section Defilement, 14 years jail term via court-martial; Sodomy (sex against order of nature), 7 years jail term via court-martial; Section 104, Assault with bodily harm (under 'Civil Offense'), 7 years jail term via court-martial; Section 105, Manslaughter, life imprisonment via court-martial; Section 106, Murder, death penalty via court-martial; Section 107 (1), Stealing (with threats of violence or use of same other than armed robbery), 14 years jail term via court-martial; Section 107(2), Armed Robbery, death penalty via court-martial;

Section 108, Extortion (use of force to extort money or other valuable item), 14 years jail term via court-martial; Section 109, Burglary, 14 years jail term via court-martial; Section 110, Housebreaking (invasion of dwelling house, building or structure of another person with intent to steal, rob, destroy, rape, wound or kill), 14 years jail term (if perpetrated at night) or 7 years jail term (if perpetrated in the day) via court-martial (excluding other crimes against persons and properties perpetrated therein); Section 111, Arson, Life Jail via court-martial; Section 112, Forgery, 21 years jail term via court-martial; Section 113, Cheating, 5 years jail term via court-martial; etc.

RANKS IN THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES

(1) 12 Ranks In The Armed Forces Services Rank Structure (Officers) Under Section 289 Of The Act

S/No	Army	Navy	Air Force
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	Field Marshal	Admiral of the Fleet	Marshal of the Nigerian Air Force
2.	General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
3.	Lieutenant General	Vice-Admiral	Air Marshal
4.	Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice-Marshal
5.	Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
6.	Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
7.	Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander
8.	Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader
9.	Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
10.	Lieutenant	Sub- Lieutenant	Flying Officer
11.	Second Lieutenant	Acting Sub-Lieutenant	Pilot Officer
12.	No equivalent	Mid-Shipman	No equivalent

Note: The highest senior ranks such as 'Field Marshal' in the Nigerian Army, 'Admiral of the Fleet' in the Nigerian Navy and 'Marshal of the Air Force' in the Nigerian Air Force are not yet in the country

(2) Armed Forces Services' Corresponding Rank Structure For Soldiers, Ratings And Aircraftmen

S/No	Army	Navy	Air Force
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	No equivalent	Warrant Chief Petty Officer	Air Warrant officer
2.	Warrant officer Class I	Chief Petty Officer	Master Warrant officer
3.	Warrant officer Class II	Petty Officer	Warrant officer
4.	Staff Sergeant	Leading Rating	Flight Sergeant
5.	Sergeant	As above	Sergeant
6.	Corporal	No Equivalent	Corporal
7.	Lance-corporal	Able Rating	Lance-corporal
8.	Private	Ordinary Rating	Aircraftman
9.	Recruit	Trainee	Recruit

ROGUSH ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES (SSS, NIA) ACT OF 1986

The National Security Agencies Act was enacted in 1986 as a replacement to "National Security Organization". The National Security Agencies Act is presently known as "the National Security Agencies or NSA Act of 2004". The NSA Act is also a creation of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and is subject to its Fundamental Human Rights Chapters and acceded Regional and International Human Rights Charters and Instruments. The NSA Act is a creation of the 1999 Constitution by virtue of Section 315 (5) (c) of the Constitution. It is saddening to note that the provisions of the National Security Agencies Act of 1986 (NSA Act of 2004) are also observed in reckless in breach with reckless abandon particularly by the personnel and officers of the State Security Service or DSS who have left their mandates as clearly stipulated by Section 3 of the NSA Act. By Section 1 of the Act: "Establishment of National Security Agencies: there shall, for the effective conduct of national security, be established the following National Security Agencies, that is to say- (a) the Defense Intelligence Agency; (b) the National Intelligence Agency; and (c) the State Security Service". Section 1 (1): "General Duties of the Defense Intelligence Agency: (a) prevention and detection of crime of a military nature against the security of Nigeria; (b) protection and preservation of all military classified matters concerning the security of Nigeria, within and outside Nigeria; and (c) such other responsibilities affecting defense intelligence of a military nature, within and outside Nigeria as the President or the Chief of Defense Staff...may deem necessary".

2: "the National Intelligence Agency shall be charged with responsibility for- (a) the general maintenance of the security of Nigeria outside Nigeria, concerning matters that are not related to military issues; and (b) such other responsibilities affecting national intelligence outside Nigeria as the National Defense Council or the President ...may deem necessary". 3: "the State Security Service shall be charged with responsibility for- (a) the prevention and detection within Nigeria of any crime against the internal security of Nigeria; (b) the protection and preservation of all non-military classified matters concerning the internal security of Nigeria; and (c) such other responsibilities affecting internal security within Nigeria as the National Assembly or the President...may deem necessary". On a general note, it must be informed that Nigeria's general security handlers are divided into five categories: (a) general policing in Nigeria: the Nigeria Police Force, Paramilitaries and States' Vigilante Groups; (b) non-military intelligence security in Nigeria: the State Security Service; (c) non-military intelligence security outside Nigeria: National Intelligence Agency; (d) defense and military intelligence security within and outside Nigeria: the Defense Intelligence Agency; and (e) internal and external defense of the Nigerian territory: the Nigerian Armed Forces (Army, Air Force and Navy).

Sixteen Ranks In The State Security Service (SSS/DSS): It must be observed that the senior ranks in the SSS are openly and operationalized into 'Director General, Deputy Director General and Assistant Director General' at national level and 'Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director' at State Level'. However, the 16 ranks in the secret police are bureaucratically categorized into the equivalents of:

Non-Officers	Junior Officers	Senior Officers	High-Ranking Officers
Recruit	Second Lieutenant	Major	Brigadier General
Private	Lieutenant	Lieutenant Colonel	Major General
Lance Corporal	Captain	Colonel	Lieutenant General
Corporal			General
Sergeant			
Staff Sergeant			

DRACONIAN PROVISIONS IN THE TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2013 AS AMENDED (2022)

The Terrorism Prevention Act (2013) And Its 2022 Amended Version: The Nigeria's Terrorism Prevention Act of 2013 (with additional amendments in 2022) is the most draconian statutory law in the country since the country's return to civil rule on May 29, 1999. Attempts to amend such obnoxious provisions by way of amendments contained in "the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition (amendment) Act of 2022" ended up achieving little or nothing as most of the draconian provisions from the Principal Act of 2011 and its 2013 amended version were retained in the latest 2022 amended Act. Apart from terrorism being loosely, vaguely, ambiguously and strangely defined and dotted with several draconian and obnoxious provisions in the Principal Act, over 22 sections (s.3-s.25) were also dedicated in the 2013 amended version for "persons involved in offenses of terrorism including offenders' categories or parties to offenses of terrorism". In the latest amended version of 2022, a total of 36 Sections (s. 11-s.47) were additionally dedicated for "persons involved in offenses of terrorism". "Hearsay Conclusions" under "reasonable suspicion of commission of offense of terrorism or intent to commit same" were also smuggled into the 2022 amended Terrorism Prevention Act; in total disregard to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution, its Fundamental Human Rights Provisions and Provisions of the country's International Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaty Laws.

RECRIMINALIZED PROVISIONS IN THE AMENDED TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2022

“The amended Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act of 2022” loosely, widely and obnoxiously contains 99 principal sections and several hundreds of subsections and paragraphs. The Act can best be described as nothing short of “recriminalized” Criminal Code Act of 2004 and Penal Code Act of 2004, dubbed “Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act of 2022 as amended”. The above is to the extent that almost all the provisions of the Criminal Code Act of 2004 and the Penal Code Act of 2004 are criminalized and terrorized into “offenses of terrorism”. Truthfully speaking, the Criminal Code Act of 2004 and the Penal Code Act of 2004 are much better than the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act of 2022.

In other words, while the Criminal Code Act and the Penal Code Act contain proper categorization of offenses and punishments, involving: (1) simple offenses which attract a day to six months imprisonment, (2) misdemeanors which attract six months to three years imprisonment, and (3) felonies which attract three years imprisonment to life imprisonment or death sentence; in the case of the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act of 2022 (as amended), all the three categories of offenses, in addition to common assault and civil conducts including financially related matters are terrorized and lumped into “offenses and related offenses of terrorism”. Internationally, “offenses of terrorism” are strictly and literally defined in “black and white” to avoid abuse and victimization.

It is also alarming and shocking that among the least punishment for “any terrorism related offense in Nigeria or aiding the offense of terrorism” under the “Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition (amended) Act of 2022” is 20 years imprisonment or jail term, in addition to “maximum or absolute use of force” especially that involving death and grievous bodily harm giving to law enforcement officers and other security agencies against citizens or anyone, rightly or wrongly suspected or accused. The above is to generally say that under the country's Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition (amended) Act of 2022, most of the sections and subsections are worded and written in grave breach and violation of the citizens' fundamental rights to life, dignity of human person, personal liberty, privacy and family, fair hearing and fair trial; and their freedom of assembly, association, information, expression, movement, conscience, thought and religion.

COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ITS THREE KEY ELEMENTS

Conceptual Definition: Terrorism refers to acts – either politically or religiously motivated – that aim to instill fear and/or the intimidation of fear in society (i.e. mass terror). Terrorism includes acts of aggression or violence that causes either directly or indirectly physical or psychological harm or injury to a group of people.

Terrorism can both be perpetrated by as well as against the state (Teichman, 1989). One of the most widely used definitions of terrorism is that of the US Department of State, which in 1983 defined terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience" (Sinai, 2008). 'Non-combatants' refer to both civilian and military personnel, who neither armed nor on duty. The definition, however, excludes state terrorism (Sinai, 2008).

State Terrorism: State terrorism refers to acts of terrorism which a state conducts against another state (interstate terrorism) or against its own citizens (intrastate terrorism arising from tyrannical state terror or genocidal police state). 'State Terrorism' is like non-state terrorism in that it involves politically or ideologically or religiously inspired acts of violence against individuals or groups outside of an armed conflict. The key difference is that agents of the state are directly carrying out the violence or indirectly doing so through state-armed-and-protected proxies. Under International Criminal Law, 'State Terrorism' amounts to crimes against humanity or war crimes or genocide or crime of aggression.

Terrorism Under United Nations System: It must internationally be explained that while there are no universal agreements over a common definition of 'terrorism' or 'acts of terrorism' under UN System, the 193-Member States of the UN including Nigeria and other international bodies or groupings had agreed that 'terrorism mandatorily involves three fundamental elements of crime of international nature or character'. The above also formed the basis of the 2011 Findings by the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) over the Feb 14, 2005, terrorist bomb attack that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. On reaching its findings, the Tribunal relied primarily upon relevant United Nations policies, practices, and norms, including those of the General Assembly, as well as upon national and international jurisprudence. It was stated by the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon that the necessary substantive (objective and subjective) elements for two other classes of terrorist criminal conduct also existed within international law. Although there is no current global agreement regarding a universal legal definition of terrorism, but three elements within which terrorism originated could be found in the Customary International Law (. i.e. transnational terrorism). To this extent, several treaties, UN resolutions, and the legislative and judicial practices of States evince or clearly indicate the formation of a general opinio juris in the international community, accompanied by a practice consistent with such opinio, to the effect that a customary rule of international law regarding the international crime of terrorism, at least in time of peace, has indeed emerged.

Three Elements Of Terrorism Under UN: The three international elements that define terrorism under Customary International Law are: (i) the perpetration of a criminal act (such as mass murder, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson, and so on), or reasonably threatening such an act; (ii) the intent to spread fear among the population (which would generally entail the creation of public danger) or directly or indirectly coerce a national or international authority to take some action, or to refrain from taking it; and (iii) when the act involves a transnational element (see Interlocutory Decision of STL, 2011, para. 85).

RECRIMINALIZED SECTIONS 27 AND 66 OF TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT: 2013/22

Contradictory Section 27(1) Of Terrorism Prevention Act 2013: "the court (magistrate court mostly in use) may, pursuant to an ex-parte application, grant an order for the detention of a suspect under this Act for a period not exceeding 90 days subject to renewal for a similar period until the conclusion of the investigation and prosecution of the matter that led to the arrest and detention is dispensed with". Section 27 (3), "a person found on any premises or place or in any conveyance may be detained by relevant law enforcement officer of any agency (. i.e. a member of police crack squad or secret police) until the completion of search or investigation under the provisions of this Act". Section 28 (4), "where a person arrested under this Act is granted bail by a court within 90 days (or more) detention period stipulated by this Act, the person may, on the approval of the Head of the relevant law enforcement be placed under a house arrest and shall-(a) be monitored by its officers; (b) have no access to phones or communication gadgets; and (c) speak to his counsel until the conclusion of the investigation".

Contradictory Section 66 (1) Of The Amended Terrorism Prevention Act 2022: "Notwithstanding provisions in any other law, the Court (magistrate court mostly in use) may, pursuant to an ex-parte application, grant an order for the detention of a suspect under this Act for a period not more than 60 days, subject to renewal for a similar period, until the conclusion of the investigation and prosecution of the matter that led to the arrest and detention is dispensed with provided that in the case of renewal, the relevant agency shall involve the Attorney-General". Section 66 (2), "a person found on any premises or place or in any conveyance may be detained by relevant law enforcement officer of any agency (. i.e. a member of police crack squad or secret police) until the completion of search or investigation under the provisions of this Act".

CONTRADICTIONS WITH CONSTITUTIONAL SECTION 35 (4) UNDER FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY:

By Section 35 (4) of the justiciable Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution: "any person who is arrested and detained in accordance with subsection 1(c) of this Section shall be brought before a Court of Law within a reasonable time and if he is not tried within a period of- (a) two months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who is in the custody or is not entitled to bail (in the case of a person arrested and detained for capital offenses of treason and treasonable felony such as terrorism and insurrection; or violent crimes of armed robbery, abduction, murder, etc.); or (b) three months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who has been released on administrative bail, he (or she) shall, without prejudice to any other further proceedings that may be brought against him (or her) be released either unconditionally or upon such conditions as are reasonably necessary to ensure that he (or she) appears for trial at a later date (.i.e. conditional release such as seizure of his or her international travel documents".

It is observed that under Section 27 of the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2013, a person can be arrested and detained in police or secret police or abusively in military custody without trial for ten years using endless renewal of remand order by a court via ex-parte at the end of every 90 days. Also, under Section 66 (1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act (Amended) 2022, "not less than 60 days indefinite detention was prescribed in addition to its endless renewal for same or similar number of months of detention via order ex-parte by a Court (Magistrate Court) granted to a law enforcement or detaining officer, acting through the Attorney-General". The two provisions above are gravely abusive and unconstitutional and amount to impeachment and coupist abuse of Sections 35 (4), 1(1) and 1 (3) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended. Relatedly, the obnoxious Section 28 (4) of the Amended Terror Act of 2013 is replicated in Section 66 (2) of the 2022 Amended version of the Terror Act; both are also offensively unconstitutional and must be expunged or deleted from the latter amended Act of 2022.

DRACONIAN SECTION 24 OF THE CYBERCRIME (STALKING) ACT OF 2015

By the abusive Section 24 (1): "Any person who knowingly or intentionally sends a message or other matter by means of computer systems or network that -(a) is grossly offensive, pornographic or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character or causes any such message or matter to be so sent; or (b) he knows to be false, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill will or needless anxiety to another or causes such a message to be sent: commits an offence under this Act and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not more than N7,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of not more than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment".

Section 24(2): "Any person who knowingly or intentionally transmits or causes the transmission of any communication through a computer system or network -(a) to bully, threaten or harass another person, where such communication places another person in fear of death, violence or bodily harm or to another person; (b) containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to harm the person of another, any demand or request for a ransom for the release of any kidnapped person, Cyberstalking: to extort from any person, firm, association or corporation, any money or other thing of value; or (c) containing any threat to harm the property or reputation of the addressee or of another or the reputation of a deceased person or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime, to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value: commits an offence under this Act and shall be liable on conviction- (i) in the case of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection to imprisonment for a term of 10 years and/or a minimum fine of N25,000,000.00; and (ii) in the case of paragraph (c) and (d) of this subsection, to imprisonment for a term of 5 years and/or a minimum fine of N15,000,000.00."

Section 24 (3): "A court sentencing or otherwise dealing with a person convicted of an offence under subsections (1) and (2) may also make an order, which may, for the purpose of protecting the victim or victims of the offence, or any other person mentioned in the order, from further conduct which-(a) amounts to harassment; or (b) will cause fear of violence, death or bodily harm; prohibit the defendant from doing anything described/specified in the order."

Section 24 (4): "A defendant who does anything which he is prohibited from doing by an order under this section, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not more than N10,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of not more than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment."

Section 24 (5): "The order made under subsection (3) of this section may have effect for a specified period or until further order and the defendant or any other person mentioned in the order may apply to the court which made the order for it to be varied or discharged by a further order."

Section 24 (6): "Notwithstanding the powers of the court under subsections (3) and (5), the court may make an interim order for the protection of victim(s) from further exposure to the alleged offences."

Note The Provisions Amended In The New Cybercrimes Act of 2024: By the amendments carried out in the Act, now known as "the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2024, Section 24 (1) of the Principal Act was amended by substituting for paragraph (a) and (b), with new paragraphs "a" and "b" to read as follows: "(a) pornographic; or (b) he knows it to be false, for purpose of causing a breakdown of law and order, posing a threat to life, or causing such message to be sent." It must be noted and appreciated that the following underlined threatened human rights to life, personal liberty and against torture and freedom of conscience, thought and expression have been deleted in the newly amended Act of 2024:-(a) is grossly offensive, pornographic or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character or causes any such message or matter to be sent; or (b) he knows it to be false, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill will or needless anxiety to another or causes such a message to be sent. However, several human rights lawyers and other social pundits have strongly kicked against the retention in the amended Act the phrase: "for purpose of causing a breakdown of law and order"; as it is capable of generating and escalating police brutality and other custodial gross human rights abuses including indiscriminate and arbitrary arrests and long detention without trial by various police crack squads and secret police or SSS and abusive and lawless military personnel. Many stakeholders, therefore, have called for immediate deletion of the phrase from the amended version of the draconian Cybercrimes (Stalking) Act of Feb 2024.

PHOTOs OF 13 UNARMED PRO BIAFRA CAMPAIGNERS BATTERED WITH RAW ACID SUBSTANCES. THEY WERE THOSE ARRESTED ALIVE AND KILLED THEREAFTER BY NIGERIAN ARMY OF 144 BATTALION (ABA) ON FEBRUARY 9, 2016, IN ABA, NIGERIA. THEY WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN DUMPED DEAD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2016, INSIDE A BURROW PIT LOCATED ALONG ABA-PORTHARCOURT ROAD, NEAR ABA IN ABIA STATE, SOUTHEAST NIGERIA.



Part of the 13 Pro Biafra campaigners arrested alive and later killed by Nigerian Army and dumped inside a burrow pit



Another section of the bodies of 13 Pro Biafra campaigners killed by Nigeria Soldiers on Feb 9, 2016 and dumped inside a burrow pit in Aba, Nigeria after having been abducted alive.



CHAPTER TEN

Political And Security Sector Reckless Abuse And Violation Of Human Rights In Nigeria



Going by the practice, the enforcement and the implementation of the above highlighted Human Rights Provisions in Nigeria or any part thereof, they have been observed in gross breach by the country's political, defense, security, policing and paramilitary actors as well as members of the armed opposition groups and violent and intolerant non-state actor others including some, if not many of the country's corporate bodies. As a matter of fact, both the 'Social Contract' or 'State Responsibility' Human Rights and Duties provisions in the Chapter Two (s.13-s.24) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, for the country's elected and appointed public office holders, numbering about 17,500; and the Fundamental Human Rights Provisions in the Chapter Four (s.33-s.46) have faced and are still facing serious abuses and violations across the country. It must be reminded that while the 'Chapter Two' Human Rights provisions are morally and substantially legally binding on Nigeria's elected and appointed public office holders, the 'Chapter Four' Human Rights provisions are both morally and legally binding on the country's Executive, Judicial and Legislative actors and the general population including individual citizens and corporate bodies. In other words, the breach, violation and abuse of these two sets of constitutional rights and their accompanied Treaty Rights Laws offers zero room for "permissible derogation" or valid defensive excuses. Going by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights definition: Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings — they are not granted by any state. They are universal rights inherent to us all as members of the Human Family, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status.

It must however be noted that 'no matter how good or socially friendly a law is, including a human rights provision; it can never enforce itself'. In other words, friendly human rights provisions are not only written to guard and guide organized social crime but also practicalized or put into practice and strongly defended, promoted and advanced. Sadly in Nigeria or any part thereof, despite the clearly laid-down provisions of these two sets of human rights in the 1999 Constitution and their accompanied Nigeria's Human Rights Treaty Laws, Decided Cases and Law Enforcement Provisions; setting limits or restrictions on use of force and other law enforcement approaches by law enforcement agencies and their officers during their law enforcement operations; these human rights provisions and related rules and regulations or procedures have been breached and abused with reckless abandon; no thanks to the country's security, defense, policing, intelligence and paramilitary practitioners or their state actor providers including officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army, the Nigerian Air Force and the Nigerian Navy; and officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force including various police crack squads; officers and personnel of the SSS, the NIA and the DMI (defense intelligence agency); and officers and personnel of Nigerian Paramilitaries and sub-state actor vigilantes. It is therefore totally correct to say that Nigeria's Human Rights Provisions are in a sorry state, facing reckless and indiscriminate abuses and violations.

800 GOVERNMENT-LINKED FAKE HUMAN RIGHTS NGOS AIDING STATE RIGHTS ABUSES SINCE JULY 2015

One of the greatest challenges facing the practice, enjoyment and advancement of human rights in Nigeria or any part thereof is infiltration, adulteration and corruption of the human rights defenders and their organizations in Nigeria particularly since July 2015. The Nigerian Human Rights Community has also suffered a major setback since July 2015 till date.

The above is to the extent that between July 2015 and end of 2021, “there have been more than 360 Government-linked fake Human Rights, Rule of Law or Democracy NGOs indirectly linked and sponsored by Nigeria's Federal and State Government political actors”. The above was according to detailed research conducted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, USA, which in July 2021, published a shocking and an eye-opener research-report, stating that “Nigeria's top powerbrokers have cultivated a new generation of pro-government NGOs, which masquerade as authentic civil society groups, singing praises of top government officials and attacking their critics”. The research report was released on July 28, 2021; titled “the Rise of Pro-Government NGOs in Nigeria” and was authored by Mathew Page, an associate fellow with the Africa Program at Chatham House, United Kingdom.

As if that was not enough, from then (July 2021) till now (December 2024), a period of more than three years, more than 440 Government-linked fake NGOs have additionally been created or formed; with their stock in trade being faking and doctoring or counterfeiting the activities of credible local and international NGOs and laundering images of atrocious and corrupt Government officials including defending them locally and internationally in matters of their conduct-atrocities and corrupt practices perpetrated by high ranking police, military (including army, air force and navy), intelligence and paramilitary officers in the country or any part thereof. There are also other Government-linked NGOs and their leaders holding brief for the Presidency, Ministers and other departmental and parastatal heads; and heads of boards at Federal and State levels including State Governors, their commissioners and so on.

Included in the list are Government-registered or linked fake NGOs holding brief for ethnic and religious cleansing groups and their patrons through press conferences and protests in defense of their atrocities and corrupt practices. The Nigerian Government under Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari even went to the extent of defacing and staining the corporate image of the National Human Rights Commission and infiltrating the ranks of Amnesty International (Nigeria Section), a world leading and highly respected human rights watchdog. Under his government, too, the advocacy attention of the Human Rights Watch on Nigeria (particularly in the East and Middle-Belt) was also diverted till date. The highly respected international human rights watchdog based in the United States, was very active and engaging in those part of the country until 2016 when a certain Nigerian lady was appointed as the 'Researcher on Nigeria' and later moved to the 'African Division as head till date.

As if that was not enough, the National Human Rights Commission, under his government, was also widely seen as a conformist on critical human rights issues, with a particular case in point being the controversial role of the Commission during and after the Dec 2015 Army massacre of unarmed and defenseless Shiite Muslims. The NHRC was widely suspected to have organized a kangaroo panel of enquiry on the massacre and ended up indicting “the victims as the perpetrators” and “the perpetrators as the victims”. The so-called “Kaduna State Government Judicial Panel of Enquiry” later toed the same line by “exonerating the perpetrators” and “indicting the victims” in the end. The Zaria Shiite Muslims massacre took place between Dec 12 and Dec 15, 2015, during which independent sources noted that about 1000 unarmed and defenseless Shiite Muslims were massacred and over 800 others wounded on orders of then Army Chief, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai, in which the Government of Kaduna State (via SSG) was forced by public outcries to admit that “348 Shiite Muslims were killed”. The massacre had occurred during the Shiite Muslims' annual religious procession (Ashura) in Zaria. The then atrocious Army Chief later claimed that “his convoy was violently blocked and attacked by Shiite Islamists during their violent procession”. The Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari-led Government of Nigeria, in its desperation to cover up, vindictively declared the group as “a terrorist organization” in July 2019. Till date, the perpetrators including Retired Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai and the then General Officer Commanding, 1 Mechanized Division of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna; among others, are still on the prowl.

International Flight tickets were offered under Buhari's Government to Government paid fake Human Rights NGO activists to key international organizations and institutions to submit petitions and letters that sing praises of key political and security actors seriously indicted in several human rights reports over their horrendous and grisly rights abuses and violations.

Hundreds of such Government-linked and fake NGOs were also recruited and paid to organize protests including mock burials and picketing at key foreign missions in Nigeria and major streets in major foreign capitals against the works of credible human rights groups and their leaders including those of the Amnesty International. More than 100 Government-linked and fake NGOs have been recruited and paid since 2015 till date to hold press conferences across the country or any part thereof against the leaders of the Intersociety over its reports on deteriorating state of human rights, democracy, rule of law and citizens' security and safety across Nigeria or any part thereof.

The official website of the Intersociety have been attacked for more than 50 times and shutdown at least ten times since 2017. Government hired NGOs and their leaders have been routinely sponsored to embark on trips to key international justice and human rights monitoring bodies including UN Human Rights bodies and ICC during which the former Government of Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari, with worst poor human rights record, reportedly influenced the election of one of its surrogates as "President of the ICC between 2018 and 2021". Not forgotten were similar Government sponsored trips by Government-linked fake NGO leaders to key international diplomatic scenes to submit counter-petitions or organize international press conferences in foreign lands to praise-sing the abusive actions and conducts of high ranking Government figures and counter and doctor credible reports, petitions or letters from credible Human Rights, Rule of Law and Security and Safety NGOs from Nigeria and others from outside the country.

ROGUSH ENFORCEMENT OF NSA ACT OF 2004 TURNING NIGERIA INTO "A State Of Terror"

The reckless abandon with which clear provisions of the National Security Agencies Act of 1986 (NSA Act of 2004) as it relates particularly to core duties of the State Security Service (SSS) is flouted and abused; is dangerously turning Nigeria or any part thereof into 'a Police State'. The above is to the extent that officers and personnel of the SSS have left their core duties and adopted the following auxiliaries as "their core duties": such other responsibilities affecting internal security within Nigeria as.... the President...may deem necessary. The above is supplementarily provided in Section 3 (c) of the NSA Act. It must further be noted that in the case of officers and personnel of the SSS, they have abusively cashed in on the vague and undefined supplementary duties placed at the discretion of the President or Presidency to wreak havoc on human rights and fundamental freedoms of Nigerian citizens particularly their 'custodial liberties' and 'pre-custodial fundamental human rights' and those of other citizens accused of having gone against or going against the country's criminal laws. It is also horrifying and shocking that during such unlawful incarcerations, several lives of the detainees are lost to torture including physical and mental torture, starvation and other acts of depravities.

As if that was not enough, officers and personnel of the SSS have also delved into areas outside their core mandates including those traditionally and statutorily allotted to officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force and other matters involving 'simple offenses and non-criminal others' upon which human rights and fundamental freedoms of defenseless citizens are being brazenly abused or trampled upon with reckless abandon and unchecked impunity. As a matter of fact, officers and personnel of the SSS have been recklessly going about engaging more in supplementary "law enforcement operations" than their core mandate of "prevention and detection by way of intelligence gathering within Nigeria of any crime against the internal security of Nigeria" and sharing of the same, in addition to interfaces and cooperations with other security agencies through "inter-agency cooperations and collaborations". Shocking, too, is the fact that at mere suspicion of citizens (usually without prima facie evidence) of having committed or about to commit crimes against the State such as treason and treasonable felony offenses like "insurrection and terrorism or being parties to them" as well as street violent crimes like abduction-for-ransom, armed robbery and the like of cybercrimes (.i.e. Cyberstalking and Advance Fee Fraud Offenses); suspected citizens are arrested and clamped into indefinite detention during which they are subjected to hourly or daily torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in a bid to force into admitting committing such offenses or drop dead or fainted.

Those who fainted in torture are revived and subjected to the same torture until they confess under duress or drop dead. At death, bodies of the victims are rarely lawfully located, not to talk of availability of information about them being communicated to their family members and lawyers who are never informed or furnished with detailed credible information explaining the circumstances of their arrest or abduction, detention, death in custody and whereabouts of their dead body persons. Pre-investigation killings are also routinely the case with the SSS intelligence gathering and law enforcement operations as have been severally observed by independent observers and investigators; during which victim-citizens are “condemned to death” once accused of offenses of “terrorism” or “abduction” or “armed robbery” or “IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism”. All the above clearly amounted to extra jus (beyond the law), extra-legal (beyond what the written criminal law provides) and extrajudicial (beyond court or judicial pronouncement or verdict). The SSS has also earned notoriety in delving into matters exclusively reserved for anti-graft agencies like EFCC and ICPC and other anti-money laundering and cybercrimes' agencies; to the extent that between 2016 and 2019, the secret police was widely accused of being abusively used by the Presidency and other powers that be in raiding official residences and quarters belonging to serving judges of state and federal high courts and justices of the appellate and the apex courts and other targeted public figures across the country including places like Abuja, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Lagos, Sokoto, Kano, Gombe, etc.

Such raids were infamously carried out in the dead of the night or at unofficial hours in circumstances widely believed to be “money (both dollars and naira notes) planting and recovery operations”. The targeted victim-jurists were those seen or perceived then as “enemies of the state or establishment”. The then Nigerian Presidency under Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari was widely believed to have used SSS to carry out high profile politically and ill-motivated arbitrary arrests and indefinite detention of suspected political opponents of the Government including fiery and respected Judges of Federal and State High Courts and Justices of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Not only that such 'State Terror' operations led by SSS (DSS) ended up being witch-hunting but also the victim-judges won all their cases against the Nigerian Government in courts; with the most recent clear case in point being Monday, Nov 4, 2024, discharge and acquittal of respected former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon Justice Walter Victor Onnoghen by the Abuja Division of Nigeria's Court of Appeal, which also ordered his confiscated properties including four bank accounts to be returned to him. The news of the Appellate Court's discharge and acquittal of the respected former CJN was widely reported by the media including the Punch Newspaper of Monday, November 4, 2024.

It is recalled that the former CJN was forced out of office by former Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari, few months to the 2019 Presidential Election and arrested by DSS and arraigned before the country's Code of Conduct Tribunal headed by Umar Danladi, which hurriedly found him “guilty of false asset declaration” on April 18, 2019 and banned him “from holding public office”. The 'CCT' further ordered forfeiture of his four bank accounts with millions of personal earnings and other properties to Federal Government of Nigeria. The former CJN was seen as a stumbling block towards the judicial determination of the true outcome of the February 2019 Presidential Poll, widely believed to have been manipulated to favor the then incumbent presidency of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari and Prof Yemi Osinbajo. The Hon Justice Onnoghen was also widely seen as a victim of DSS's operationally led State Terror and concocted and trump-up charges, perpetrated on the grounds of religion, ethnicity and dirty politics. He was also treated like a “common criminal and a money launderer”.

Transfer of 'Criminal Responsibility or Liability', prohibited by Section 7 of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act of 2015, as SSS modus operandi, has also been rampant; whereby those not linked to offenses rightly or wrongly alleged to have been committed are violently attacked usually in the hours of the blue law, arrested and clamped into indefinite detention (if survived arrest scene attacks including deadly shootings) for offenses they know nothing about simply because they are found to have communicated or associated with citizens under accusation. Such defenseless and innocent victims included parents, children (including infants and under-age), relatives, spouses, fiancées, girlfriends, landlords, landladies, yard-chairmen and friends of those taken into custody or on 'wanted list'.

There has also been a high rate of mass labeling, class criminalization, false labeling and ethnic and religious profiling, hearsay conclusions and prosecutorial vindictiveness in SSS (State Security Services) "law enforcement" and "intelligence gathering and briefing" exercises. A typical case in point was "the Killing of 14 Awomama Returning Wedding Youths" on July 17, 2022, who the DSS falsely labeled "ESN/IPOB terrorists killed during exchange of gunfire in their hideout". It is also expertly surprising that a well-trained spy security agency like SSS and its sister NIA, still resort to use of torture and other crude methods including "hearsay conclusions" and "prosecutorial vindictiveness" (perpetual detention via endless exparte remand orders) in their intelligence gathering and processing as well as law enforcement operations. It is shocks the Intersociety the more going by the fact that the SSS and the NIA in Nigeria are one of the best trained criminal intelligence detection agencies, followed by the FCID and FIB of the Nigeria Police Force. It is rather disappointing that despite officers and personnel of the SSS and the NIA being the highest recipients of international best intelligence and crime detection trainings in best rated countries using Nigeria's public funds and services, they have remained largely crude and unprofessional.

The above is also against the backdrop of the evolution of digitalization and digitizing of criminal intelligence including its gathering, procession and investigations; and the crime detection and prevention techniques and skills including tracking and monitoring devices like drones, secret cameras and wired faze caps, wrist watches, cloths, bangles, eyeglasses, car keys and car cameras, pasting devices, flashes, etc.; all of which have been made possible by the evolution of "man-mental-machine" intelligence skills, techniques and technologies. It is so shocking and unbelievable that as affordable and available as these technologically advanced devices and their skills are anywhere in the world including Nigeria, they have continued to elude various security agencies and their agents in the country or any part thereof; even when they have capacity to reduce intelligence gathering and law enforcement-induced human rights abuses by 90% in accordance with their legitimate limitations under friendly laws and related provisions and practices.

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

Evaluation Of Modern Intelligence The Defense, Police And Intelligence Agencies Never Have



Defining Intelligence And Its Three Dimensions: By Intelligence, "it is a refined, analyzed and evaluated information or data gathered through either overt or open sources; or covert or secret means; or both". It is also "an information ingrained with added value through analytical and evaluative instrumentation". Intelligence as 'a heartbeat of security in modern time', is further defined by "the Dictionary of the United States Military Terms Joint Usage", as "the product resulting from the collection, evaluation, analysis, integration and interpretation of all available information which concerns one or more aspect of foreign nations or areas of operation which immediately or potentially is significant for planning".

Three 'Dimensions of Intelligence' are "Intelligence as a Process" involving evaluation and procession; "Intelligence as a Structure", involving agencies and institutions (intelligence services) charged with intelligence services; and "Intelligence as a Product" using the analyzed and evaluated intelligence for purpose of meeting short term and long-term goals.

Seven Types Of Intelligence: The seven categories or types of Intelligence are: Security Intelligence which involves collecting, collating, analyzing, evaluating and disseminating information that can protect a nation or its part against internal threats or violence. Security Intelligence is specifically behind the police function such as knowledge and activity which defensive police forces must have before they take specific action against suspected criminal individual citizen or suspected a group of suspected criminal citizens. Other types of intelligence are: Criminal Intelligence for purpose of providing watertight evidence in aid of criminal investigation and prosecution; Home Security or National Intelligence, involving dissemination of security intelligence for effective management of national security; Foreign Intelligence, involving intelligence gathered or obtained from outside the country to ward off a saying that "what happens abroad can kill us at home".

'Strategic Intelligence' involves gathering, analyzing, and evaluating about the capabilities, vulnerabilities and aims of foreign countries. Strategic Intelligence specifically involves ascertaining the "SWOT" or 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats" of another country or armed opposition groups; Tactical Intelligence, involving devolution of intelligence responsibility among the hierarchy of personnel in an intelligence service such that pieces of information collected, collated, analyzed and evaluated can be used by the leadership or top management for short term policy agenda; and Counter-intelligence, involving measures to counter any foreign intelligence activities or to counter the intelligence gathering capabilities of members of the armed opposition groups, constituting a serious threat to national security or any part thereof.

INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, DISCIPLINES AND MEANS OF COLLECTION:

By Intelligence Collection: It is a process of collecting information for intelligence purposes. **Intelligence Disciplines** are divided into two major categories of: 'Technical and Non-Technical Intelligence Disciplines'. Types of **Technical Intelligence** are Signals Intelligence or 'SIGINT', Imager of Intelligence or 'IMINT'; and Measurement and Signatures Intelligence or 'MASINT'. **Non-Technical Intelligence** is made up of: Human Intelligence or 'HUMINT' and Open-Source Intelligence or 'OSINT'. Several Forms of **Measurement and Signatures Intelligence (MASINT)** include: Radar Intelligence or 'RADINT'; Acoustic Intelligence or 'ACOUSTINT', Nuclear Intelligence or 'NUCINT', Radio Frequency/Electromagnetic Pulse Intelligence or 'RF/EMPINT', Electro-optical Intelligence or 'ELECTRO-OPINT', Laser Intelligence or 'LASINT', Material Intelligence, Unintentional Radiation Intelligence or 'RINT', Chemical and Biological Intelligence or 'CBINT';

Directed Energy Weapons Intelligence or 'DEWINT', Effluence/Debris Collection Intelligence, and Spectroscopic Intelligence.

Means of Modern Intelligence Collection include: **Espionage** (collection of information for intelligence purposes through covert or secret means; **Agents or Assets** (spies who gather intelligence information); **Case Officers** (grouping of spies into small or cell units and assignment of intelligence gathering duties); **Courier** (support personnel who assist the spies); **Black Bag Operations** (gaining entrance into information facility for strategic intelligence gathering purposes through lockpicking, safecracking, finger-printing, electronic surveillance, etc.); **Interrogation** (through the use of 'man-mental-machine skills' and other civilized and mentally intelligent methods such as Suggestibility, Reid, Deception and other information extractive and tracking devices and methods other than torture which is universally outlawed).

Other **Modern Means of Intelligence Collection** are: **Number Station** (use of covert short wave radio stations); **A One Way Voice Link (OWVL)**; **Steganography** (sending information to the recipient in a hidden way for intelligence purposes); **Cryptography**; **Concealment Devices**; **Diversion Safe**; **Eavesdropping**; **Surveillance**; **Biometric Surveillance**; **Natural Surveillance**; **Pseudo Operations**; **Political Campaigns** (through the use of Straw-Men); **Sex and Honey Pots** (considered illegitimate in some countries and regions); and **Walk-Ins** (art of voluntarily giving useful information to law enforcement and security agencies or agents which must pass through process of thorough verification to avoid abuse and victimization).

CRIMINOLOGICAL DIMENSION TO MANAGEMENT OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND THEIR OFFENDERS IN NIGERIA:

There are different scholarly accounts on Field of Criminology or Study of Crimes and Criminal Persons and their Management and Regulations. Criminology is divided into various branches, including but not limited to: Penology, Victimology, Forensic Science, Criminal Justice, Juvenile Delinquency, Criminal Behavior Systems (influences of nurture and nature), Sociology of Law, Criminal Statistics and Criminalistics. Penology is the study of the management and punishment of criminals including sentences. Victimology examines the victims of crime, patterns of offence, place of incident, characteristics of and relationship between victim and offender and the like and focuses on the victims of crime and roles played by other parties in criminal activity. Juvenile Delinquency concentrates on the participation of children, juveniles or youth in criminal behavior and activity. Criminal Statistics is based on recorded offences gotten from official agencies such as the police and courts; and often interpreted with caution and it also means gathering valid crime data, measuring crime patterns and trends to control crime. Criminal Behavior system is concerned with carrying out research on specific criminal types and patterns. For example, organized criminals, disorganized criminals, armatures, terrorists, etc. Forensic Science is the study of the various scientific methods of criminal investigation and techniques to discover the perpetrators of crime and gather convincing evidence for court use. Criminalistics is the study of crime detection, which is related to the field of Forensic Science. Sociology of Law and Legal Studies involving the study of the origin of law and measurement of forces that can change laws and society regarding management of crimes and their offenders.

Evaluation Of Modern Methods Of Scientific Criminal Investigation Lacking In Police, DSS, Others

The Nigerian Security Forces (**NSFs**) charged with law enforcement operations and criminal investigation and crime prosecution particularly the Nigeria Police Force and the Department of State Security Services are fundamentally lacking modern tools and techniques of crime detection and prevention and criminal investigation and crime prosecution. The above is despite the recent times scientific aids and provisions in that direction. Such scientific provisions include examining firearms, serological and toxicological tests, examining hairs and fibers, mineralogical and metallurgical tests, and document examination.

For instance, in firearms examinations, offensively used firearms are identified through microscopic imperfections that are inadvertently in gun barrels during manufacture. Subsequent use and tear contribute further to a weapon's individuality. A bullet fired from a pistol or rifle, therefore, has impressed on its surface the individual characteristics of the barrel through which it was fired. Other parts of the gun also possess individual characteristics. The firing pin, breech face, extractor and ejector meet cartridge, hence, cartridge cases may be scored with distinctive markings that can be identified with a particular gun.

In serological investigations, it is first understood that serology is the study of body of fluids in relation to sickness and its treatment. In crime detection, serological procedures are applied to the identification of a bloodstain, that is, to determining its human or animal origin and its blood-group classification. Suspects in violent crimes often claim that bloodstains on their clothing, weapons or automobiles have no connection or link to the crime. Serological tests on dried bloodstains can ascertain whether the blood in question could have come from the suspect or the victim. DNA fingerprinting (deoxyribonucleic acid), using chemical analysis investigator, can determine if blood or other fluids found at a crime scene match a genetic profile.

In toxicological investigations, which have to do with science of poisons, special methods of analytical chemistry have been developed for use in toxicological examinations. The problem of separating poison from other materials and of identifying them recurs constantly in a crime laboratory. The specimen ordinarily examined in cases of suspected poisoning are tissue samples from vital organs, blood or urine, food, drink, and suspected poison itself. In hairs and fibers, a piece of hair or a few strands of fiber when compared with known specimens may prove valuable in solving a case. For example, a fiber found on a cut screen at the scene of a burglary may be associated with a suspect jacket, or hair found on a suspected car in a hit-and-run case may help prove that a car struck the victim. An examination of hair may reveal whether it is of human or animal origin. If of human origin, it can be compared with hairs from a particular person's head or body.

In mineralogical examinations, involving science of mineralogy, they are also used in crime detection. The mineralogist studies soil, plaster, cement, brick, concrete and glass for any evidence. Mineral analyses have shown that differences may be detected in soil composition. Soil and dust found on a suspect clothing and determined to be comparable to that at crime scene help to prove the person's presence in that locality. In metallurgical investigations, they make it possible to identify the source of an item whether made of metal, plastic, ceramic, or other material-found at a crime scene, and further, to determine if two similar items were fractured from each other, the nature of the force causing the fracture, the direction from which the force came from, and the time when the fragments became separated.

Metallurgical examinations can also determine how a metal item was manufactured, and whether items found in different locations were made at the same time and by the same manufacturer. Such identification helps trace the evidence to its owner. The metallurgist can in some cases restore obliterated or altered on metal objective. Document examination, on its part, traditionally consisted largely of comparing questioned handwriting with known handwriting to determine the writer's identity. It also includes the examination of hand-printing, email and other digital documents, forgeries, typewriting, inks, paper, indented and eradicated writing, rubber-stamp impressions, charred paper, and related items. Under the above, no two persons write exactly like. The writing process is so complex that personal peculiarities always persist in the handwriting of any given individual. Detailed examinations reveal these hidden characteristics, which can then form the basis for an expert's opinion.

MODERN AND SCIENCE-DRIVEN CRIMINAL INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES LACKING IN NIGERIA

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.

USE OF LESS CONFRONTATIONAL PEACE METHOD OF INTERROGATION:

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 [Authorized 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 analyse the subject's behaviour "to determine the subject's truthful and deceptive behaviours 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.

Reference:

CSS 341; Policing And Law Enforcement, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

ADDITIONAL GATHERED PHOTOS OF DEAD VICTIMS OF MAY 30, 2016 NIGERIAN ARMY MASSACRE IN ONITSHA AND NKPOR, ANAMBRA STATE, SOUTHEAST NIGERIA



Citizen Chinedu Udoye shot and killed by Nigerian Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on of May 30, 2016 during anniversary remembering International Igbo Heroes



Citizen Ozioko Chidiebere shot and killed by Nigerian Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on of May 30, 2016 during the Anniversary



Citizen Ifeanyichukwu Christian Azubuikwe shot and killed by Nigerian Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the World Igbo Heroes Day anniversary



Citizen Ernest Uzor shot and killed by Nigerian Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary



Citizen Ogechi Ejiogu shot and killed by Nigerian Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary.



Citizen Chima Ezechiugo shot and killed by Nigerian Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary.



Citizen Ifeanyichukwu Kalu shot and killed by Nigeria Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary.



Citizen Daniel Kalu shot and killed by Nigeria Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary.



Citizen God's Power Pius Etukudo shot and killed by Nigeria Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary.



Citizen Chikaodi Uka Ume shot and killed by Nigerian soldiers in Nkpor near Onitsha Nigeria on May 30, 2016.



Funeral poster of Citizen Chikaodi Uka Ume shot and killed by Nigerian soldiers in Nkpor near Onitsha Nigeria on 30th May 2016



The remains of Citizen Chikaodi Uka Ume pictured at a mortuary in Nkpor near Onitsha Nigeria on June 8, 2016



Citizen Sunday Ogudo shot and killed by Nigeria Soldiers in Onitsha, South-East Nigeria on May 30, 2016 during the anniversary.



Another dead victim of the Nigerian Military violent crackdown on unnamed and defenseless Pro Biafra Campaigners. He was shot and killed on May 30, 2016 in Anambra State, Southeast Nigeria.



Yet another dead victim of the Nigerian Military violent crackdown on unnamed and defenseless Pro Biafra Campaigners. He was shot and killed on May 30, 2016.



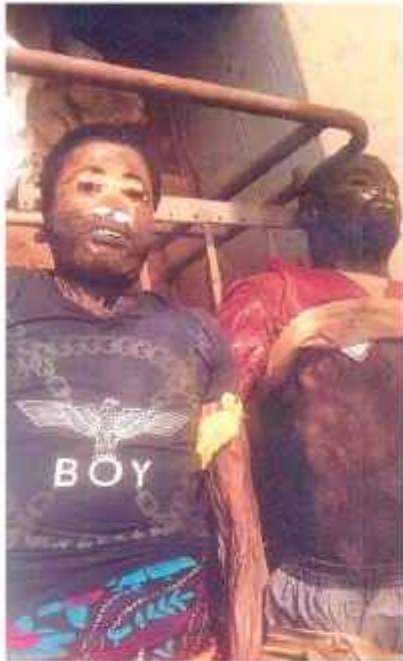
Live picture of Citizen Michael Nweke, shot dead by Nigeria Army on December 17, 2015, at Onitsha Niger Bridgehead for jubilating over a Federal High Court judgment ordering for the unconditional release of IPOB leader, Citizen Nnamdi Kanu. His corpse, alongside others was taken away by soldiers and later dumped at the Onitsha General Hospital mortuary on December 21, 2015, through some hired police officers



Funeral poster of Citizen Mathew Ibeh Kalu (Ndukwe), shot and killed in Onitsha on December 17, 2015, during jubilation match over the said court judgment. His corpse was among those taken away by soldiers and later dumped at the Onitsha General Hospital morgue on December 21, 2015, from where he was recovered and buried by his family in February 2016.



The remains of Mathew Kalu Ibeh (Ndukwe) killed by Nigerian Army on December 17, 2015 in Onitsha, dumped and abandoned at the Onitsha General Hospital. Here, his corpse lying in a coffin outside the Onitsha General Hospital Compound in February 2016 was about to be taken home by his family interment.



The remains of Citizen Michael Nweke and Chukwuma Nwankwo, found dumped by the Nigerian Army at the Onitsha General Hospital morgue pictured in February 2016 after they were shot, killed and their corpses taken away on December 17, 2015 by the Nigerian Army.



The remains of Citizen Emeka Ekpemandu, killed by Nigerian soldiers in Aba, Nigeria on February 9, 2016 during IPOB's prayers and rally at the Ngwa National High School.



Funeral poster of Citizen Chigozie Ezeji, shot dead by the Nigerian Army in Onitsha on December 17, 2015, during IPOB jubilation match following a court judgment ordering for the unconditional release of Citizen Nnamdi Kanu (IPOB leader).



Funeral poster of Miss Nkiruka Ikeanyionwu (an undergraduate), shot and killed by the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force on December 2, 2015, in Onitsha, Anambra State, Southeast Nigeria during Pro Biafra Campaign peaceful street protest.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Field Atrocity Conducts Fueling Military Siege, Terror And Corruption In The East



How Reckless Abuses Of The Armed Forces Act (2004) Fueled Military Siege And Terror In The East:

The reckless abandon with which the clear provisions of the Nigeria Armed Forces Act of 1994 (Armed Forces Act of 2004) as they relate particularly to core duties of the Nigerian Armed Forces (Army, Air Force and Navy) is flouted and abused; has dangerously turned Nigeria particularly the South-East and Igbo parts of the South-South into military siege, killing fields and dens of extortionist military organized crimes. The above is to the extent that the Nigerian Armed Forces particularly soldiers and commanding officers of the Nigerian Army and other military personnel and their officers drawn from their High Commands and formations located in the South-East and the South-South have left their core duties as clearly provided in the Armed Forces Act and the 1999 Constitution and adopted "auxiliary or supplementary duties" as their existential or formatively sworn duties or responsibilities. The officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces particularly those that are federally drafted to Eastern Nigeria have cashed in on such clearly constitutionally undefined "auxiliary or supplementary" duties to wreak havoc on innocent and defenseless citizens and their constitutionally guaranteed and protected fundamental human rights and fundamental freedoms by turning Eastern Nigeria into killing fields and unstoppably swimming in the bloods of innocent Easterners since August 2015; which have further heightened since January 2021. The above military conduct-atrocities in Eastern Nigeria have also incurably brought about corruption and high indiscipline among the officers and personnel of the Armed Forces and their High Commands situated in Abuja, Nigeria's Capital City.

Highlights Of Discovered 50 Sources Of Military Corruption And Killing Fields In Eastern Nigeria

There are 50 sources of military corruption and killing fields in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South. They reared their ugly heads and transformed into dens of military corruption or unchecked extortion roadblocks since August 2015. These 50 sources of State's 'Crimes against Persons' and 'Crimes against Properties'; perpetrated by the drafted military officers and personnel in the two Regions have been responsible for an array of corruption and killings and other atrocious acts or conducts, using military formations in the two Regions. The offensive activities of the drafted officers and personnel of the military including aiding and abetting by their high commands such as the Army and the Defense Headquarters have maddeningly been responsible for killings, grievous bodily harms, body lacerations and maiming; abductions and disappearances including decimation and disappearance of dead bodies of the unarmed and defenseless citizens of those arrested or abducted alive and killed or tortured to death in the Nigerian military facilities; indiscriminate and unlawful arrests and detentions using false labeling and mass or class criminalization, hearsay conclusions and ethno-religious profiling, etc. Included in the list are custodial torture and other inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments and 'domicide' or indiscriminate and wanton destruction of defenseless civilian properties such as dwelling houses, household properties, automobiles, market stores stocked with goods and haulage vehicles and their goods, etc.

It is also our finding that these 50 sources of military corruption and killing fields are maximally exploited and used by the drafted officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces, particularly Nigerian Army to falsely mass label, stigmatize and criminalize those arrested and abducted as "perpetrators of, or parties to ESN/IPOB/Biafra Terrorism".

Victims of the above include parents, children (including infants and under-age), relatives, spouses, fiancées, girlfriends, landlords, landladies, yard-chairmen, friends, motorists, etc., arrested or abducted through violent attack using assault rifles and other instruments of death to shoot them at close range—resulting to their instant death or sustenance of terminal injuries; from where they are clamped into indefinite detention, if alive or dumped in undisclosed locations, if shot and killed. Bodies of those shot and injured who died on their way to military barracks and other undisclosed military locations; are disposed like dead fowls by being thrown into the river or swamp or gully site or bush or forest to evade traces and dodge accountability. The most shocking of it all is that such military conduct-atrocities are brazenly perpetrated using constitutionally outlawed 'transfer of criminal responsibility' (prohibited and criminalized by Section 7 of the ACJA Act of 2015). It must be noted that such military conduct-atrocities using "transfer of criminal responsibility or liability" are also forbidden by Section 36, subsections 8 and 12 of the 1999 Constitution under 'Right to Fair Hearing'.

Military Dabbling Into Civil Matters, USURPING AND TAKING-OVER POLICE FUNCTIONS SINCE AUGUST 2015:

It must technically be informed that officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces are never trained for management of democratic civic spaces including democratic assemblies and regulation of civil conducts of members of the civilian population. Apart from being restricted to art of war and its international regulations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005, the Nigerian Armed Forces know nothing about approved and unapproved ways of life of members of the civilian population. Legally speaking, unapproved ways of life of members of the civilian population are classified in written or codified criminal and civil laws as "criminal offenses" and "civil deviances or wrongs". Further noted is the fact that it is not every social or civil deviance or wrong that amounts to "criminal offense". All the above, therefore, explain the reasons why the Nigeria Police Force and other police forces or services around the world are traditionally charged with the responsibility of policing members of the civilian population through democratic law enforcement operations and their regulations clearly laid down in written laws.

Such traditional duties of the Police include apprehension of suspected unarmed criminal civilians and suspected armed criminal persons and deviant members of the Armed Forces, the Paramilitaries and sub-state actors like members of state vigilante groups, etc. In other words, traditional duties of the Police are incontestably extended to lawfully detaining, investigating and prosecuting deviant members of the general population whether military or civilians. The Armed Forces of Nigeria are empowered by their own law and regulations to regulate and checkmate their conscripted or sworn officers and personnel and others who are subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 and any other military law. Under democratic dispensation, members of the Nigeria Police Force are also put in place and authorized by the country's criminal and law enforcement laws to police and regulate the deviant conducts of officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces especially as it affects their hostile and deviant relationship with members of the civilian population and other members of the public. Powers of the Police in that regard are exercised through constitutional and statutory 'powers' of arrest, detention, investigation and prosecution. The Nigerian Armed Forces are incapable by law, of "arresting, detaining, investigating and prosecuting" members of the Nigeria Police Force. The Armed Forces Act of 2004 also inherently disempowers officers and personnel of the Military (Army, Air Force and Navy) from "arresting, detaining, investigating and prosecuting" members of the Nigerian civilian population who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act or any other military law.

Also investigated and discovered was the fact that most of those recently announced by the Defense Headquarters as "arrested" and "neutralized (killed)" citizens of South-East extraction are most likely to be victims of false labeling and mass or class criminalization and crude use of force including its disproportionality. Not minding these clear-cut or watertight constitutional and statutory provisions, members of the Armed Forces, particularly since August 2015, have dangerously and gravely dabbled into areas of the policing laws and regulations which they know nothing about by their induction, training and establishment law.

They have, as a result, become a 'meddlesome interloper', and in gross breach of the clear provisions of the 1999 Constitution, the Armed Forces Act (and any other military law), the Criminal Code Act, the Penal Code Act and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, etc. The above, therefore, explains the brazenness and reckless abandon with which officers and personnel of the Armed Forces have continued, particularly in the South-East and the South-South, to swim in the ocean of innocent bloods, corruption and related acts of indiscipline particularly since August 2015. It is also shocking to note the way and manner officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces have illiterately dabbled into civil matters and militarily usurped and taken over the constitutional and statutory duties of the members of the Nigeria Police.

The Nigerian Armed Forces had not only dabbled into professional and technical areas they existentially knew nothing about but have also recklessly deployed "jungle justice methods" in dealing with such constitutional and statutory 'no-go areas'. These, they do by abducting, unlawfully detaining, torturing, killing and disappearing members of the civilian population, instead of having them lawfully transferred to the Nigeria Police Force which is equipped with technical and legal know-how in matters of reasonable suspicion of commission of criminal offense, arrest, detention, investigation and prosecution or discharge and acquittal of such arrested civilian citizens if the contrary is established. Apart from usurping and taking-over traditional police duties, officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces now see and treat every civil conduct or deviant behavior and three major categorized criminal offenses in the Criminal Code Act, the Penal Code Act and their procedurally unified Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 as "act of insurgency or terrorism", further heightened and recriminalized in the South-East and South-South as "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism". The above is gravely the case, to the extent that civil conducts and 'street crimes' including simple, misdemeanor and felony offenses; or civil deviant acts or wrongs not amounting to criminal offenses are now militarily criminalized and treated by the drafted military officers and personnel as "acts of terrorism or insurrection or insurgency"; or worse still, "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism".

Serious damages to civilian properties or burning down or destruction of dwelling houses and other properties by officers and personnel of the Armed Forces are also inclusive-with over 6000 of such razed in the East since August 2015. Police, EFCC and ICPC (operationally led by the NPF) Duty-Offenses and others given to Paramilitary outfits like the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (for offense of vandalism) and the Federal Road Safety Corps (for statutory and strict liability offenses involving road traffic violations), etc., and other matters relating to civil conducts including social deviances or civil wrongs have been dabbled into by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces and criminalized and recriminalized as "acts of terrorism or insurrection or insurgency" attracting instant death or death code". Officers and personnel of the Armed Forces have not only dabbled into such offenses and civil matters but have also been severally involved in perpetrating and perpetuating many of them with impunity and in the line of their operational duties. Such offenses and civil matters militarily dabbled into include cultism, cybercrimes, (computer and internet fraud); money-laundering, vandalism, criminal assaults including aggravated assault, pickpockets, touting, road traffic offenses, inter-personal quarreling, manslaughter, indebtedness, property disputes including land matters; domestic disputes (husband-wife disagreements) and domestic violence including wife battering and sexual violence; housebreaking, burglary, arson, damages to properties, civil protests including sit-at-home; solid mineral theft and illicit mining or excavation; roadway corruption including roadblock extortion; community leadership matters including street, market association and town union matters; robbery and armed robbery; stealing, abductions such as military abductions, abduction-for-ransom and abduction-against-religious belief; trafficking offenses including trafficking-in-persons, trafficking-in-illicit drugs and trafficking-in-illicit arms; carjacking, revenue touting, students union and university matters, etc.

Apart from crudely and extrajudicially lumping the above and labeling them "acts of terrorism, insurrection or insurgency", they are also mass-labeled in Eastern Nigeria by the Military as "acts of ESN/IPOB/Biafra Terrorism"; leading to thousands of innocent and defenseless citizens of the Region being massacred, hundreds of billions of naira being illicitly extorted and pocketed; and billions of naira worth of defenseless properties wantonly destroyed.

It must be pointed out that most of the persons publicly disclosed by the military authorities in Nigeria (by their numbers only) as having been “arrested and killed” during the military’s law enforcement operations are most likely to be victims of military recriminalization and jungle justice or conduct-atrocities arising from civil matters and criminal offenses that have nothing to do with military matters or jurisdiction. It is also strongly suspected that those civilian citizens publicly announced by military authorities as “arrested and detained” are likely to have been killed and disappeared after being publicly announced. Possibilities are also very high that there are others that are not publicly mentioned whose numbers belong to “military dark figures of crime or conduct-atrocities” and who must have been killed extrajudicially and their dead body persons disposed like dead fowls.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OVER ABDUCTIONS, KILLINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES BY THE MILITARY IN THE EAST:

The indiscriminate “military dark figures” in their operational abductions, killings and enforced disappearances across South-East and South-South had arisen following their woeful failure to publicly disclose the victims’ identities and circumstances of their killing, abduction and disappearance. Such circumstances have never been made public; thereby raising the following unanswered questions: “what are the full identities including names, gender, photographs, age-bracket, marital status, occupation, and towns, LGA and State of origin of those arrested and “detained” or abducted, killed or disappeared or seized under circumstances only known to their military captors?; when were they arrested or killed?, where were they arrested or killed?, how were they arrested or killed?, why were they arrested or killed?, where are the bodies of those secretly killed or those openly killed and taken away ?, what are the present locations of those arrested and held and why were they not transferred to the police?, how long has they been held in military facilities and why?, under what circumstances were the slain shot and killed?, what are the present conditions of those injured or wounded during or after their arrest or abduction?; what and where are the prima facie evidence (if any) gathered from the crime scenes involving the victims?, what are the legal sources of the military personnel’s power to kill civilian citizens arrested or abducted unarmed in Nigeria or any part thereof, etc.; irrespective of gravity of criminal charges or offenses leveled against them?”

It is our further finding that the conversion of civil conducts and civil wrongs into “act of insurgency or insurrection or terrorism” by military officers and personnel in South-East and South-South has become their stock-in-trade; to the extent that ‘wearing a bangle or a faze cap or having a body tattoo or bearing a stylist hairstyle or responding to security questions at military roadblocks or wearing an Igbo red cap and Igbo identity wrist and neck bangles, etc., have been seized as an opportunity to instantly false-label and falsely accuse such victims as “as IPOB/ESN insurgents”; or “herbalists or combatants or founding fathers or spiritual fathers or relatives or wives or girlfriends or boyfriends or parent(s) or friends or collaborators or commanders of ESN/IPOB insurgents, terrorists, hoodlums”, etc.

Likelihood Of Fabrication Of “Weapons’ Recovery Announcements” By The Military Or Recycling Of Seized Weapons:

All the militarily seized “unprohibited firearms” across South-East and South-South such as Dane Guns and Single Barreled Guns and Double Barred Guns have controversially been labeled by Nigeria’s military authorities as “firearms or weapons recovered from IPOB/ESN/Biafra terrorists or insurgents or hoodlums”. This is even when it is a clear evident that they were unlawfully and maliciously seized from their authorized bearers such as local hunters, community guardsmen and others using them for lawful gaming and domestic purposes. This Special International Report has also found that no single prohibited firearm or assault rifle has been recovered and publicly displayed by the drafted military officers and personnel in the East since August 2015 till date. This is even as the Nigerian military is widely suspected to be protecting Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and aiding and abetting their genocidal activities across the South-East and the South-South.

The frequent public announcements by the Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces, of recovery of assorted types and caches of assault weapons and their ammunitions including AK-47s from IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorists, is found by this Special International Report to have evidently been mired in serious controversies and strong suspicions. Apart from serious suspicion of such frequent weapons' recovery announcements being fabricated or recovered weapons (if any) being frequently recycled for purposes of promoting false gallantry, selective, biased and discriminatory law enforcements or law enforcement operations; likewise promotion of "cultural violence" of false labeling, ethnoreligious profiling, mass criminalization and class stigmatization; there are no credible and verifiable pieces of evidence showing that such recovered weapons (if any) have been subjected to ballistic technology tests and analyses to unquestionably determine their true sources including countries, companies and regions and their local handlers or users and uses.

Totality of the above is more so when over 90% of criminal activities in the South-East are blamed on "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism/Terrorists" by drafted security forces particularly the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Nigeria Police Force. Such statutory criminal offenses recklessly and indiscriminately converted to "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" by drafted officers and personnel of the Nigerian military and their high commands in the East include offenses of felony (offenses of treason attracting capital punishments on court verdicts and other felonies attracting three to seven years imprisonments), misdemeanors and simple offenses including strict and statutory liability offenses. The authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces through Nigerian Army High Command and the Defense Headquarters have even gone to the extent of converting civil wrongs and civil conducts into "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism", under which tens of thousands of unarmed citizens have indiscriminately been framed and criminalized or falsely labeled, arrested or abducted; held uninvestigated and untried in perpetual captivity; or shot and killed in the open outside the law or taken into custody and executed and have their dead body persons permanently seized and criminally interred without records or traces including outside the knowledge of their families and legal representatives.

Such false labeling, mass criminalization and class stigmatization are more reckless and dangerous at night at military checkpoints; or during raid or invasion of communities, civilian homes and other facilities by soldiers, from where such facilities are falsely and controversially labeled "ESN/IPOB/Biafra Terrorism/Terrorist hideouts or training camps". Such affected civilian places, found by this Special International Report include students' hostels, nightclubs, liquor and eating joints, sports entertainment arenas, meeting venues, palaces of traditional rulers, Christian and Traditional religious worship centers and arenas where passengers are discharged from their commercial vehicles and rounded up particularly at late night and wee hours of the morning, etc. Persons abducted or arrested at such scenes are instantly false labeled and run the high risk of being rounded up and abducted dead or alive and tagged or criminalized as "IPOB/ESN/Biafra terrorists or insurgents". The worst of it all is that there is little, or zero chances of such victims abducted alive returning to their families alive.

Conclusively, it is most likely correct to say that roughly 90% of those killed or publicly announced as "having been arrested" by the military authorities including the Defense and the Army Headquarters are those belonging to the categories of the victims above mentioned. The patterns and trends of the above further indicate that such military conduct-atrocities heighten during the reports of the killing of military personnel during which officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces seize as an opportunity to engage in massive crackdown on members of unarmed and defenseless civilian population under circumstances of revenge or reprisal attacks using ethnic and religious profiling, false labeling, mass criminalization and class stigmatization. The not less than N265billion illicitly collected and pocketed by military officers and personnel in the South-East Region alone in nine years and four months (August 2015–December 2024) is strongly believed to have arisen from the 50 sources of military corruption and killing fields scattered untracked and unchecked across the South-East and the South-South Regions.

RECYCLING OF “RECOVERED FIREARMS” AND MINDLESS SEIZURE OF CITIZENS’ LAWFUL SELF DEFENSE FIREARMS:

There are strong public suspicions over 'recycling of the publicly displayed weapons' by Nigerian military authorities who claimed to have recovered them from the "IPOB/ESN hoodlums" or "terrorists" in the South-East and the South-South. The widely and strongly suspected weapons' recycling or repeated public display of the same with their publicly undetermined sources, seems to have become a recurring decimal or unchecked military habit, for purpose of justification of operational mass abductions, killings or disappearances particularly during reports of the killing of military personnel by Government-linked and non-Government-linked armed opposition groups or violent street criminal entities. The 'recovering or seizing of Dane Guns and other 'unprohibited firearms' by officers and personnel of the Armed Forces is also recklessly ongoing. This dastardly act is a total breach of the civilian citizens' fundamental human rights to life and self-defense outlined in the Firearms Act of 2004 and Section 33 of the 1999 constitution. It must be informed that "unprohibited guns" (see Sections 3 of the Firearms Act of 2004 for licensed unprohibited firearms and Section 4 for unlicensed prohibited firearms) are those belonging to innocent Nigerians who are lawfully allowed to procure them for gaming, hunting, self-defense and other lawful domestic uses.

Also observed is gross partisanship and discrimination by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces in the line of their duties in Nigeria or any part thereof particularly in the South-East and the South-South; by stopping at nothing since 2016 in depriving members of the lawful and defenseless civilian population, of their constitutional right to acquire under license and lawful use "unprohibited firearms" for purpose of warding off threats to their lives and properties particularly in the hands of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others. Shockingly, the same authorities of the Armed Forces have turned their eyes in the opposite direction by allowing and protecting Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others to acquire and genocidally bear prohibited firearms (AK-47s, AK-49s, IEDs, etc.) with which they have attacked and massacred tens of thousands of defenseless Nigerian citizens and burned down or destroyed tens of thousands of their properties particularly in the past nine years. Found unavailable in Nigeria or any part thereof are official credible records showing location and safety of the "recovered firearms and their ammunitions". Official credible records showing the number of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) and their handlers in Nigeria or any part thereof, are nowhere to be found and have never been credibly cited by any of the country's intelligence, defense and policing establishments and their authorities.

Explaining 50 Sources Of Military Corruption And Killing Fields In The East And Their Three Categories:

Below is the graphical presentation of the 50 sources of Nigerian military corruption and killing fields in South-East and the South-South, accounting for not fewer than 90% of military corruption through roadblock and 'barracks' extortions and terrorization of the Eastern Nigerian territories and civic spaces through indiscriminate and mass arrests at roadblocks especially at night and wee hours of the morning and raiding or invasion of civilian homes and Igbo communities; and abductions, torture and disappearance of their defenseless civilian natives since August 2015. It is also our strong suspicion that the 50 sources accounted for more than 90% of recent announcements by the authorities of the Armed Forces through the Defense Headquarters regarding the "number of those arrested and detained; and others neutralized (extrajudicially killed)" in the South-East. A typical example was the 354 Igbo civilian citizens announced by the Defense Headquarters on June 27, 2024, as those "arrested" from the South-East from January to June 2024 and 180 others as "those killed" using "ESN/IPOB/Biafra combatants or members" as a pretext. It is the strong position of the Intersociety and the Author-in-Chief of this Special International Report that more than 90% of the 354 arrestees and 180 slain citizens are most likely to be victims of false labeling, ethnic profiling, mass criminalization and class stigmatization. There are also likely to be dozens that must have been extrajudicially killed but not mentioned who represented "dark figures".

90% Of The Military's Operational Outcomes Unlinked To Armed Non-State Actors In The East;10% Linked:

Further informed is that only a fraction or about 10% of the Nigerian military's operational outcomes in the East are likely to be linked to the violent activities of members of different armed non-state actor violent criminal entities particularly street violent criminal entities and armed counterfeit agitators. In other words, more than 90% of such operational outcomes are not linked to them. Using false labeling, ethnoreligious profiling and mass criminalization, the Nigerian military authorities, joined by the spy police and the regular police authorities, have earned notoriety in camouflaging outcomes of their law enforcement operations and costuming the instruments or items recovered. The above included using previously recovered items from 'crime scenes' or costuming militarily held guns and other items to justify their conduct-atrocities, showcase false gallantry and promote operational falsehood. The authorities of the Nigerian Security Forces (**NSFs**) have generally been very notorious when it comes to recycling instruments stored in their armories including Dane Guns, Single Barreled Guns, Double Barreled Guns, Pump-Action Guns, Machetes and tribal and religious insignias, tagged "items or weapons recovered from ESN/IPOB combatants or members or insurgents or terrorists and their affiliates", etc.

In other words, most of the publicly announced slain civilian citizens in the South-East and those abducted and detained by military authorities and others who have possibly been permanently disappeared most likely did not have anything to do with "being members or combatants or affiliates of IPOB or ESN terrorism". Most of them are also likely to have been abducted or killed unarmed during indiscriminate arrests and raiding of civilian homes or facilities or Igbo communities, perpetrated mostly in the hours of the blue law and wee hours of the morning. The Intersociety's Special Report on Obigbo Army War-grade invasion, abductions, disappearances and killings, released on Nov 17, 2023, is a clear case in point. It must also be pointed out that there is no law in Nigeria or any part thereof empowering members of the Nigerian Security Forces (**NSFs**) to kill unarmed citizens or those arrested nonviolently armed and taken into custody alive; irrespective of the gravity of criminal accusations leveled against them.

There have also been several cases whereby unarmed members of the civilian population are shot at close range and killed and later publicly paraded by having Dane Guns or Pump Action Guns or Assault Rifles or Machetes and Fake Charms (costumed objects) placed on top of their dead bodies for purpose of falsely labeling and mass-criminalizing them as "IPOB/ESN/IPOB hoodlums killed in gun duel by gallant law enforcement personnel". The worst of it all is that there is little or no room for members of the media and human rights community to logically and critically interrogate such officially falsified stories by the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces before, during and after such public announcements. The situation is also very dire or highly risky for any media practitioner or human rights activist including human rights lawyer or legal counsel to any of the slain or shot and wounded victims to attempt such. Those allowed or invited to cover such military media briefings or conferences must be those singing praises or those operating under State censorship and stifled civic spaces in Nigeria or any part thereof.

Unchecked Military Seizure **AND CONFISCATION OF COMMUNAL LANDS IN THE EAST**

There are indiscriminate seizure and confiscation of community lands by the authorities of the Nigerian Army across Igbo Land particularly in places like Enugu State and other Igbo communities with large expanse of farmlands, forests and bushes. The above was discovered recently in places like Igbo-Etiti, Isi-Uzo, Igbo-Eze North, Igbo Eze South, Udi, Awgu, etc., in Enugu State. There are also unconfirmed reports of similar dastardly acts in Imo, Ebonyi, Abia, etc. A typical case in point was a recent sad development that took place in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State where the natives of Ochima Igbo-Nsukka in Igbo-Etiti LGA woke-up sometime in July 2024 to discover that majority of their communal farmlands, forests and bushes have been barricaded and marked with Nigerian Army Beacons and signboards boldly written: "Nigerian Army Land, Keep Off".

According to local villagers who spoke to the Intersociety, larger portions of the communal farmlands, bushes and forests are those belonging to Ochima-Igbo-Nsukka and the rest belonging to its two neighboring communities. Affected by the seizure and confiscation were several dwelling houses, farms and other properties of the natives of the three affected communities. The natives further pointed out that their recent refusal to cede their farmlands, bushes and forests to Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen through middlemen arrangements were responsible for the seizure and confiscation of their communal lands by the Nigerian Army; expressing deep fears that such vast farmlands possibly end up in the hands of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen for their permanent settlements and propagation and expansion of radical Islamism.

In several parts of Igbo Land, deep disagreements have erupted in recent years between leaders of local communities and authorities of the Nigerian Army or Military on one hand, and between those communities and patrons (. i.e. leaders of the Miyatti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria-MACBAN) of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen on the other hand. Such deep disagreements had arisen from legitimate refusal of the leaders of such communities to compromise the safety and security of their communities by ceding their communal farmlands, forests and bushes for permanent settlement of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen. The above is to the extent that where leaders of such communities refuse to yield or compromise, they run the high risk of being labeled "aiders of IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" or "those providing funds and training camps for ESN/IPOB/Biafra terrorists". The above have severally been the case in places like Akpawfu-Egudene, Oruku and Amegunze over "Atunshi Forest" jointly owned by Akpawfu, Oruku and Amegunze in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State, dating back to February 2020; Awgu in Enugu State, dating back to 2021; Izombe and six Agwa Clan communities including Uwaorie-Agwa Autonomous Community in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, dating back to 2021; and eight Ohafia Clan communities in Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State, dating back to 2020, etc.

Refusal of the leaders of such communities to cede their lands to Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen for jihadist settlements and propagation of radical islamism have resulted to several military invasions, false labeling, criminalization of communal indigenes and their lawful activities; abductions, killings, razing of dwelling houses and wanton destruction of other properties using "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext/cover. Leaders of such communities have also been severally false labeled, framed, arrested and militarily detained and tortured or forced into submission under duress. A typical case in point was the three autonomous communities of Akpawfu (Obodo-Uvuru, Isiagu and Ajame-Agu), Amegunze and Oruku (joint owners of "Atunshi Forest") in Nkanu East of Enugu State have constantly come under attacks, threats and fears in the hands of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and constant invasions, attacks and threats by officers and personnel of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army, Enugu over the refusal by leaders of the affected autonomous communities to takeover the large expanse of the "Ofia Atunshi" or "Joint Atunshi (god of communal protection) Forest".

The Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen had several times in 2019 invaded and taken over the Forest, from where several deadly attacks were launched on the affected communities leading to scores of deaths and destruction of properties including farm crops and dwelling houses belonging to defenseless indigenes of the area. In Feb 2020, the communities mobilized their youths including vigilantes and dislodged the marauding Jihadists and stationed some vigilantes to guard and watch over the Forest. Weeks after, a group of soldiers led by a Northern Muslim Captain stormed the area particularly the Akpawfu Clan, assembled their leaders and ordered them to fish out all their vigilantes involved. Counter attacks were also separately launched by Jihadist Fulanis and soldiers, leading to dislodgement of the stationed community vigilantes, paving way for the return of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen to the area. As if the above was not enough, the authorities of the 82 Division and other security agencies in Enugu State turned around in 2021, till date and falsely labelled the affected communities particularly the Akpawfu Clan or falsely accusing them of "harboring the Eastern Security Network (ESN) and using the area (Forest) as ESN training camps". Members of the Community Vigilantes from the area were also tagged "ESN or ESN affiliates".

NIGERIA: "OCEAN OF INNOCENT BLOOD FLOWING IN THE EAST"

In the ancient Ohafia Clan in Abia State, eight, out of its sixteen autonomous communities also suffered the same fate in the hands of the Nigerian Army and cried out severally against constant military siege and terror in their area. Traditional Rulers (Eziogos) of eight of the sixteen autonomous communities had sometime in 2021 cried out to the media and the public over constant military invasion, harassment, killings and property destructions since 2021. The Royal Fathers of the affected communities remotely traced their ordeal to their refusal to cede communities' lands to Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen through the military, which severally approached them to that effect. Refusal to cede their lands ended up creating bad blood between them and the Army through the 14 Brigade, situated at Ohafia; as a result of which the military turned around and labeled them "sponsors of ESN and providers of their training grounds".

On June 16, 2021, for instance, the Ohafia Royal Fathers from five autonomous communities gathered at 'Udumeze Palace' and issued a communique, strongly condemning military siege and terror in their communities. The Royal Fathers also strongly denied knowledge or link with "Unknown Gunmen", now labeled "ESN/IPOB/Biafra Terrorists" by **Nigerian Security Forces (NSFs)**. The Royal Fathers in their joint communique called for end of military siege and terror in their communities. The communique was signed by the following traditional rulers (Eziogos): Emmanuel Imaga (Udemeze-Ohafia), Emmanuel Onugu (Asaga-Ohafia), Mba Okereke (Akanu-Ohafia), Awa Nwankwo (Amaekpu-Ohafia) and Mmecha Mmecha (Amangwu-Ohafia).

The Nigerian military or Army's attacks on Ohafia Clan including Amangwu and Ebem commenced in 2021, with killing of not less than 60 civilians and burning down or destruction of several civilian houses and other properties worth hundreds of millions of naira; as captured in a special documentary, attached below, by the International Center for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) in June 2021. Instances are too many to be mentioned including Awgu in Enugu State and Agwa and Izombe in Ogun, Imo State.



Army Land Seizure In The East And Army School Of Islamic Affairs

Three Categories

Involving 50 Sources Of Military Corruption And Killing Fields In The East:

The First Category: Direct Extortion Tactics: These involve direct collection of criminal tolls using hired criminal civilians in the daytime and combination of military personnel and their hired criminal civilians at night. The daily criminal tolls vary according to circumstances including economic inflation and naira devaluation. For instance, haulage vehicles are presently forced to pay sundry criminal tolls according to haulage vehicle sizes and goods being conveyed ranging from N1000 to N10,000 per haulage vehicle per military roadblock. Impoundment of passenger and haulage vehicles at every military roadblock attracts between N10,000 and N50,000 per vehicle at recovery while in the case of any faulty passenger, private and haulage vehicle parked near every military roadblock; each is forced to pay N5,000 and above. Nigerian Naval Checkpoint at Onitsha-Ogbaru Atani Road Junction is a typical case in point

Indirect Extortion Tactics: it involves collection of criminal tolls through indirect means, using leaders of the affected commercial transport or artisan or market associations via daily or weekly returns or settlements as benchmark. Using the Ogbaru Naval Base Checkpoint at Atani Road/Uga Street Junction in Anambra State as an example; "Navy Money of N200" per trip is imposed and indirectly collected from each passenger-bound Shuttle Bus or Keke Tricycle in the area. Collection of the criminal toll is also coded by having it lumped as "Chairman's Daily Feeding Money (inclusive of Navy Money)", from which that belonging to officers and personnel of the Ogbaru Naval Base is separated and illicitly channeled. Each of roadside traders in the area is also forced to pay N100 or N200 on daily basis as "Navy Money"; likewise, each of the owners of 608 and L300 commercial buses. Others, especially those in haulage transport business are forced to drop between N500 and N5000 at the Naval Checkpoint depending on the size of the haulage vehicle and goods being conveyed. The above is to say that the indirect military roadblock extortion is executed using leaders of commercial associations near military zones such as military checkpoints, roadblocks and other formations. Full details of the above are provided under Chapter 12 of this Special International Report below.

The Second Category of the 50 sources of military corruption and killing fields is **usurpation and taking-over of non-military matter criminal offenses and their recriminalization into "acts of terrorism or insurgency or insurrection"**. The above include such offenses classified and categorized under the Criminal Code Act of 2004, the Penal Code Act of 2004 and their Procedural Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 as 'simple offenses', 'misdemeanors' and 'felonies'; other than terrorism, insurgency and insurrection, classified as "military matters" or High Crimes against the State. The above "military and non-military matters" criminal offenses are clearly defined and categorized in Nigeria's written criminal laws and their procedures. It must further be stated that the non-military matter criminal offenses are exclusively, legally and professionally allocated to the Nigeria Police Force and its designated departments exercisable under "the Nigeria Police powers" of crime suspicion, crime detection and criminal arrest, detention, investigation and prosecution.

Contrarily, officers and personnel of the Armed Forces have not only dabbled into them but also usurped and taken over their management and regulations using sundry jungle justice methods highlighted above. Despite incurably lacking policing intelligence and crime detection and prevention skills and tools, officers and personnel of the Armed Forces have also gone to the extent of lumping and recriminalizing them as "acts of terrorism or insurgency or insurrection" which they have hidden under to target and attack thousands of defenseless civilian citizens of the East through indiscriminate, unlawful and arbitrary arrest and detention; abductions, enforced disappearances, torture, unlawful killings and destruction of their properties such as dwelling houses, automobiles and goods and services. The above is also one of the money-spinning sources of the military corruption in the South-East and the South-South through roadblock and barracks extortions and others arising from mass arrests and property lootings and their forceful conversion into illicit private use and ownership.

The Third Category is **dabbling into civil matters of zero criminal consequences and their criminalization as "acts of terrorism, insurgency and insurrection"**. Officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces have since August 2015 in the East earned notoriety in dabbling into 'civil matters with zero links to criminal offenses or those with zero criminal consequences'; judicially handled under the law of torts. For clarity, a Tort is an act or omission that gives rise to injury or harm to another and amounts to a civil wrong for which courts impose liability. In this context, "injury" describes the invasion of any legal right, whereas "harm" describes a loss or detriment that an individual suffers. Under the above, officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces have gravely dabbled into all manners of civil matters and have them lumped and criminalized as "acts of terrorism, insurgency and insurrection".

In other words, defenseless citizens arrested or abducted in connection with the above have also swollen the number of the victims of the military conduct-atrocities in the guise of "military onslaughts against "ESN/IPOB combatants or terrorists in the East". Victims include those openly shot and killed extrajudicially and those custodially tortured, killed and disappeared. Among such civil matters militarily dabbled into are debt recovery, property dispute, marital and boyfriend-girlfriend issues, community and market association leadership issues, etc. The above has been identified by this Special International Report as one of the money-spinning sources of the military corruption in the South-East and the South-South through roadblock and barracks extortions and extortions arising from mass arrests, property lootings and forceful conversions, etc.

THE LIST OF 50 SOURCES OF MILITARY EXTORTION AND KILLING FIELDS IN EASTERN NIGERIA

Direct collection of criminal tolls from haulage vehicles including: (1) 911 lorries, trailers, white and red sand tipper lorries; (2) from white sand, red sand and stone excavators (i.e. Nigerian Navy extortion or "settlements" of white sand dredgers along Fegge Niger Street and Atani Road banks of the River Niger in Anambra State); (3) from illicit and licit crude oil and other solid mineral miners and their vendors; (4) aiding and abetting proliferation of illicit arms or illicit small arms and light weapons and extortion of their traffickers; (5) extortion of illicit and licit drug dealers and users and aiding and abetting illicit drug trafficking (i.e. Onitsha Drug Market); indirect imposition and collection of criminal tolls from transporters associations and related others on daily or weekly basis using 'settlements or returns' targeted at: (6) passenger and haulage tricycles (Keke) and Okada motorcycles; and (7) haulage and passenger L300, Shuttle, 608 and Dyna transport operators and their associations; (8) provision of illegal protection for those dealing on contraband goods and services, for a fee or with intent to extort; (9) aiding and abetting illegal arms trafficking and extortion thereto; (10) aiding and abetting trafficking in persons and extortion thereto; (11) aiding and abetting trafficking in illicit drugs and extortion thereto; (12) aiding and abetting illegal businesses including leasing or renting out packing spaces such as stores and warehouses to them within military barracks or military facilities and extortion thereto (i.e. Onitsha 302 Army Cantonment); (13) corruption and militarization of election duties including voter intimidation and aiding and abetting ballot box snatching and election result manipulations and extortion thereto.

Included in the list are: (14) indiscriminate, arbitrary and unlawful arrests and detention of members of the civilian population with intent to false-label, brutalize and extort (i.e. during military roadblock "stop-and-search" and invasion of communities and dwelling homes especially at night); (15) aiding and abetting offenses of abduction-for-ransom and abduction-against-ethnoreligious belief especially those perpetrated by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and huge volume of monetary "settlements" thereto-arising from payment of ransoms by the victims through their relatives or associates; (16) aiding and abetting offenses of abduction-for-ransom perpetrated by members of violent street criminal and cybercrime entities and counterfeit agitators and huge volume of monetary "settlements" thereto-arising from payment of ransoms by the victims through their relatives or associates; (17) provision of illegal VIP services to private individuals and group entities including serving as their bodyguards at social functions and huge unlawful monetary payments thereto; (18) aiding and abetting other violent street crimes including extortion and indirect participation thereto; (19) impoundment of private and commercial vehicles at military roadblocks and extortion thereto; (20) collection of unlawful fees from owners of faulty and grounded vehicles including haulage vehicles, tricycles and motorcycles near military roadblocks.

(21) aiding and abetting extortions and brutalities by Government and private revenue entities and monetary 'settlements' thereto; (22) rendering illegal services to companies and industries in the form of "company police" and 'monetary settlements' thereto (i.e. Harbor Industrial Layout "Company Police" mounted by Ogbaru Naval Base along Dozy Junction in Ogbaru, Anambra State); (23) dabbling into road traffic conducts and regulations classified under 'Simple Offenses' and exclusively administered by police and federal road safety corps, and extortion and brutalities thereto; (24) dabbling into misdemeanors and non-military matter felonies such as criminal assaults and trespass, and extortion and brutalities thereto; (25) dabbling into the following non-military matter offenses of felony by way of aiding and abetting them and direct and indirect perpetration and perpetuation and extortions thereto: (26) offense of stealing; (27) offense of carjacking; (28) offense of burglary; (29) offense of arson; (30) offense of housebreaking; (31) offense of aggravated assault; (32) offense of domestic violence; (33) offense of sexual violence; (34) offense of vandalism; (35) offense of cybercrimes including computer and internet fraud or related armed robberies and abductions-for-extortion targeted at snatching smart phones and forcing their owners to electronically transfer millions of naira thereto at gunpoint; and (36) offense of victimless crimes including aiding and abetting hard-drug addiction, abuses and illicit trade; and conduct-atrocities arising from law enforcement operations against commercial sex workers including serious damages to properties and mass arrests and extortions thereto.

(37) dabbling into civil and property disputes and monetary settlements thereto; (38) dabbling into land matters including confiscation of community lands and their designation as "Military Zone, Keep Off" with likelihood of such seized and confiscated community lands being secured for Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their patrons for jihadist settlements and propagation and expansion of radical Islamism and monetary settlements and political power influence thereto; (39) invasion and seizure or looting of civilian properties including dwelling houses, automobiles, haulage vehicles and market stores stocked with goods and monetary losses or settlements thereto; (40) aiding and abetting roadside touting and littering of environment and extortions thereto (i.e. allotment of roadside spaces for extortion at the Uga Street and Atani Road area of the Naval Checkpoint in Anambra State); (41) meddling into university students and university governing council affairs (i.e. UNIZIK, July 2024) and monetary settlements thereto; (42) dabbling into the affairs of community associations including town union, landlords and market leadership affairs and monetary settlements thereto; (43) dabbling into ethnic and religious affairs including taking sides with promoters of radical Islamism, ethnic extremism and criminal rewards thereto; (44) militarization, criminalization and recriminalization of civil protests and other democratic assemblies including censoring and shrinking of civic spaces and criminal state rewards thereto.

The rest in the list of 50 sources of military corruption and killing fields in the South-East and the South-South are: (45) grounding and impoundment of passenger and haulage vehicles at late night and daytime near military roadblocks with intent to extort and brutalize their occupants or loot or destroy goods and services belonging to their owners engaging in lawful means of livelihood; (46) protection of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen including aiding and abetting their genocidal activities in forests, bushes, farmlands and roadways in Igbo Land; (47) indiscriminate raiding of defenseless Igbo communities and homes using war-grade weapons and tactics including wanton burning down of civilian houses, indiscriminate killing and abduction of defenseless natives of such communities (i.e. Awomama Army raid and mass killings of July 2024); (48) military conduct-atrocities and allied extortions arising from militarization and criminalization of ghost street protest or "sit-at-home" including indiscriminate shooting and abduction of members of unarmed and defenseless Eastern civilian population and their false labeling as "gunned down" or "arrested sit-at-home enforcers" (i.e. killing by soldiers of three defenseless natives of Awgu in Enugu State in Sept 2023 soldiers, tagged "gunned down armed sit-at-home enforcers"); and (50) aiding, abetting and promoting Nomadic Jihadism across Igbo Land and other parts of Eastern Nigeria including protecting lives of Islamic Fulani Cows far above lives, security and safety of members of the defenseless or vulnerable civilian citizens of the South-East and the South-South.



Photos Of Police Officers Extorting Money from Motorists in the East

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Security Sector Roadblock And Barracks' Corruption In The East



Discovery Of Estimated 2,500 Military Roadblocks And Patrol Teams In South-East And South-South:

There are credibly estimated 300 mounted military roadblocks and 500 military patrol teams in the **South-East Region**, totaling about 800 military roadblocks and patrol teams in the Region dominated by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army. These 500 motorized military patrol teams in the South-East are so indiscriminately extortionist that each can embark on "stop, search and extort" patrols in more than six different locations in a day; translating to daily average of one patrol team per six locations. In the **South-South Region**, there are estimated 600 military roadblocks and 900 patrol teams. Like in the South-East, the estimated 900 motorized military patrol teams in the South-South are so indiscriminately extortionist that each can embark on "stop, search and extort" patrols in more than six different locations in a day; translating to daily average of one patrol team per six locations.

It is therefore likely correct to say that there are a total of 2,500 military roadblocks and patrol teams, comprising about 1000 military roadblocks and 1,500 military patrol teams scattered across the two Regions' eleven States of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Bayelsa. Military patrol teams are those principally involved in "stop-and-search" and raiding, or invasion of several civil and social arenas scattered across the two Regions during morning, evening, afternoon, early and late-night hours. Conduct-atrocities such as instant killings, sexual harassments, abductions and property violence associated with their patrols are majorly perpetrated at ungodly hours including late night and wee hours of the morning as against offense of extortion majorly perpetrated in the daytime including extortion arising from ungodly hours arrests or abductions and property violence such as seizure, confiscation and looting. Such atrocity-operations particularly during the late night and ungodly morning hours' raids, in many cases, are conducted in conjunction with those manning the military roadblocks as backups or reinforcements. Military patrol teams also engage in their corrupt and atrocity-patrols using military trucks, hilux vans, motorbikes and seized or hired private and commercial vehicles such as commercial buses, tricycles and motorcycles.

Extortion In The South-East: Going by the Intersociety's several investigations into national and regional Nigerian Military Officers and Personnel roadway corruption and associated brutalities since August 2015; an annually estimated sum of N15billion-N40billion has illicitly been going into private pockets of their drafted officers and personnel in the South-East in the past nine years and four months. The extortion proceeds, using 'daily returns' hierarchy arrangement, are also extended to senior officers in charge of the Nigerian Military (Army, Navy and Air Force) High Commands in Abuja, Nigeria's Capital City. It must further be clarified that the N15billion annual average extortion-proceeds from the Region covered August 2015 to Dec 2019 as against N40billion illicitly generated and pocketed between January 2020 and Dec 2024. Extra N5billion also arose from additional four months of Sept to Dec 2019; bringing the total to N65billion, representing illicitly generated and pocketed military extortion proceeds covering August 2015 and Dec 2019. The latter period's N40billion was arrived at using estimated 800 military roadblocks and patrol teams presently drafted to the Region; out of which, roadway extortion annually took estimated N28.8billion while the remaining N11.2billion represents "barracks' extortion" and general damages done to defenseless civilian properties including looting and burning or destruction of dwelling houses, automobiles and wares belonging to law abiding citizens of the Region engaging in different lawful means of livelihood.

From the above, therefore, it is most likely correct to say that a total of N265billion was illicitly generated and pocketed from no fewer than 800 military roadblocks and patrol teams mounted on South-East Roads.

Extortion In The South-South: In the South-South Region where the military corruption also targets about 35% Igbo civilian population including non-indigenous Igbo citizens resident in the Region and the remaining 65% non-Igbo citizens; officers and personnel of the Nigerian Military drafted to the Region to mount estimated 1,500 military roadblocks and patrol teams are estimated to have illicitly generated and pocketed nothing less than N25billion yearly between August 2015 and Dec 2019; a period of four years and four months, with extra N8billion covering the additional four months; bringing the total to N108billion as illicitly generated and pocketed between August 2015 and Dec 2019. Between January 2020 and Dec 2024; a period of five years, nothing less than N54billion was estimated to have been illicitly generated and pocketed, in addition to N10billion arising from "barracks extortion" or outside roadblock military extortion; bringing the total to N320billion as illicitly generated and pocketed between January 2020 and Dec 2024. The above calculations for the South-South Region were arrived at going by estimated higher number of military roadblocks and patrol teams (1,500) in the Region, covering the six States of Edo, Delta, Rivers, Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa. The Region also has the largest concentration of money-spinning extortion-instruments such as oil wells and drilling; both licit and illicit, and high concentration of citizens with "blue-collar sub-culture" occupation and lifestyle.

Further Statistical Breakdown: Using the current estimated extortion sum of N100,000 per military roadblock or patrol team on daily basis in the South-East and the South-South Regions, a total of N80million is illicitly generated and pocketed from estimated 800 military roadblocks and patrol teams in the South-East alone; further translating to N2.4billion monthly and N28.8billion yearly, in addition to N11.2billion arising from "barracks' extortion" and general damages done to defenseless civilian properties; totaling N40billion annually. It must also be pointed out that some of the military roadblocks or checkpoints are more lucrative or money spinning than others; to the extent that each of them illicitly generates and pockets nothing less than N1million on daily basis. A typical case in point is the Uga Street/Atani Road Naval Checkpoint in Anambra State. The Checkpoint, mounted by officers and personnel of the Ogbaru Naval Base in Anambra State, illicitly generates and pockets nothing less than N2million on daily basis from multiple sources of extortion including "mandatory N10,000 daily Container Goods Fee" from every 40 Feet or 20 Feet Container that enters Onitsha from Niger Bridgehead after having been extorted at Asaba end of the Niger Bridgehead Army Roadblock manned by officers and personnel of the 63 Army Brigade, Asaba.

About N5000 is also illicitly collected and pocketed by the remaining Nigerian Naval Checkpoints along Owerri Road by Enamel Industries, Onitsha-Enugu Expressway by Umunya; Onitsha-Awka-Enugu Expressway by Government House, Awka and the Nigerian Army Roadblocks at Amansea-Ugwuoba Old Enugu Road and Amansea axis of the Onitsha-Awka-Enugu Expressway, etc. Other lucrative military roadblocks on South-East Roads include the Nigerian Naval Checkpoint at Owerre-Nta, in Abia State, mounted by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Navy School of Finance and Logistics, the Uli Army Roadblock in Ihiala LGA, Anambra State, the Ukwu-Orji Army Roadblock at Mbaitoli in Imo State, the Isiala-Ngwa Army Roadblock in Abia State, the Amansea Army Roadblock in Anambra State, the Asaba end of the Onitsha-Asaba-Enugu Expressway Army Roadblock, mounted by officers and personnel of the 63 Army Brigade, Asaba in Delta State. Also in the list are nothing less than 20 Military Roadblocks along Owerri-Port Harcourt Road, particularly between Imo and River States' boundary and Elele in Rivers State, mounted by officers and personnel of the 34 Army Brigade in Obinze (Imo State), the Elele Nigerian Naval Base and a Nigerian Army Battalion Barracks from Elele Battalion belonging to 6 Division of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt, Rivers State; to mention but a few.

MILITARY ILLICITLY POKETED N750BILLION FROM EASTERN ROADBLOCKS IN NINE YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS:

In all, it is most likely correct to say that in South-East Region, at average of N15billion per annum, covering August 2015 and Dec 2019; a period of four years and four months, N65billion was estimated to have been illicitly generated and pocketed by the deployed military personnel; and between January 2020 and Dec 2024, a period of five years, a total of N200billion was illicitly generated and pocketed from at least 800 military roadblocks and patrol teams scattered in the Region: totaling N265billion in nine years and four months. In South-South Region, nothing less than N108billion was illicitly generated and pocketed between August 2015 and Dec 2019; and between January 2020 and Dec 2024, nothing less than N320billion was criminally made and pocketed: totaling N428billion. There is also likelihood of additional N57billion worth of extortion not captured, representing "dark figures of crime"; out of which South-East accounted for at least N20billion and South-South N37billion; or total of N465billion for the latter and N285billion for the former. Therefore, it is most likely correct to say that a total of N750billion was generally generated at gunpoint and illicitly pocketed by the drafted military personnel in the two Regions in nine years and four months or from August 30, 2015, to Dec 31, 2024: representing annual average of about N80billion. The extension of the extortion proceeds' calculations to Dec 2024 is because no changes in their patterns and trends are expected to occur.

Criminal N750B From Eastern Military Roadblocks Equaled 9.5% Of N8trillion Defense Budgets Since 2015

The estimated N750billion generated since August 2015 from military roadblock and barracks' extortions in Eastern Nigeria alone are found to have equaled about 9.5% of a total of N8.02trillion budgeted for Defense and military matters by past and present Governments of Nigeria from 2015 to 2024 fiscal years. The Defense budgets only covered principal budgets and did not include supplementary others. The Nigerian Armed Forces have in the past ten years or 2015 to 2024, received the following recurrent (personnel and overheads) and capital expenditures: N375.4billion in 2015, N443.1billion in 2016, N465.4billion in 2017, N576.3billion in 2018, N589.6billion in 2019, N900billion in 2020, 772.6billion in 2021, N1.2trillion in 2022, N1.248trillion in 2023 and N1.647trillion in 2024; totaling N8,022trillion or approximately \$5.3billion (using the current exchange of about N1,500 per US\$ or over \$10billion using previous dollar-naira exchanges in the immediate past years since 2015).

"Blue-Collar Sub-Culture" Fueling Military Corruption In The East: The South-East Region is noted with highest concentration of "extortion-instruments" in Nigeria owing to available "blue-collar sub-culture"; in addition to the Region having a high concentration of "persons with limited education" dominant in "adult male age brackets" who are dominant in family breadwinner age-brackets. The above referenced age-brackets also dominate trading and commerce, transport and artisan occupational groups; easily preyed because of their limited education, by predator-law enforcement agencies and agents through extortionist activities and brutalities in the line of their duties. It must also be clarified that the N40billion arising from annual military roadway extortion and related criminal proceeds from the South-East and the South-South covering August 2015 to Dec 2019; and the N104billion in the two Regions covering January 2020 to Dec 2024 did not include those arising from similar criminal activities by military personnel drafted to the South-West, the North-West, the North-Central and the North-East Regions within the same period; where hundreds of billions of naira below those extorted from the East, must also have been made with greater part coming from the South-West, followed by North-Central and FCT.

Origin Of Military Roadway Corruption In Nigeria: The August 30, 2015 marked the official beginning of the roadway deployment of officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces in the South-East and the South-South Regions targeted at clamping down on regional self-determination activists and their nonviolent street protests including open street protests and "ghost street protests" or sit-at-home.

The Nigerian Armed Forces roadway corruption racketeering; also criminologically called: "daily roadblock extortion returns in the military", was infamously copied from the Nigeria Police Force, which had its roadblock extortion racketeering and associated gross human rights abuses dated back to 1990s. It must be remembered that the Intersociety has earned a national and international name and reputation in tracking the police and the military roadway corruption particularly roadblock extortion and associated brutalities in Nigeria particularly in Eastern Region, using natural and scientific methods since 2009. It is important to further explain that the Military Roadblock Extortion: a serious criminal offense in the Armed Forces Act of 2004, is presently patterned using open and direct sources; or direct and direct collection of criminal tolls by the drafted military personnel.

It must however be noted that direct collection of criminal tolls by military personnel themselves at roadblocks is being replaced using recruited criminal civilian citizens who are recruited and paid to collect such criminal tolls under the watch of gun-wielding soldiers guarding such roadblock extortion arenas. There are also other roadblock extortion methods such as use of indirect sources by forcing commercial motorists and their associations into paying imposed daily tolls or returns collected from passenger-bound commercial buses and haulage vehicles (. i.e. Keke Tricycles, Haulage Motorcycles, Shuttle and L300 Buses, Lorries, Dyna Vehicles and Trailers) and their associations under forceful compliance and against their will. Included in the list of indirect sources of military roadway extortion in Eastern Nigeria are white and red sand and stone excavators and their haulage vehicles, licit and illicit crude oil and other solid mineral miners and their vendors, illicit traders such as those dealing on illicit hard drugs and contraband goods including illicit arms trafficking, etc.

Direct Roadblock Extortion Tactics: These involve direct collection of criminal tolls using hired criminal civilians in the daytime and combination of military personnel and their hired criminal civilians at night. The daily criminal tolls vary according to circumstances including economic inflation and naira devaluation. For instance, haulage vehicles are presently forced to pay sundry criminal tolls according to haulage vehicle sizes and goods being conveyed ranging from N1000 to N10,000 per haulage vehicle per military roadblock. Impoundment of passenger and haulage vehicles at every military roadblock attracts between N10,000 and N50,000 per vehicle at recovery while in the case of any faulty passenger, private and haulage vehicle parked near every military roadblock; each is forced to pay N5,000 and above.

Indirect Roadblock Extortion Tactics: It involves collection of criminal tolls through indirect means or using leaders of the affected commercial transport or artisan or market associations using daily or weekly returns or settlements as benchmark. Using the Ogbaru Naval Base Checkpoint at Atani Road/Uga Street Junction in Anambra State as an example; "Navy Money of N200" per trip is imposed and indirectly collected from each Shuttle Bus or Keke Tricycle in the area. Collection of the criminal toll is also coded by having it lumped as "Chairman's Daily Feeding Money", from which that belonging to officers and personnel of the Ogbaru Naval Base is separated and illicitly channeled. Each of roadside traders in the area is also forced to pay N100 or N200 on daily basis as "Navy Money"; likewise, each of the owners of 608 and L300 commercial buses. Others, especially those in haulage transport business are forced to drop between N500 and N5000 at the Naval Checkpoint depending on the size of the haulage vehicle and goods being conveyed. The above is to say that the indirect military roadblock extortion is executed using leaders of commercial associations near military zones such as military checkpoints, roadblocks and other formations.

A Case-Study Of The Ogbaru Nigerian Naval Base In Anambra State: A typical case in point is the Ogbaru Naval Checkpoint at Uga Street/Atani Road Junction in Anambra State, mounted by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Naval Base in Ogbaru with their outlets located along Onitsha-Owerri Expressway or Owerri Road, Onitsha; Dozzy Industry's Drive at Ogbaru Harbor Industrial Layout, Atani Road by St Gregory De Great Catholic Church, Atani Road by Okpotu-Uno Layout, Onitsha-Enugu Expressway by Umunya, etc. As a matter of fact, the Uga Street/the Atani Road Junction Navy Checkpoint, located between the boundary of Onitsha South and Ogbaru in Anambra State has earned a notoriety as a den of corruption and brutality where anything goes including sundry criminal activities of an assemblage of Government and private extortionist individuals and groups engaging in sundry extortion activities and associated brutalities.

The activities of the Naval Checkpoint are shockingly and alarmingly untamed that the portion of the Onitsha-Asaba/Onitsha-Enugu Expressway covering the Checkpoint Axis is in a state of constant collapse and repair over the alleged spreading by the extortionist Naval personnel of dangerous chemicals or anti-asphalt substances around that portion of the Expressway particularly between Atani Road Junction and defunct Premier Breweries/Onitsha Electronics Market Axis; perpetrated for purposes of creating artificial gridlock and forcing passenger and haulage drivers and their vehicles into paying sundry criminal tolls using recruited and paid criminal civilian citizens.

It must be pointed out that that portion of the Asaba-Onitsha-Enugu Expressway has failed not less than four times in four years including 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The Government of Anambra State is presently fixing the said failed portion of the Expressway. It is further reported that the dastardly act of the drafted Naval officers and personnel usually heightens at the night (usually from 8.pm) leading to total blockage of the extortionist axis of the Four Lanes of the Asaba-Onitsha-Enugu Expressway during which haulage vehicles, night travelers and illicit traders are targeted for sundry extortions directly perpetrated by the stationed Naval personnel. The collection of the criminal tolls at night is sometimes jointly perpetrated by Naval personnel and their recruited criminal civilians at night whereas in the daytime recruited criminal civilians are used; to evade tracking or being caught. The Uga Street/Atani Road Junction Naval Roadblock arena has also become a nightmare for motorists and other civilian road users.

Apart from dislodgement of the 'Ogbaru Local Government Transport Scheme' from the area, the arena is also defaced by roadside trading and activities of petty traders, reckless activities of Keke Tricycle and Shuttle Bus drivers and allotment of spaces or portions and imposition and daily collection of sundry tolls, called "Navy Money"; usually perpetrated at morning and evening hours using recruited criminal civilians. In the area, "dutiful" payment of allotment fees and daily "navy toll or money" is the beginning of wisdom for any petty trader in the area. The dastardly act of the Naval personnel has also severally led to constant collapse of the Road in part or in whole. The extortionist arena is so illicitly money spinning that not less than N2million is estimated to be illicitly pocketed on daily basis using several direct and indirect sources of extortion particularly from more than 500 commercial Keke Tricycles, L300, Shuttle and 608 Buses plying the area; sand excavators and drivers of sand haulage tipper lorries and other medium size and heavy-duty haulage vehicles, illicit traders including contraband and hard dealers and illicit crude oil extractors and their vendors or customers, etc.

The officers and personnel of the Ogbaru Naval Base are also widely accused of aiding and abetting or doing little or nothing to control sundry violent criminal activities in the area including illegal activities of crude oil miners and indiscriminate cases of abduction and associated violent cybercrimes. Accusing fingers have also been pointed in the direction of the Ogbaru Naval Base as offering or providing 'safe haven' for Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen in their large number presently quartered at "River Niger Island" between Asaba in Delta State and Ogbaru in Anambra State; from where attacks are launched into different parts and communities in Ogbaru Local Government Area in Anambra State. Personnel of the Ogbaru Naval Base have also been severally accused of dabbling into civil matters such as debt recovery, taking sides in family and love affair issues, etc., during which their victims are mercilessly brutalized or threatened with violence to force them into complying against their will. It has further been discovered that Government-installed close-circuit security cameras and other tracking devices at the designated Naval checkpoints particularly those installed at their Uga Street/Atani Road Junction and the Atani Road by St Gregory De Great Catholic Church locations, etc., have been sabotaged and defaced to avoid tracking or being caught in the act; yet a billboard mounted in front of the their Atani Road Junction Checkpoint, conspicuously bears an inscription: "Bribery and Extortion Forbidden and Not Allowed". It must clearly be pointed out that act of extortion on duty by any military personnel or officer in Nigeria or any part thereof is a serious offense under the Armed Forces Act of 2004. This is by virtue of Section 108 under "Civil Offense" Chapter, which criminalizes the Offense of Extortion, defined as "use of force to extort money or other valuable item". The offense is also punishable with 14 years jail term through court-martial.

Findings From Our Recent Fieldtrip At Onitsha Niger Bridgehead:

The Intersociety's fieldtrip was carried out on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, between 5:10pm and 5:55pm, covering the following notorious extortion spots in Onitsha, Anambra State: Uga Street Junction, Atani Road Junction (Naval Checkpoint), Ogbogwu (Drug) Market/Tools and Allied Market Junction and Niger Bridgehead to Onitsha Electronics Market/Defunct Premier Brewery axis; all located along Asaba-Onitsha-Enugu Expressway. The spots above mentioned have earned notoriety in sundry corrupt practices brutalities by military, police, paramilitary, Anambra State Government, Onitsha South Local Government Area, Ogbaru Local Government Areas and private extortionist entities. The Fieldtrip, led by the Author-in-Chief of this Report, Emeka Umeagbalasi (a Criminologist), was targeted at unmasking unchecked criminal activities of the officers and personnel of various police divisional commands including the Niger Bridgehead Police Division, the Fegge Police Division, the Okpoko Police Division, the Harbor Industrial Police Division, the Onitsha Central Police Division and the Onitsha Police Area Command which controls them. Particularly targeted was officers and personnel of the Nigerian Naval in Ogbaru, manning the Atani Road Junction Naval Checkpoint.

At about 5:10pm, the Fieldtrip team had disguised and spread themselves. About four different squads of plain-clothed armed police personnel with hidden service numbers were sighted within the first ten minutes patrolling the Service Lane of the Asaba-Onitsha Expressway targeting Ogbogwu (Drug) Market traders. The criminal police patrol teams were spotted using two hired commercial Shuttle Buses and two hired commercial Keke Tricycles looking for traders with cartons of drugs; whether licit or illicit. Two young traders (apprentices) with cartons of trademarked licit drugs were swooped on and whisked away by one of the four criminal police patrol teams seen. The Fieldtrip team also sighted another team of two armed police personnel with hidden service numbers at about 5:30pm operating on a hired commercial Keke Tricycle. The criminal police gang was monitored until they landed at Ogbogwu (Drug) Market Computer Park where they waited briefly until two persons (a male and a female with ages between thirties and forties) with two cartons of goods, strongly suspected to be illicit tramadol or related others, joined them without any sign of "caution" or being under arrest.

Our previous investigations have identified "Ogbogwu (Drug) Market Computer Park" as a den where criminal police officers are hired by illicit drug traders to provide police illegal police escorts for illicit or contraband drugs such as illicit tramadol, codeine, etc. Such criminal police escorts are provided in return for criminal fees amounting to hundreds of thousands of naira or N1m and above per trip, depending on the number of cartons involved. The armed criminal police gang was continuously monitored until they left the scene and headed towards the Asaba end of the Expressway. Such criminal police escorts are provided from the point of onload to the point of offload, or from 'Ogbogwu Computer Park' and 'Tools and Allied Park' to motor parks located in Asaba or Onitsha Upper Iweka from where they are illicitly transported. Situations also arise whereby some criminal police officers are privately hired to 'ware-bill' the illicit drugs or provide security during offloading of their containers. The stock-in-trade of police patrol teams in the above-mentioned extortion spots has been centered on tracking traders with cartons of drugs, whether licit or illicit, with the latter being money spinning if tracked.

The officers and personnel of the Nigerian Navy stationed at Atani Road/Uga Street Junction and the officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army of the 63 Brigade, Asaba, stationed at Asaba end of the Niger Bridgehead, are also not left out. They are major beneficiaries of "coded daily returns" amounting to hundreds of thousands of naira per illicit drug dealer for purpose of securing safe passage. Also tracked were criminal tolls collected and pocketed by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Naval Checkpoint at Atani Road Junction and Army officers and personnel at Asaba end of the Niger Bridgehead. Some roadside traders and transporters spoken to, who pleaded not to be named, have informed the Intersociety that artificial gridlocks are created at the two scenes with intent to extort.

They also listed amounts forcefully collected from heavy duty trucks and semi heavy duty trucks to include: Long Dyna Truck with goods N3,000-N5000 each per trip/checkpoint, Short Dyna Truck with goods N1,000-N2000 each per trip/checkpoint, 911 Lorry Truck with goods N2000-N5000 each per trip/checkpoint, Trailer Lorry/Truck with goods N5,000-N10,000 per trip/checkpoint, 40ft/20ft Container Truck with goods N5,000-N10,000 per trip/checkpoint and Trailer-load of oil and gas N5,000-N10,000 per trip/checkpoint, etc.

Thankful Position Of The Vanguard Newspapers On Military Extortion And Brutalities In The South-East:

“Travelers on the major roads in the South-East region are still passing through harrowing experiences at checkpoints scattered across the roads. In addition to massive extortion from motorists, passengers are embarrassed, intimidated and humiliated by security personnel manning these checkpoints, particularly soldiers. They force, irrespective of the age or health condition of the passengers, to disembark from their vehicles to cross the checkpoints on foot, to rejoin their vehicles which is even only allowed to meet them after the driver must have been forced to cough out some money. This intimidating practice by soldiers at checkpoints meted only on roads in Igbo land is getting out of hand and must stop. Commuters and motorists dare not make or answer telephone calls near or around the checkpoints, no matter the emergency of the call. The business of extortion is engaged in by both police and soldiers, even road safety members, but the act of intimidation, embarrassment and harassment is mostly carried out by soldiers. Despite cries and complaints by Ndigbo of all categories against these practices, the military and police high commands are yet to call their men (personnel) to order. They treat the people in this region as slaves conquered in a war. This is not done in any other part of the country. What is the sin of Ndigbo to be so humiliated? Let's talk to people on the issue, what is to be done”.

“...In the coming days and weeks, the people of South-East residing in other parts of the country and in Diaspora will start coming home for the Christmas and New year celebrations. As has become their unfortunate fate, they will be confronted with ugly experiences in the hands of security personnel, especially police and soldiers at the numerous checkpoints on the major roads that lead to the South- East region as well as the ones that connect the five States of the region. The problem is not that there are checkpoints but the conduct of the military and police personnel manning them. They treat the road users as if they are illegal immigrants in the country, harass, intimidate, humiliate and end up extorting them. Several cries and condemnations of these humiliating treatments have not moved the military and police high commands to rein in their men (officers and personnel). Let us once again look at this ugly situation. Name some the notorious checkpoints in your area or the major roads you know. Speak to people on this, including drivers and commuters for their experiences; CSOs, Igbo leaders, clerics and monarchs. We want to write on this ugly situation again. We need your input”.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Extortion checkpoints: S-East Road users cry out, lament agony, frustration they pass through

...They are not security checkpoints but extortion, humiliation points...The checkpoints have become commercial banks, and security agents serve as the cashiers

...Security agents treat South-East commuters as prisoners of war, this must stop — Igbo youths

...They extort with brazen impunity – Intersociety... We go through hell on the roads in Imo – Motorist

...COAS, IGP must do more than giving mere orders — Nwagbara

“EXTORTION at security checkpoints on the roads in the South-East region has continued unabated; and it will 'flourish' more in the coming days and weeks when the people of South-East residing in other parts of the country and Diaspora will start coming home for the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

As has become their unfortunate fate, they will be confronted with the ugly experiences in the hands of security personnel, especially police and soldiers at the numerous checkpoints on the major roads that lead to the South-East region as well as the ones that connect the five states of the region. The worrisome thing is that they treat the road users as if they are illegal immigrants in their own country by harassing, intimidating, and humiliating them before extorting the money. And nothing serious has been done by military and police high command to rein in their men despite the outrage it has been generating”.

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION SPEAKS ON EXTORTIONS AND KILLINGS AT CHECKPOINTS:

“The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is disturbed by the tragic incident that occurred on Monday, 11th November 2024, in Utu Etim Ekpo, Akwa Ibom State, where a flour-loaded truck pursued by soldiers lost control and crashed into shops, resulting in the death of three individuals, including our dear colleague, and causing severe injuries to several others.

This preventable tragedy brings to light once again the dangers associated with indiscriminate roadblocks, the use of logs of wood to distort the free flow of traffic, the uncaring attitude of law enforcement agents at checkpoints, high-speed chases through civilian areas, and extortion at checkpoints. Some of these roadblocks are set up at bad points of roads, some are set up in such a manner that makes the free flow of traffic in both directions impossible. Experience has shown that these roadblocks are more intended for extorting drivers and other road users rather than for security and law enforcement. These roadblocks or purported checkpoints, particularly those established in unsafe or poorly visible locations, pose serious risks to road users and residents.

It is not uncommon for articulated vehicles to fall at some of these checkpoints while navigating the logs of wood or other materials used to slow down vehicle movement. It is also becoming very common for vehicles to run into some of these obstacles during the hours of darkness. When roadblocks are seen or used as sites of extortion, they erode public trust and respect for the very institutions meant to ensure security and public safety. It is therefore in our collective interest to ensure that these misuse of roadblocks and checkpoints as well as the use of the roadblocks for extortion and inhumane treatment of road travelers be reviewed. While we have nothing against checkpoints on our roads, the NBA insists that the current modes only serve to punish road users, impede traffic, and make it easier for road travelers to be extorted by the different security agencies that man them. We, therefore, call on law enforcement agencies to review the type of roadblocks being set up by their officers as well as take steps to ensure that the hardship and extortion that go on there are stopped forthwith.

We unequivocally condemn any actions by security forces that compromise public safety, cause hardship to road travelers, lead to extortion of drivers, and lead to loss of lives. We call upon the Nigerian Army, and relevant authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and to hold accountable individuals whose actions may have contributed to this tragic loss of life and injury. The same goes for all law enforcement agencies whose officers routinely misuse checkpoints and extort the public. This tragic occurrence underscores the urgent need for a nationwide review of checkpoint practices, with clear protocols to ensure that enforcement of road regulations is conducted responsibly and with the highest regard for civilian safety.

We further call on security agencies to train and retrain their personnel on proper engagement and pursuit protocols to avoid endangering lives and property. Reckless pursuits in populated areas and high-speed chases should be strictly prohibited. The Nigerian Bar Association stands with the families of our colleague, other victims, and the Utu Etim Ekpo community during this difficult time. We are committed to working with local leaders, authorities, and all relevant stakeholders to seek justice and ensure that corrective measures are implemented to prevent future occurrences. We shall work closely with the NBA branches in Akwa Ibom State to ensure that justice is served”.

Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN
President, Nigerian Bar Association
Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Nigeria Police Authorities Acknowledge Rampancy Of Police Roadblock Extortions:

The authorities of the Nigeria Police Force through Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, has acknowledged the rampancy of corruption in the Nigeria Police Force. Such 'Police Corruption' and other related practices include monetization and commercialization of police law enforcement operations, criminal investigations, arrest, detention and prosecution and widespread practices of police roadblock extortions, etc. The Nigeria Police boss specifically condemned the spate of extortion allegations against some officers of the force in various areas across the country. He specifically made referenced to a recent case involving officers from the Zone 16 Zonal Headquarters in Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa State. In this case, officers identified as ASP Emmanuel Ubong, Inspector Nse Okon, Inspector Adiewere Collins, and Inspector Kuromare Marine were accused of extorting the sum of N10m from some youths.

According to NPF's statement on Friday, November 8, 2024, signed by the Force Spokesperson, ACP Muiyiwa Adejobi, the money had been recovered through the efforts of the new Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Zone 16 and the officers detained and subjected to an orderly room trial; adding that "the NPF maintains a zero-tolerance policy for any act of corruption and police misconduct and takes every allegation of extortion and abuse of power extremely seriously."

Contrarily, corruption in the Nigeria Police Force particularly roadblock and barracks' extortions have eaten deep into the foundation of the Force and become the NPF's stock-in-trade by way of "Daily Returns"; from Police Patrol Teams to Divisional Commands/Special Squadrons, from Divisional Commands/Special Squadrons to Area Commands, from Area Commands to State Command Headquarters, from State Command Headquarters to Zonal Command Headquarters, from Zonal Command Headquarters to Operations, Intelligence and Investigations' Departments at the Force Headquarters (Abuja) and from there to Office of the Inspector General of Police. Such "Daily Returns" are also transited directly from Special Squads to Force Operations, Intelligence and Criminal Investigations' Departments in Abuja, from there to Office of the IGP.

EMMANUEL EJIOFOR, SON OF KIDNAPPED AND SLAIN MUM AND OTHER VICTIMS LOST N6.7M TO POLICE "INVESTIGATORS":

A recent clear case in point was abduction and killing of Madam Evelyn Diogu Ejiofor of Mgbuke Kindred in Amuche-Odata Village of Nkwelle Community in Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State by yet-to-be identified kidnap-for-ransom squad. Late Madam Evelyn Ejiofor, 75-Year-Old, was abducted on September 13, 2024, in her son's newly built Family House in Odata Village of Nkwelle. Barely 24 hours after her abduction, her captors seized her "Nokia Phone" and used her line to open a WhatsApp link with which they reached out to her son, Emmanuel Ejiofor and started demanding for ransom, with a promise to bring back his beloved Mum alive upon payment of the ransom. Her son, Emmanuel Ejiofor, is an Onitsha based successful businessman and a millionaire (CEO, PERFECT-SAFETY Global Limited) and widely believed, within and beyond his family, to be the principal target of the kidnap-for-ransom that later resulted to captivity killing of her beloved Mum (Madam Evelyn Diogu Ejiofor). Panickily, and to ensure that his beloved Mum was not harmed, a ransom of N4.5m was paid to them on September 15, 2024, through a Crypto E-Wallet (ETHERUM WALLET) and more than 24 hours after, his Mum was not returned alive as promised by her abductors. On September 19, 2024, her dead body was discovered in a shallow grave, dug by the fence side of an undeveloped portion of their compound. The "33" Police Divisional Command was contacted, and Late Madam Ejiofor's remains exhumed.

The Chief mourner, Emmanuel Ejiofor, was thereafter linked up with an undercover private tracker/detective and DSS by the Intersociety Boss, Emeka Umeagbalasi who also kept a watch over the incident, without being unnoticed; from where the matter was reported to relevant police detective and spy police intelligence quarters within and beyond Anambra State. The matter was specifically reported to the State CID Annex at Awkuzu or "Awkuzu SARS" under CSP Ifeanyi Ibulu (from Onueke in Ebonyi State) as 'Officer-in-Charge, with one "Officer Obo" (GSM No. +2348152278669) as the Investigating Police Officer (IPO). Contacts were also made to Force Criminal Investigations Department (FCID, Abuja) and some intelligence establishments in Abuja to ensure that the real culprits are apprehended. Some arrests were initially made by the "33" Police Divisional Command at Nkwelle and the Anambra Vigilante Service at Onitsha GRA which included Emmanuel Ejiofor's Mum's 20-Year-Old houseboy, Chidozie Ukekwe, from Umunya, and his friend, 17-Year-Plus-Old Chimaobi Igwe, from Ebonyi State.

The latter, upon his arrest, was caught in possession of a brand-new Android Phone worth N1,350,000 and he later admitted being involved in internet fraud, from where he purchased the Android Smart Phone using his internet fraud proceeds.

The two young suspects were thereafter transferred to the State CID Annex at Awkuzu or "Awkuzu SARS" where they were subjected to series of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatments or punishments. The teenager-suspect (Chimaobi Igwe) was later granted bail to enable him to take his Ordinary Level Exams or SSCE Exams in Ebonyi State; during which his relatives were forced to pay N200,000 as "bail fees". The 20-Year-Old Houseboy to the abducted and slain Madam Evelyn Ejiofor has remained in detention under severe torture with body bruises and internal pains as of Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

Totality of the above has led to loss of over N6.7m to "police investigators"; out of which over N5.2m was lost by Emmanuel Ejiofor, the chief mourner, in the hands of the operatives of various crack squads of the Nigeria Police Force within and outside Anambra State. The over N5.2m loss included N3m for "mobilization" involving: "intelligence and tracking in Abuja", N1.5m for "mobilization", involving: "detection, arrest and criminal ETHERUM WALLET identity tracking in Abuja", N500, 000 for "mobilization of Awkuzu SARS/Anti-Kidnapping Squad" and N150,000 for "Officer-in-Charge's Envelope at Awkuzu". Over N1.5m was also lost in the hands of the "Awkuzu SARS Operatives" involving unlawful bail fees in connection with the matter. The over N1.5m had arisen from indiscriminate arrests, detentions and unlawful bail fees involving the unlawfully arrested victims imposed and forcefully collected from their friends and relatives. The "investigation" into the matter by "Awkuzu SARS Operatives" was also found to be generally cloaked in guesswork and extortion as nothing meaningful has come out of such investigative intervention till date; other than indiscriminate false labeling and "transfer of criminal responsibilities" such as "arresting criminally unconnected persons in lieu of criminal persons", contrary to Sections 7 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 and 36 of the Police Act of 2020.

For instance, the John-Wills Lodging and Bar and a Relaxation Spot located at Nkwelle were raided by the "Awkuzu SARS operatives" during which the operatives claimed to be searching for "those behind the kidnapping and killing incident". The raids were carried out on Saturday night Nov 2, 2024, between 9.30pm and 10pm, during which eight persons were arrested including John-Wills Bar's DJ, Erikgwe Amaobi, one Daniel and another hired staff. Upon their being granted bail on Monday, November 4, 2024, N500,000 was forcefully collected including N350,000 paid by John-Wills Lodging and Bar's CEO and N150,000 paid by Erikgwe Amaobi's brother. Those arrested at a Relaxation Spot (Snooker Bar) in Odata Village of the Community were forced to pay a total of N520,000 including Mr. Frank N400,000, Ebuka Umeadi N100,000 and Nnaama Chekwube N20,000. The fourth person (Uchenna Aniekwu) was freely freed. It was also discovered that Nnaama Chekwube paid lesser amount of N20,000 because his relative (a lady-saloonist) was said to be a girlfriend to one of "the Awkuzu SARS Operatives". Two motorcycles (2005 Kymco model and another) valued at over N500,000, each, were seized and confiscated. While one of the motorcycles belonged to Nkwelle Land Taskforce Youth Organization, the other was seized and confiscated from an uninvolved citizen who took the operatives to be kidnappers and was forced to abandon his motorcycle on the spot and made a personal safety run. The "Awkuzu SARS Operatives" are said to be demanding for hundreds of thousands of naira for each of the motorcycles.

REVISITING POLICE ROADBLOCK EXTORTION IN EASTERN NIGERIA:2015-2024

Same Patterns And Trends Retained: The patterns and trends of police roadblock extortion in Nigeria particularly in Eastern Nigeria's eleven States of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Bayelsa have remained the same as have been the case since 1990s. However, significant differences are remarkably noticed in instruments of extortion and extortion amounts being illicitly generated and pocketed. Discovered is the fact that nothing less than two types of direct police extortion still exist at Nigeria Police Roadblocks in Eastern Nigeria; involving: illicit collection of money in different naira denominations directly from commercial motorists including passenger vehicles: Keke, Shuttle, L300, 608 and Luxury Buses and haulage vehicles, motorcycles and tricycles: Datsun, Dyna, Tipper, 911 and Trailer Lorries; and haulage Keke Tricycles and Okada Motorcycles. The second illicit direct police extortion at roadblocks is targeted at private motorists under: "wey your vehicle papers" and "wetin you carry". Under this, perpetrated using "stop and search" police patrol teams and traditional police roadblocks; private motorists are made to undergo frivolous checks on their vehicle papers and car boots-with intent to finding faults not amounting to; or leniently amounting to violation of road traffic regulations.

The "fault-finding" activities of such officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force on Eastern Roadways are principally meant for intimidation and brutalization of the affected motorists into paying huge sums of money that end up in the private pockets of the stationed officers and personnel of the Force. Amounts ranging from N10,000 to N40,000 (as case may be) are instantly collected and criminally pocketed on the spot from each of the affected private motorists. It is money spinning if such private motorist is caught, in the case of Onitsha or Aba, with packs or a carton of drug; whether licit or illicit. If illicit, amount instantly paid is nothing less than N500,000 to N1m. Situations also arise whereby criminal syndicates within police circles such as Asaba Old Toll Gate Police Station in Delta State; and Fegge, Onitsha-Bridgehead, Okpoko, Industrial-Habor, Atani, Awada, Ogidi, Inland-Town, Onitsha-Central and Nsugbe-33 Police Stations and their superiors under Onitsha, Oraifite and Ogidi Area Commands in Anambra State, are contracted and involved as couriers of hard drugs including vehicle-loads of Tramadol, Codeine, Cocaine, etc.

There are also cases whereby higher criminal syndicates within the police circles are contracted and involved in fetching and ferrying vehicle-loads of hard and illicit or contraband drugs using police escorts until they are delivered to their final illicit destinations. Illicit monetary settlements running into millions of naira are paid and illicitly pocketed per trip. Included in the list is police barracks-bound "wey your vehicle papers" and "wetin you carry"; commonly known as "when you reach station, you explain", targeted at private and haulage motorists who were unable to instantly pay the amounts demanded by police patrol teams or those mounting roadblocks. At police station, their vehicles and wares ("wetin you carry") are impounded; with the victims clamped into detention in many cases to force them or their representatives into paying double of what they were asked to pay at roadblocks; ranging from N20,000 to N60,000 or more. It must also be pointed out that "monetary settlements" involving contraband goods and most of drug related cases, both licit and illicit, are "settled" at police stations leading to payment of millions of naira per victim in the end. It must be reminded that road traffic regulations in Nigeria or any part thereof has zero provision for instant collection of money from defaulters by drafted officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force at checkpoints or those in law enforcement or crime detection or prevention patrols or operations. Traffic offenses in Nigeria are also the most lenient or simplest criminal offenses in the country; other than road-accident generated offense of manslaughter. Traffic offenses are classified under 'Simple Offenses' and they further belong to Strict and Statutory Liability Offenses with imposition of payment of fines or lenient imprisonments by traffic courts, not exceeding few weeks or months other than six months.

N1.024TRILLION CRIMINALLY POKETED FROM POLICE ROADBLOCKS AND PATROLS SINCE AUGUST 2015 IN THE EAST:

The September 30, 2024, review by the Intersociety had indicated that estimated 6000 police roadblocks and patrol teams exist on Trunk A (federal roads), Trunk B (state and inter-state roads) and paved portions of Trunk C (local government and community roads) Roads spreading across the eleven States of the South-East and the South-South. This number is more than twice the number of extortionist military roadblocks and patrol teams, presently estimated at 2,500. The eleven affected Eastern States are: Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa. The estimated 6000 police roadblocks and patrol teams in Eastern Nigeria are on average of 550 per State: out of which South-East accounts for nothing less than 2,500 police roadblocks and patrol teams including estimated 1,100 police roadblocks and 1,400 motorized patrol teams, with nothing less than 3,500 police roadblocks including estimated 2000 roadblocks and 1,500 motorized patrol teams spreading across the following six States of the South-South Region: Edo 600, Delta700, Rivers 800, Cross River 600, Akwa Ibom 500, and Bayelsa 300-400.

The estimated 2,500 police roadblocks and patrol teams in the South-East are further divided into estimated 700 in Imo State, 600 in Anambra State, 500 in Abia State, 400 in Enugu State and 300 in Ebonyi State, mounted by not less than 25, 000 police officers and personnel. The are estimated 2500 motorized police patrol teams among the estimated 6000 police roadway extortionist squads in the South-East and the South-South; so indiscriminately extortionist that each of them can embark on "stop, search and extort" patrols in more than six different locations in a day; translating to daily average of one patrol team per six extortionist locations.

It must further be explained that the higher number of police roadblocks and patrol teams in Imo, Anambra and Abia State is on account of the three States being dominated by "blue-collar subculture" and high rate of violent crimes and state terrorism particularly in Imo State which presently has the highest number of police and military roadblocks and patrol teams in South-East Region. Imo, Anambra and Abia States also have largest concentration of sources of police and military corruption and killing fields. Imo State particularly leads others in terms of number of non-state actor and state actor killing fields as well as number of defenseless civilian deaths, indiscriminate arrests, arbitrary detentions, shot and terminally injured persons and abductions and disappearances arising from military, police and armed non-state actor atrocities. At daily average of N70,000 per police roadblock and patrol team in the South-East into estimated 2,500 police roadblocks and patrol teams in the Region, nothing less than N175million is illicitly collected and pocketed on daily basis; further translating to N5,25billion monthly and N63billion yearly. Using the same patterns and trends in the South-South, at daily average of N70,000 per police roadblock and patrol team into estimated 3,500 police roadblocks and patrol teams, N250million is illicitly collected and pocketed on daily basis, N7,5billion monthly and N90billion yearly.

The above is to say that between January 2020 and coming Dec 2024, the estimated 2,500 police roadblocks and patrol teams in the South-East would have illicitly collected and pocketed nothing less than N315billion. On the other hand, the estimated 3500 police roadblocks and patrol teams drafted on South-South Roadways would have illicitly generated and pocketed nothing less than N450billion between January 2020 and coming Dec 2024; a period of five years; on average of N250million per day, N7.5billion per month and N90billion per year. Further review showed that between August 2015 and Dec 2019; a period of over four years and four months, using estimated 2000 police roadblocks and patrol teams across the South-East Roadways then, at N40,000 per police roadblock and patrol team per day, N80million was illicitly collected and pocketed daily, N2,4billion monthly and N28.8billion yearly; further translating to N115,6billion between August 2015 and Dec 2019.

Using the same patterns and trends for the South-South Region, N100million was illicitly generated and pocketed per day by the estimated 2,500 police roadblocks and patrol teams drafted on the South-South Roadways, which further translated to N3billion a month and N36billion a year. The above further indicated that estimated total of N144.4billion was illicitly generated and pocketed between August 2015 and Dec 2019 or a period of four years and four

months. It is therefore most likely correct to conclude that nothing less than N1,025trillin was totally generated and criminally pocketed by officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force drafted to mount roadblocks on South-East and South-South Roadways in the past nine years and four months or August 2015 to Dec 2024. It must be clarified that the amount (N1.024trillion) was from police roadway corruption alone.

N700billion Illicitly Pocketed From "Police Barracks Extortion" In Nine Years And Four Months:

It must be clarified that the N1.024trillion police roadway extortion did not include estimated N700billion "Police Barracks Extortion" arising from illegal police barracks bail fees, mobilization fees for arrest and detention (forced on complaining parties); commercialization of criminal investigations and prosecution and seizure, confiscation and conversion of properties seized from the arrested and detained citizens; rightly or wrongly accused of committing criminal offenses especially street violent crimes and street cybercrimes (.i.e. computer and internet frauds).

The N700billion "police barracks extortion"; illicitly collected and privately pocketed in nine years and four months or from August 2015 to Dec 2024, is further divided into illegal bail fees including 'barracks extortion' arising from seized vehicles and goods: N400billion, on annual average of N4billion; commercialization of criminal investigations and prosecution: N150billion, on annual average of N15billion; mobilization fees for arrest and detention: N100billion, on annual average of N10billion; and confiscation and conversion of properties of the arrested and detained citizens: N50billion on annual average of N5billion.

The worst hit Region is South-East, with its worst hit States Anambra, Imo and Abia (dominated by blue-collar sub-culture); followed by the South-South States of Rivers, Delta and Cross River, owing to their oil wealth and high relatively high level of 'blue-collar sub-culture'. There is also other extortion racketeering in the Nigeria Police Force not captured by this Special Report/Book. They include VIP services and recruitment, promotion and posting extortion, all amounting to hundreds of billions of naira annually. It must also be pointed out that none of the above has been reflected or captured anywhere in annual budgets of the Nigeria Police Force; rather, they are steadily traced to the private pockets of the affected junior and senior officers of the Force through "corrupt returns culture". Clearly pointed out is the fact that the roadway corruption on Eastern Nigeria Roadways above mentioned did not include extortions by the "Paramilitaries" including officers and personnel of the Nigerian Custom Service, the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Federal Road Safety Corps, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency and their sub-state actor counterparts. The totality of amount illicitly generated and pocketed from Eastern Roads in the past nine years and four months is credibly estimated at nothing less than N300billion; out of which the Nigerian Custom Service accounted for nothing less than 60% or N180billion which ended up in private pockets.



Photos of Army Roadblock and Police Officers Extorting Money from Motorists

MILITARY, POLICE, OTHERS ILLICITLY POCKETED N3TRILLION (\$2B) SINCE AUGUST 2015

Paramilitaries, Other Police Sources Criminally Extorted And Pocketed N600billion In Nine Years And Four Months: It is therefore most likely correct to conclude that between August 2015 and Dec 2024; a period of nine years and four months, the estimated 6000 police roadblocks and patrol teams drafted on South-East and South-South Roadways illicitly generated and criminally pocketed nothing less than N1,025trillion, during which nothing less than N700billion was also illicitly generated and pocketed from 'police barracks extortion'.

It is also most likely correct to conclude that the estimated 2,500 military officers and personnel drafted to South-East and South-South Roadways and drawn from Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air Force and Nigerian Navy, but dominated by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army illicitly generated and criminally pocketed nothing less than N693billion since August 2015; thereby, bringing the total to nothing less than N2.4trillion or about \$1.6billion. It is also N2.7trillion if the estimated roadway extortion of nothing less than N300billion by the Paramilitaries on Eastern Nigerian Roadways is added. The above was arrived at using the same patterns and trends in police and military roadway extortion and associated brutalities; during which we also applied the same natural and scientific methods of social science research and investigation and further found that additional nothing less than N200billion was most likely to have arisen from "Police Recruitment, Promotion and Juicy Posting" and "Police VIP Services".

It must be noted from our checks that privately pocketed billions arising from "Police VIP Services" across the country is presently and annually estimated at N14billion, which translated in the past nine years and four months to N140billion yearly while extortion arising from "Police Officers' Recruitment, Promotion and Posting" is estimated at nothing less than N60billion or N6billion per year which usually ended up in private pockets of senior police officers manning the Nigeria Police High Commands at Abuja. It is therefore our finding that all the above put together indicates that estimated nothing less than N2.95trillion had arisen from combined forces of military, police and paramilitaries' 'roadway' and 'barracks' extortion in Eastern Nigeria in nine years and four months or from August 30, 2015, to coming Dec 31, 2024. There is also addition of N100billion which was most likely not captured in the police and paramilitary extortion, representing the "dark figures" and bringing the grand total to N3.05trillion or more than \$2Billion (using current exchange rate of N1,500 per \$US or \$5billion using average previous exchange rates).

N2trillion Nigeria Police Roadblock And 'Barracks' Extortion Equaled 50% Of Its Budgets Of N4trillion Since 2015:

Analysis done for intersociety by Criminologist Emeka Umeagbalasi, Author-in-Chief of this Special International Report, in respect of police roadblock and 'barracks' extortion or criminal proceeds across the South-East and the South-South Regions in the past nine years and four months or August 2015 to December 2024 has clearly indicated that the estimated N2trillion or about \$1.6billion total extortion proceeds belonging to police segment alone constituted not less than 50% of the annual police budgets of the Nigerian Government since 2015. The not less than N2trillion police extortion proceeds in Eastern Nigeria also included roadblock extortion or criminal proceeds of N1.024trillion, police barracks extortion of N700billion and police VIP services' privately pocketed proceeds, police officers' recruitment bribery proceeds and police officers' promotion and posting bribery proceeds-totaling nothing less than N200billion in nine years and four months or since August 2015. There was also addition of about N60billion "dark figures". On other hand, the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force have between 2015 and 2024 fiscal years recorded total budgets of N3,95trillion (Three Trillion, Nine Hundred and Fifty Billion Naira); representing police budgets of N15billion in 2015, N16billion in 2016, N36billion in 2017, N332billion in 2018, N336billion in 2019, N403billion in 2020, N447billion in 2021, N559billion in 2022, N838billion in 2023 and N969billion in 2024.

A CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGAINST MILITARY AND POLICE ROADBLOCK EXTORTION IN SOUTH-EAST:

According to Hon Chimazuru Nnadi-Oforgu, a London-based Nigerian businessman, author and blogger, there shall be a Bill before the National Assembly to frontally address and tackling the raging military and police roadblock extortions in the South-East. Hon Nnadi-Oforgu, therefore theoretically crafted the following "Private Member Bill" with the following contents: "Draft Bill for the Demilitarization of the South-East of Nigeria and the Dismantling of Extortionist Checkpoints. For the Perusal and Subsequent Actioning by the South-East Caucus of the National Assembly and all South-East state assemblies.

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Demilitarization of the South-East of Nigeria, the Dismantling of Extortionist Checkpoints, and the Reformation of Security Practices to Address the Escalating Insecurity in the Region

Preamble:

“The South-East region of Nigeria has been disproportionately militarized over the past decade, particularly following Operation Python Dance I, II, and III, which were ostensibly aimed at curbing insurgency and criminal activities. However, evidence suggests that instead of improving security, these operations have contributed to an escalation in violence, increased militarization of civilian areas, and widespread extortion by security agencies. The International Crisis Group reports that more than 200 military checkpoints were established in the South-East region between 2016 and 2020, making the region one of the most militarized in Nigeria. Citizens often encounter a checkpoint every 5-10 kilometers, particularly on major highways, leading to delays, harassment, and extortion. In 2023, an independent investigation by a coalition of civil society organizations revealed that these checkpoints have become centers for extortion, with travelers paying an estimated ₦100 billion annually in illegal fees to security personnel stationed at these checkpoints”.

“Meanwhile, despite the heavy presence of security forces, criminal activities, including kidnappings and armed robberies, have skyrocketed. According to data from SBM Intelligence, kidnappings in the South-East increased by 38% between 2021 and 2023. In the first quarter of 2024 alone, over 120 kidnapping incidents were reported in the region, with ransoms paid totaling ₦1.8 billion, yet no significant arrests of the perpetrators have been made. Furthermore, reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Human Rights Watch indicate that in areas with high checkpoint concentration, there has been an increase in the use of excessive force by security personnel and a rise in human rights violations, particularly against young men who are often profiled as criminals based on their ethnicity or appearance. This Bill is designed to address the root causes of insecurity in the South-East, which is exacerbated by the militarization of civilian areas and the complicity of security personnel in criminal activities. It seeks to demilitarize the region, dismantle extortionist checkpoints, and replace them with a more accountable and community-driven security framework”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL:

1. "Demilitarize the South-East: Reduce the number of military and paramilitary checkpoints, which have become a source of extortion and an obstacle to peaceful civilian life.
2. Dismantle extortionist checkpoints: Eliminate checkpoints that have failed to address security challenges but instead have been used as tools for corrupt practices.
3. Establish a community-driven security framework: Involve local communities, traditional leaders, and civil society in maintaining security in collaboration with reformed and accountable security agencies.
4. Hold security personnel accountable: Ensure that any security personnel found complicit in criminal activities, including kidnappings and extortion, face swift and severe penalties.
5. Reform security practices: Shift from militarized checkpoints to intelligence-driven security operations that respect human rights and prioritize community engagement”.

PROVISIONS OF THE BILL:

Section 1: Demilitarization and Dismantling of Checkpoints: (1) All military and paramilitary checkpoints in the South-East shall be dismantled within six months of the enactment of this Bill. (2) Checkpoints that remain operational must be for legitimate security purposes, based on intelligence reports and must be monitored by a civilian oversight commission to prevent abuse and extortion. (3) The Inspector General of Police, Chief of Army Staff, Comptroller General of Customs, and Commandant General of NSCDC shall be responsible for the implementation of this provision and must report progress to the National Assembly quarterly.

Section 2: Establishment of a South-East Regional Security Framework. (1) A South-East Regional Security Network shall be established, comprising local vigilantes, traditional rulers, and trained security personnel to focus on community-based crime prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

(2) A civilian oversight body, the South-East Security Oversight Commission (SESOC), will monitor the activities of security agencies in the region and ensure that they adhere to human rights standards. SESOC will have the authority to investigate complaints from citizens and hold security personnel accountable for misconduct. (3) SESOC will consist of representatives from civil society, the judiciary, traditional rulers, youth leaders, and women's groups, ensuring broad-based participation and transparency.

Section 3: Accountability for Security Personnel: (1) Any security personnel found to be involved in extortion, aiding or abetting criminal activities, or violating their duty shall be immediately investigated by the EFCC, NFIU, and other relevant authorities, with strict penalties for offenders, including dismissal and prosecution. (2) A task force shall be established to investigate allegations of security complicity in kidnappings, armed robberies, and other criminal activities in the South-East. (3) The EFCC and NFIU shall also monitor ransom payments and suspicious financial transactions to ensure that funds used in criminal activities are traced and seized, preventing money laundering through the banking system.

Section 4: Community-Driven Security Solutions: (1) Traditional rulers, town unions, and religious leaders will collaborate with the South-East Regional Security Network to create a security framework based on community engagement, intelligence sharing, and trust-building. (2) The government shall invest in social programs aimed at addressing the root causes of crime, including youth unemployment. According to the NBS, the unemployment rate in the South-East is currently 33%, one of the highest in the country, contributing to the rise in criminal activities. By creating job opportunities and vocational training, the government can reduce the economic incentives that drive youth into crime. (3) Deradicalization programs shall be introduced for youths affected by the military operations, especially those traumatized by the Python Dance exercises, which left many young men marginalized and vulnerable to criminal influences.

Section 5: Regulation of Military Presence in Civil Matters: (1) The deployment of military forces for civil policing in the South-East shall be restricted and only permitted in exceptional circumstances, with approval from the National Security Council and the State Governors. (2) Any future military operations in the region must have clear objectives, timelines, and an exit strategy, with regular oversight and reporting to the National Assembly to prevent the overreach of military powers into civilian life.

Section 6: Rehabilitation of Communities Affected by Military Operations: (1) The Federal Government shall establish a comprehensive rehabilitation program for communities affected by military operations, focusing on psychological support, economic recovery, and reintegration of disaffected youths into society. (2) According to research from Amnesty International, communities affected by military operations in the South-East have seen a 45% increase in mental health issues, including trauma and PTSD, particularly among young men. This rehabilitation program will include psychological counseling, job creation, and educational scholarships for families affected by military actions to help rebuild and stabilize the region."

Conclusion:

This Bill addresses the urgent need to end the militarization of the South-East region and dismantle the extortionist checkpoints that have contributed to rising insecurity. By replacing these practices with community-driven security frameworks and holding security personnel accountable for their actions, this Bill seeks to restore peace and foster long-term stability in the South-East. The passage of this Bill will signal a commitment to justice, development, and respect for the rights of the people of the South-East.

Effective Date:

This Act shall come into effect immediately upon its passage by the National Assembly and assent by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

Signed: Duruebube Hon. Chimazuru Nnadi-Oforgu

Date: 20/10/2024

Unmasking

DENS OF MILITARY CORRUPTION AND BRUTALITIES IN THE SOUTH-EAST

Among major dens of military corruption and brutalities on South-East Roads and other important motorist and pedestrian arenas are: PDS Anara - Amaraku Road in Isiala Mbano LGA Imo State, Akachi Junction, Aba -Owerri Expressway, Naze, Owerri North LGA Imo State, Umuowa by Imo Airport Junction, Aba - Owerri Expressway, Umuowa, Ngor-Okpala LGA Imo State, Ugwu Orji along Owerri - Onitsha Expressway, by Umunoha junction, Mbaitoli LGA Imo State, Ojii-Isiokwe along Okigwe/Umuahia Expressway, Okigwe LGA. Imo State, Umualumoke Junction, Ugwuaku Road, along Okigwe-Umuahia Expressway, Okigwe LGA. Imo State, Nunya Junction along Okigwe-Umuahia Expressway, Isuikwuato LGA Abia State, Leru-Ihube, opp. Camp of Faith Okigwe LGA, Imo State, Okigwe-Uturu Junction, along ABSU Road, Okigwe LGA Imo State, Beside ABSU Gate Uturu, Isuikwuato LGA Abia State, Acha Junction, along Mile 2 and before Mile 2 junction Ivo LGA, Ebonyi State, Amawel Junction, Ubomini Town along Owerri - Orlu Road Mbaitoli LGA, Imo State, Front of Abbott Boys Secondary School, along Owerri - Onitsha Expressway, Ihiala LGA, Anambra State, Opposite Nkwerre Local Government Council Headquarters, Nkwerre LGA Imo State, Umuikkaa Junction along Aba-Enugu Expressway Ishiala Ngwa South LGA Abia State, Imo River Bridge, Owerinta along Aba-Owerri Road Ishiala Ngwa South LGA, Abia State, Tonimas Junction behind BICOZ Fast Food along Aba-Enugu Expressway Osisioma LGA, Abia State, Awkuzu/Nteje Junction along Enugu -Onitsha Expressway, Anambra State, Amansea/Ugwuoba Enugu -Onitsha old Road, Awka South LGA, Anambra State, 3 Corner Junction, Amagunze, Nkanu East LGA, Enugu State, New Kenyetta along Enugu - Okigwe Expressway Ugwuaji, Enugu State, Ituku Military Check Point along Enugu -Okigwe Expressway, Ituku Isuawa, Agwu LGA, Enugu State, Otu Amechi Agbani Link Road, Enugu South LGA, Enugu State, Umuogba Ihe along Enugu - Okigwe Expressway, Agwu LGA, Enugu State, Nnenwe Junction along Enugu - Okigwe Expressway, Agwu LGA, Enugu State, Agwu Mgbowo Aki na Ukwa Junction along Enugu -Okigwe Expressway, Agwu LGA, Enugu State, Abia - Enugu Boundary, along Enugu - Okigwe Expressway, Better Life Junction along Enugu -Okigwe Expressway, Abia State, Eluama - Isiukwuano beside Common Wealth Hotels Isiukwuano LGA, Abia State, Front of Ehime Mbano Local Government Council Headquarters along Aba Branch - Umuahia Road, Umuezeala, Ehime Mbano LGA Imo State, and Ohafia/Nguzu Junction, Abriba - Ohafia Road, Ohafia LGA, Abia State.

Army Check Point Udi, Four Corner, Nkanu East LGA Enugu State, Army Check Point Amodu, Nkanu West LGA, Enugu State, Military Check Point adjacent to Timber Market, along Orlu - Owerri Road, Orlu LGA, Imo State, Ihube Junction along Enugu - Port Harcourt Expressway, Okigwe LGA, Imo State, Ihube Cashew Plantation, along Enugu - Port Harcourt Expressway, Okigwe LGA, Imo State, Ihube/Isuochi Boundary along, Enugu - Port Harcourt Expressway, Okigwe LGA, Imo State, Limca Junction by FGC, along Enugu - Port Harcourt Expressway, Okigwe LGA, Imo State. Along Asaba-Onitsha-Owerri Expressway, Military roadblocks can be found along the Expressway by Asaba, Onitsha Bridgehead, Onitsha Enamel Way, and Onitsha-Owerri Road or Expressway by: Oba, Oraifite, Okija, Ihiala, Mgbidi, Awomama, Mbaitoli (Ukwu Orji) and near Owerri. Military roadblocks are also scattered along Ugwuogo Nike-Opi-Nsukka Road in Enugu; Amansea in Anambra State and along Awka-Ugwuoba in Oji River; Nnewi and Old Aguata including Ekwulobia, Umuchu and Umunze in Anambra State; Okigwe in Imo State, Awgu and Ituku Ozalla in Enugu State; in Abia State including Umuahia and Isiala-Ngwa, on Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway; Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene Highway, Michael Okpara University Junction at Umudike; Isingwu-Nkweogwu Junction of the Isuikwuato-Uzuakoli-Ajayi-Igbere Road. In Imo State, several military roadblocks numbering not less than ten are located along the Owerri-Port Harcourt Road (targeting crude oil mining areas of Ohaji-Egbema, Elele, etc.), as well as more than 30 police roadblocks in the area.

Tonimas Junction behind BICOZ Fast Food along Aba-Enugu Expressway Osisioma LGA, Abia State, Army Check Point, adjacent to the House of the Rt. Hon. Speaker of FHR, along Umuahia – Ohafia – Bende Road, Ohafia LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point at Isugwu Junction, Akanu, Ohafia LGA, Abia State, Army Checking Point at Front of Ohafia Local Government Council Headquarters, Ohafia LGA, Abia State, Army Checking Point beside the gate of Ohafia Federal Government College, Ohafia LGA, Abia State, Army Check Point at Iyi Omenuko Bridge, Ozu Abam, Arochukwu LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point at Imo – Rivers Boundary, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point by China Civil Construction Company (CCCC) gate along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point at Oil Serve Junction along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point by Primemoore Filling Station along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point at Imo Gate Flyover by Old Obigbo Road, Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point by Chippings Dump along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point opposite Coral Gold Filling Station along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point by China Steel Company Gate along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point by 144 Battalion Nigerian Army, at former Asa High School Junction along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway Ukwu West LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point by Nwalyiekwe Junction along, Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ukwu West LGA, Abia State.

Military Check Point by Ihe Junction along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ugwuonagbo LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point at the Front of EEDC Gate along Port – Aba Harcourt Expressway Ugwuonagbo LGA, Abia State, Military Check Point at Alaoji Motor Spare Parts Market, Asa Nnentu, along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ugwuonagbo LGA Abia State, Military Check Point at Uratta Building Materials/ Onion Market along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Ugwuonagbo LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point by Faulks Road/ Ariara Junction along Port Harcourt – Aba Expressway, Osisioma LGA, Abia State, Military Base at Ariam Usaka, Ikwuano LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point Ahia-Ohuru Aba South LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point Ngwa Road by Cemetery, Abia South LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point Emelogu junction Ogbor Hill, Aba South LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point Obikabo Junction Ogbor Hill, Aba South LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point Opopo Junction Ogbor Hill, Aba South LGA, Abia State, Military Checkpoint at Uzuakoli by Ozuitem Road Junction, Bende LGA, Abia State, Military Checkpoint at Urban Market along Umuahia – Uzuakoli Road, Bende LGA, Abia State, Military Checkpoint at Ntighi Junction along Port Harcourt – Enugu Expressway, Isiala Ngwa North LGA, Abia State, Military Checkpoint at Arongwa Junction along Port Harcourt – Enugu Expressway, Osisioma LGA, Abia State, Military Checkpoint at Ihieoji, along Port Harcourt – Enugu Expressway Road, Isiala Ngwa North LGA, Abia State, Military checkpoint at Itungwa Ururuka Road, Obingwa LGA, Abia State, Front of Abbott Boys Secondary School, along Owerri – Onitsha Expressway, Ihiala LGA, Anambra State, Amansea/Ugwuoba Enugu -Onitsha old Road, Awka South LGA, Anambra State, Better Life Junction along Enugu -Okigwe Expressway, Abia State, Eluama – Isiukwuano beside Common Wealth Hotels Isiukwuano LGA, Abia State, Ohafia/ Nguzu Junction, Abriba – Ohafia Road, Ohafia LGA, Abia State, JTF Check Point at Idima Abam Road, Arochukwu LGA, Abia State.

Army Check Point opposite Primary School by St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Uli, Ihiala LGA, Anambra State, Naval Check Point at Awkuzu Junction along Awka – Onitsha Road Expressway, Anambra State, Army Check Point by ICC Awka, along Amansea, old Awka Road, Awka South LGA, Anambra State, JTF Military Check Point at Ekwulobia – Isufia Road, Aguata LGA, Anambra State, Oko – Umunze Road, Orumba North LGA, Anambra State, Nanka – Agulu Road by Rock Tamar Junction, Nanka, Orumba North LGA, Anambra State, Opposite Aguata Local Government Council Headquarters, Ekwulobia – Aguluezechukwu Road, Aguata LGA, Anambra State, Military Check Point Onusorogu Junction Amichi Nnewi along Oba-Nnewi-Amichi- Okigwe Road Nnewi South LGA, Anambra State, Military Checkpoint at Uga Junction Ogbaru LGA, Anambra State, Acha junction, along Mile 2 and before Mile 2 Junction Ivo LGA, Ebonyi State, Ishieke junction, Abakaliki – Enugu Expressway, Ebonyi State, Onu Ebonyi River, Ogoja Road, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Ikwo junction, Nkwagu, Abakaliki – Afikpo Road Ebonyi State, Military Checkpoint at Ebonyi / Enugu Boundary Ebonyi State, Military Checkpoint at Afikpo Road Junction Isiagu, Ivo LGA, Ebonyi State, Military Checkpoint at Abakaliki – Ogoja Road, Izzi LGA, Ebonyi State, Military Checkpoint at Afikpo Timber Market junction, Afikpo – Okigwe Road, Afikpo North LGA Ebonyi State,

Three Corner Junction, Amagunze, Nkanu East LGA, Enugu State, New Kenyetta along Enugu – Okigwe Expressway Ugwuaji LGA Enugu State, Ituku Military Check Point along Enugu –Okigwe Expressway, Ituku Isuawa, Agwu LGA, Enugu State, Otu Amechi Agbani Link Road, Enugu South LGA, Enugu State, Umuogba Ihe along Enugu – Okigwe Expressway, Awgu LGA, Enugu State, Nnenwe Junction along Enugu – Okigwe Expressway, Awgu LGA, Enugu State, Awgu Mgbowo Aki na Ukwa Junction along Enugu –Okigwe Expressway, Awgu LGA, Enugu State, Military Checkpoint at Abia /Enugu Boundary, along Enugu – Okigwe Expressway, Army Check Point Udi, Four Corner, Nkanu East LGA Enugu State, Army Check Point Amodu, Nkanu West LGA, Enugu State, Military Checkpoint at Ugwuonyeama, Enugu North LGA, Enugu State.

Air Force Checkpoint by NAF Base along Trans-Ekulu, Enugu East LGA, Enugu State, Military Check Point in front of Peace University, along Enugu – Opi Road, Igbo-Etiti LGA, Enugu State, Military Check Point Iheaka, along Enugu – Makurdi Road, Igbo – Eze LGA, Enugu State. Army checkpoint, 17th Mile junction, Mbulu Owo, Nkanu East LGA, Enugu State, Front of Ehime Mbano Local Government Council Headquarters along Aba Branch – Umuahia Road, Umuezeala, Ehime Mbano LGA Imo State, Military Check Point adjacent to Timber Market, along Orlu – Owerri Road, Orlu LGA, Imo State, Ekeahiara Junction, Ahiazu Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Umulolo junction along Port Harcourt – Enugu Expressway, Okigwe LGA, Imo State, Limca Junction by FGC, along Enugu – Port Harcourt Expressway, Okigwe LGA, Imo State, Military Check Point Unuapu, along Owerri – Port Harcourt Expressway, Ohaji Egemba LGA, Imo State, Military Check Point Mgbirichi – Obinze Boundary, along Owerri – Port Harcourt Expressway, Ohaji Egemba LGA, Imo State, Army Check Point by Umuokanne Junction, along Owerri – Port Harcourt Expressway Owerri West LGA, Imo State, Army Check Point opposite Emmanuel Anglican Church Mgbidi, along Owerri – Onitsha Expressway, Oru West LGA, Imo State, Military Checkpoint Egbema Production Center (NPDC) Egbema, Ohaji-Egbena LGA, Imo State.

According to Chief Mike Ozekhome, SAN: “I am shocked that the Igbos are not speaking up at the apparent siege laid on their land by uniformed persons of different categories, ranging from Army, Navy, Police, Civil Defense, Customs, FRSC, etc. My journey had taken me by road from Isele-Mkpitime, where I had gone to pay tribute to a Nigerian icon, Chief (Dr) P.K.C. Isagba, the Odogwu of Isele-Mkpitime. He was one of the first Nigerians to believe in my ability as a young fledgling lawyer. I had been handling his cases whilst at Chief Gani Fawehinmi's Chambers. When I left as Deputy Head to set up my practice in January 1986, Chief Isagba personally went to Chief Gani Fawehinmi, to allow him to move his files to me, to continue handling his cases; a request the amiable and selfless Gani granted immediately. So, Chief Isagba became my first major client as a tottering practicing lawyer, trying to find my groggy feet. He became my bosom friend and elder brother. My journey from Isele-Mkpitime, through Asaba, to Port-Harcourt, told me clearly that the entire Igbo land is locked down in a physical, psychological and mental siege. My journey from Isele-Mkpitime, Delta State, through Asaba, Onitsha, Oba, Oraifite, Okija, Ihiala, Mgbidi, Awomama, Owerri”.

“Earlier journeys by road (I travel a lot on professional duties), had shown me the same siege through countless roadblocks: Enugu, through the Ugwogo Nike-Opi-Nsukka Road; Amansea in Awka-Ugwuoba Oji River; Nnewi, Alor, Ekwulobia, Amesi, Ugar, Umuchu; Okigwe, Awgu and Ituku Ozalla, Umuahia and Isiala-Ngwa, on Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway. On the Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene highway, you have exasperating roadblocks at Michael Okpara University junction; Isingwu-Nkweogwu junction of the Isuikwuato-Uzuakoli-Ajayi-Igbere road; and the 14 Brigade Army Barracks junction at the Ohafia-Arochukwu highway. As you are crossing one check point, a mere look ahead of you, of less than half a kilometer, will reveal another barricade. It is all so frustrating. There is no war, or security breach. South-East is not North-East where Boko Haram still calls the shots (forget about Government's pet words of “we have degraded Boko Haram”); Boko Haram is still very potent, controlling large areas, killing and maiming people daily. Yet, in this Boko Haram-ravaged region, you would not find this armada of security, treating the entire geopolitical zone made up of five states (the least in Nigeria; some others have seven states), like a conquered territory. These fully armed and trigger-happy security personnel have never taken steps to protect the Igbo race, against rampaging Fulani Herdsmen that raid their homes, to maim, kill and rape their wives (remember Nimbo in Uzo Uwani LGA in Enugu State)”.

They have never repelled the incessant reign of terror by armed robbers, kidnappers, hired assassins and murderers. No, they are stationed there for three main reasons: (1) check the bid for self-determination by the Igbos; (2) extort money from the wealthy and poor Igbo traders who ply these routes; (3) remind the Igbos that the all-powerful Federal Government is on ground to silence the people and force them to toe their ruling party line. Wait a minute; is that why some prominent Igbos, including erstwhile leaders, members of the BOT and two-time Governors for eight years under PDP, have been outdoing each other to decamp to a non-performing and fundamentally flawed party like the APC? Let me end this piece by recommending to the Ndigbo, the legendary Hubert Ogunde's immortal words, in his most famous 1964 play, "Yoruba Ronu" ("Yorubas, think"), a stinging satire that got his theatre company banned, which ban was later lifted in 1966, by the new military Governor. Ndi-Igbo, cheenu echiche (Igbo People, think!). **Source:** Chief Mike Ozekhome SAN, Constitutional Lawyer and Human Rights Activist, July 2017. The above field trip tortuous encounter by the Respected Silk as far back as 2017, still captures the current 'war-grade' situation on South-East Roads and other locations which the South-East has been plunged into in the hands of the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Police and the Paramilitaries. The situation has even grown from bad to worst since then.

OUR TRACK RECORD IN UNMASKING SECURITY SECTOR "BLUE-COLLAR" ROADBLOCK EXTORTION IN NIGERIA:

The Intersociety has earned a name and respectability in tracking, monitoring, documenting and exposing security sector 'blue-collar' corruption in Nigeria since 2008. In August 2010, we were instrumental to the international compilation of a special report: "Everyone's in on the Game: Corruption and Human Rights Abuses by the Nigeria Police Force" by the United States based Human Rights Watch. In Dec 2011, we issued a Special Report on police roadblock extortions in Nigeria covering 2009-2011 and used South-East as a case-study, in which the Report found that "N53billion was illicitly collected and pocketed by estimated 5000 roadblocks across the country including 150 police roadblocks in the South-East at N20, 000 per police roadblock daily". In January 2012, our Report formed part of the 'new policy direction' by the newly appointed Inspector General of Police, MD Abubakar who acted on the Report by ordering for the dismantling of most of the roadblocks from 5000 to 1000 "special roadblocks" across the country. Since then, the Intersociety had till date monitored, documented and exposed security sector blue-collar corruption and other corrupt practices including military involvement in roadblock extortions traced to the August 2015 deployment of military personnel on Eastern roads. Such reports included "August 2015-November 2019 Police Roadblock Extortion of N312b", the "2018 Ember Month Police and Military Roadblock Extortion of N100b in the South-East" and "the December 2019-June 2020 COVID-19 Special Road Security Extortion of N44b", etc. Nigeria Police Force acknowledges roadblock extortions by its officers and personnel but has failed woefully to address and end it.



Photos of Potential Defenseless Victims of Military Massacre Taken at Onitsha Bridgehead Market in Oct 2024)

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Graphic Details Of Military Massacre And Allied Heinous Crimes In The East



OVER 15,300 CIVILIAN DEATHS RECORDED IN THE MILITARY SIEGE AND TERROR SINCE 2015:

The conducts of officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces formations in Eastern Nigeria particularly South-East and Igbo part of the South-South in the line of their official duties have not only been nothing to write home about in the past nine years and four months or August 30, 2015, to August 30, 2024 but such atrocious conducts are also not expected to have any remarkable shift in the rest of 2024. The above is to say that the patterns and trends of the military operations in the East have remained crude, hateful and genocidal, resulting in open and custodial deaths or permanent disappearance of estimated 15,300 defenseless members of the South-East and mostly Igbo South-South civilian population since August 30, 2015; out of which estimated 10,300 civilian deaths outside the law were estimated to have been recorded between October 2020 and Dec 2024 and estimated 5,000 others arose from unlawful deaths recorded between August 2015 and September 2020. It must be clarified that the unlawful deaths or killings above did not include those killed outside the law by various crack and tactical squads of the Nigeria Police Force and the Department of the State Security Services particularly those arising from crude or excessive use of force ranging from open shootings at close range targeted at members of the South-East and Igbo South-South defenseless civilian population and others arising from custodial shootings, torture, starvation and deliberately untreated gunshot wounds.

TWO ERAS OF MILITARY TERROR IN EASTERN NIGERIA: **AUGUST 2015 - SEPT 2020** AND OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2024:

It must clearly be clarified that there are two eras of Nigerian Military terror in Eastern Nigeria: August 2015 to September 2020 and Oct 2020 to December 2024. From available independent statistics including several findings by the Intersociety; it is most likely correct to say that between August 2015 and Sept 2020, covering the first era of the military terror in the East, no fewer than 5,000 members of the South-East and the Igbo South-South civilian population were unlawfully shot and killed in the open or abducted and killed in military custodies or permanently disappeared without traces by their families till date. On the other hand, it is also most likely correct to say that from October 2020 December 2024, not fewer than 10,300 members of the same civilian population have been shot and killed in the open or abducted and killed in military custodies or permanently disappeared without traces by their families since then. Also noted is the fact that the second era of military terror has become heightened and worsened since October 2020 and January 2021; fueled by Three Tragedies of: October 2020 'EndSARS Security Forces Violence', October-Nov 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions; and January 2021 Security Forces Uprising against Civilian Population in Imo State. The sum-total of the above has led to 'State Terror' against members of the South-East and Igbo South-South civilian population in the past nine years and four months since August 30, 2015.

**DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

P M B 309
GARKI - ABUJA



DHQ/ABJ/901/32/DDI

15 September 2017

PRESS RELEASE

**PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE STATE OF INDEPENDENT PEOPLE
OF BIAFRA**

1. The Independent People of Biafra (IPOB) group which has posed to be a security challenge in the Country, has been metamorphosing from one stage to the other. After due professional analysis and recent developments, it has become expedient, to notify the general public that; the claim by IPOB actors that the organization is non violent is not true. Hence, the need to bring to public awareness the true and current state of IPOB. In this regard, some of their actions, clandestinely and actively, that has been terrorising the general public among others include;
 - a. The formation of a Biafra Secret Service.
 - b. Claimed formation of Biafra National Guard.
 - c. Unauthorised blocking of public access roads.
 - d. Extortion of money from innocent civilians at illegal road blocks.
 - e. Militant possession and use of weapons (stones, Molotov cocktails, machetes and broken bottles among others) on a military patrol on 10 September 2017.

- f. Physical confrontation of troops by Nnamdi Kanu and other IPOB actors at a check point on 11 September 2017 and also attempts to snatch their rifles.
- g. Attack by IPOB members, on a military check point on 12 September 2017, at Isialangwa, where one IPOB actor attempted to snatch a female soldier's rifle.

From the foregoing, the Armed Forces of Nigeria wishes to confirm to the general public that IPOB from all intent, plan and purpose as analysed, is a militant terrorist organisation. Therefore, parents and particularly unsuspecting residents of the South East and other Nigerians should advice their wards to desist from joining the group.

The Defence Headquarters restates its commitment to handling all the security challenges in the Country and further assures all Nigerians of the protection of lives and property.


JOHN ENENCHE
Major General
Director Defence Information

5,000 Unarmed Civilians Killed Or Disappeared By Military In The East From August 2015 To Sept 2020:

The total number of South-East and Igbo South-South defenseless civilians killed outside the law or permanently disappeared without traces by their families between August 30, 2015, and September 30, 2020, is most likely to be not fewer than 5,000, after which most of them were found to be indigenes and residents of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Rivers States. Out of this number, estimated 1,500 are most likely to have been shot and killed in the open and the remaining 3,500 likely to have been secretly abducted at ungodly hours and shot and killed on their way to secret military locations scattered across the two Regions; or taken into custody where they were likely to have been shot and killed or tortured and left to die or starved to death in military captivity. The most shocking of it all was that most of the victims are those in productive male age-brackets or between 20 and 55 years of age-with dominant among them being those between 21 and 35 years of age. Our Special Report on Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of October-November 2020 is a typical case in point. We also found that about 40% of them were those abducted and killed in Abia, 30% in Anambra and the remaining 30% abducted and killed in Rivers, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi, Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Delta States.

10,300 Unarmed Civilians Killed Or Permanently Disappeared By Military From Oct 2020 To Dec 2024:

It is credibly estimated that no fewer than 10,300 members of the civilian population mostly belonging to Trado-Judeo-Christian Igbo Ethnic Nationality in the South-East, and the South-South are most likely to have been attacked and killed or permanently disappeared by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces deployed in the two Regions since October 2020. The no fewer than 10,300 slain or permanently disappeared unarmed Igbo civilians are further divided into yearly average of 2,500; out of which secret killings and permanent disappearances accounted for about 2000 per year and open military killings which accounted for the remaining 800 per year. Shockingly, out of the 2000, permanent disappearances constituted about 1400 per annum while killings arising from military custodial torture, gunshot wounds inflicted at arrest or abduction and custodial starvation and other forms of depravities accounted for estimated 600 per year. It must further be noted that out of the 800 victims of open killings militarily perpetrated outside the law, Imo State accounted for no fewer than 400 unlawful deaths per year particularly since January 2021. The State also accounted for about 45% (800) of the secret killings per annum including victims of permanent disappearances perpetrated by drafted security forces and sub-State actor vigilantes.

In 2023 alone, not less than 1000 open and secret killings perpetrated by the military and other security forces were independently estimated to have been carried out in the State; out of which the military, particularly officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army took responsibility for at least 500. In other words, there were also not less than 1000 permanent abductions and disappearances in 2023 alone associated with the military operations in the South-East during which 500 were strongly believed to have taken place in Imo State, followed by Anambra with no fewer than 200 including Citizens Ndefo Felix, Ani Izuchukwu, Odoh Friday, Chukwuka Raphael, Ikenna Chibueze, Hyacinth Ugwuike, Ozioma, Osita Udenze, Magnus Nnabuike, Chijioke Ali, Christopher Njenje, Emeka Okonkwo, Livinus Egbo, Okeke Uchenna, Ogbu Michael, Nweke Chukwuemeka, Obieze Ugochukwu, Chigozie Oghem, Chisom Nwizu, Ikechukwu Okoro, Chinedu Odenigbo, Chinedu Obiah, Chijioke Obama, Ogochukwu Nweke, Uchenna Oganama and Emmanuel Obinani. One of the typical cases in point was that of Elder Emeka Augustine Ibenacho who was accused of "being IPOB member" and on May 18, 2022, he was abducted by the Joint Security Taskforce (soldiers and Ebubeagu killer squad) in his house in Aji Community, Oru West in Imo State and later dumped at the Owerri DSS Directorate from where he was secretly located by his friends in the Ogoni Underground Prisons in Rivers State. He was later moved to "Abuja" where he has not been traced alive till date.

The 300 remaining cases of permanent abductions and disappearances in the South-East in 2023 are shared by other South-East States of Abia, Ebonyi and Enugu. It must also be reminded that the Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces had on December 29, 2023, announced the killing of "464 IPOB/ESN combatants and members" in the South-East covering January to December 2023 and "arrest of 907 others" and "recovery" of 65 AK47s and other weapon categories classified under the Firearms Act of 2004 as "unprohibited" or civilian citizens licensed firearms. Till date, the whereabouts of the dead bodies of the 464 "slain IPOB/ESN combatants and members" and the location, dead or alive, of the "arrested" 907 others have remained publicly unknown till date. It is also independently observed that, majority of the custodial killings and permanent disappearances between October 2020 and December 2024 also came from Imo State. Relatedly, between October 2020 and December 2021, Rivers State recorded no fewer than 200 cases of enforced disappearances arising mainly from the October-November 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions.

KILLING OF UNARMED CITIZENS IN PLACE OF CRIMINAL NON-STATE ACTORS GIVING ROOM FOR REPEAT-OFFENSES:

Going by several criminological investigations conducted for the Intersociety since 2015 by Criminologist Emeka Umeagbalasi (Author-in-Chief of this Special Report), findings arising thereto have indicated that the incessancy of targeting and killing or abducting and permanently disappearing members of the unarmed civilian citizens in place of armed criminal citizens; be they members of "street violent criminal entities" or "armed counterfeit agitators" have repeatedly led to, or given room for "Repeat-Offenses" or "Returned-Criminalities" and their intensification and escalation. Repeat-Offenses or Returned-Criminalities are further fueled by the inability and unwillingness of the law enforcement agencies and their officers and personnel in Eastern Nigeria to go after and apprehend the real armed non-state actors and identify, recover and take possession of their crime perpetrating instruments including crime scenes, cells and weapons used. The above has led to intensification and escalation of such violent crimes and the armed non-state violent actors involved remained untracked and uncaught. Such inability and unwillingness on the part of the drafted military officers and personnel are strongly believed to have stem from professional or operational incompetence and indiscriminate use of false-flag operations and ethnoreligious profiling, false labeling, mass criminalization, class stigmatization, hearsay conclusions and military recriminalization of social deviances and civil wrongs as insurgency, terrorism and insurrection; and recriminalization of police-matter criminal offenses as "acts of IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism". The above conduct-atrocities are also classified under "Transfer of Criminal Responsibility", forbidden by Section 7 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 and Section 36 of the Police Act of 2020 (as amended) which outlaw "arrest of innocent persons as criminal suspects in lieu (in place) of others".

Unarmed Citizens Constituted 90% Of Murdered, Abducted And Disappeared Citizens In The East:

6 False Flag Operations' are defined as a harmful, often-militant armed state actor action, designed to appear as though perpetrated by someone or some persons other than the person or group of persons responsible for such violent crimes (outlawed by Section 7 of the ACJA Act of 2015). The patterns and trends of the Nigerian Security Forces' operations in the South-East and the South-South since August 2015 till date have therefore rested on 'false flag operations'; leading to "repeat-offenses" or "returned-criminalities" in situation of criminal environment and its policing and management. The above is to the extent that out of every 50 persons openly killed or abducted and secretly killed or permanently disappeared by the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces deployed in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South, about 45 are unarmed civilian citizens; and out of the remaining five possibly reasonably suspected to have been associated with criminal offenses, only two are likely to have been offensively and violently armed at the time of their killing. The remaining three are likely to be reasonably suspected violent criminals and non-violent crime offenders shot at close range and instantly killed on the spots.

The sum-total of the above further indicates that no fewer than 90% of those abducted and killed in custody or permanently disappeared after having been arrested or abducted are members of the unarmed and defenseless civilian citizens; likewise, 90% of those shot at close range and instantly killed during law enforcement operations.

It must also be pointed out that any citizen or group of citizens arrested alive with or without firearms and taken into custody alive where they are shot and killed or tortured or starved to death or abducted and permanently disappeared are not only those presumed innocent before the law but also victims of extrajudicial and unlawful killings or executions. Under the international criminal law including the ICC Statute of 1998, signed and ratified by Nigeria in September 2001, such victims are victims of crimes against humanity in non-war situations; or victims of war crimes or both, in situations of internal or intrastate armed conflicts. Going by the Nigerian Armed Forces law enforcement operations in the two Regions since August 30, 2015, till date, such victims are victims of crimes against humanity; or victims of State Terrorism in the context of Nigeria's criminal jurisprudence and criminology and security studies. This is more so when the victims are members of a particular ethnic or religious group targeted by the armed state actors on the grounds of their ethnicity and religion.

MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL IN THE EAST ORDERED TO KILL UNARMED CITIZENS AND LABEL THEM "BIAFRA TERRORISTS":

There has been official issuance of license to openly kill or massacre or massively abduct and secretly kill and permanently disappear members of the unarmed and defenseless civilian population in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South. The above has been the case particularly since after the Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of October-November 2020. The former Nigerian Army Chief of Staff, Late Lt General Ibrahim Attahiru had sometime in 2021 directed officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army to "go after and attack IPOB members and villages and communities in the South-East where soldiers or military personnel are attacked or killed". On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, then Acting Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, spoke in Enugu during a police public function where he issued directive to his DIGs, AIGs, CPs and other superior and junior officers of the Force to "go after IPOB and others in the South-East and related others and if anyone accuses you of human rights violation, the report will come to my table and you know what I will do. So, take the battle to them wherever they are and kill them all. Don't wait for an order".

ARMY'S VIOLENT DISRUPTION OF SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES AT UMUNZE - A SACRILEGIOUS CASE OF CLASS CRIMINALIZATION:

According to a detailed report by the Sun Newspaper of Wednesday, August 21, 2024, titled, "**Soldiers sack church worshippers in Anambra community**", panic and fear gripped (Catholic and Anglican) Christian worshippers in Umunze, Orumba North Local Government Area, Anambra State on Sunday, when armed soldiers stormed different churches in the morning hours and dispersed the congregation in their places of worship. More details of the report are as follows: "The soldiers took over the community with a stern warning that no church service, movement or market would be allowed in the area till further notice. A witness, Obika Ezeka, said they were traumatized when they heard gunshots at St. Joseph's Catholic Church as worshippers arrived for the 6am Mass. She said they were waiting for the priest to begin the Mass when one of the armed soldiers marched to the altar and asked everybody to leave the church. According to her, the soldier, whose identity could not be ascertained, told the congregation that their colleagues were murdered on Thursday night by gunmen in the town, and there would be no movement or market till further notice.

Similarly, several armed soldiers invaded Holy Rosary Catholic Church, and SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church (Umunze), disrupted the service and ordered parishioners, including priests, to leave". Another witness, who identified himself as Ejike, said the soldiers came to St. Peter's Anglican Church, Lomu Umunze, when a teacher was moderating the Bible Study, asked him to drop the microphone and ordered everybody out of the church. An unconfirmed report said some of the soldiers brazenly descended on male worshippers with canes and belts for resisting their unlawful invasion of the places of worship".

"It was reported that some people, including commercial cyclists and drivers found on the road on Sunday were arrested and forced to pull down a building that served as office for tipper drivers. The community quickly turned to a ghost town, as traders hurriedly locked their shops at the busy Nkwo Market. A stranded mother, Nze Euphemia, lamented that the sudden shutdown of the market left many people starving, with no food at home. She said the soldiers would have announced a curfew so that people could buy essential food items and drugs before the sudden lockdown. A native of Umunze said the town has been under siege by criminals that operate from neighboring States. According to him, more than 15 people have been kidnapped in Umunze in recent time, and huge sums of money paid as ransom before they were released. The hoodlums recently attacked a public phone-charging center in the town and carted away all the phones.... A viral video had emerged some weeks ago, which revealed that criminals were creeping into Umunze and Ogbunka towns with their weapons to terrorize the area. Despite the warnings, no visible security measures were taken to safeguard the volatile areas. Further investigation by Daily Sun revealed that a fierce gun battle broke out between soldiers and gunmen on Thursday night. An unconfirmed report said the gunmen were seen at about 8.30pm speeding along the Umunze-Ogbunka Road, jumping the bumps and barricades in a black jeep. People selling by the roadside quickly closed their shops, thinking they were kidnappers on the prowl. A few minutes later, soldiers arrived the area in a patrol vehicle, and it was reported that a terrifying gun battle ensued hours later. In what seemed like a night of terror, dead silence prevailed in the town, and residents trembled in fear. It was reported that two soldiers lost their lives in the gun duel.."

...Corroborated By Our Board Member:

Chief Anayo Okoli is a Board Member of the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety) and respected indigene of Umunze Community in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State. He was contacted on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, hours after the Sun Newspaper's Report by the Intersociety team handling this Special International Report. Not only that he corroborated the Sun Newspaper's report, but he also added that "after the incident on Thursday Night (August 15, 2024), a team of soldiers accompanied by their commanders visited our Community on Friday, August 16, 2024 during which they met the Community's leaders and claimed to have come for peace and appealed for calm; assuring the indigenes of the Community of safety of their lives and properties despite the loss of two of their personnel". He said the indigenes of the Community were surprised and shocked to have woken up on Sunday morning of August 18, 2024, to brace up for their respective Sunday Church Services and other lawful engagements thereafter only to discover that the entire community has been laid under siege by soldiers of the Nigerian Army since late evening of Saturday, August 17, 2024. As if that was not enough, the soldiers invaded several churches and disrupted their Church Services during which their congregants or parishioners were sacked and violently dispersed.

...Our Additional Findings: The Intersociety has further investigated and found that a group of armed criminal non-state actors struck along Umunze-Ogbunka Road in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State on Thursday, August 15, 2024, attracting the attention of the stationed soldiers who engaged them in exchange of gunfire, forcing them to flee the scene and head towards Ogbunka, a neighboring community. Unknown to the soldiers pursuing them, the armed assailants hid and laid ambush on the soldiers, killing two of them before escaping into Ogbunka. A day after or on Friday, August 16, soldiers visited Umunze and environs in company of their commanders and appealed for calm, only for them to storm the community in late evening of Saturday (August 17, 2024) and hold the entire community hostage amidst shootings, harassments, brutalities and indiscriminate abduction of young indigenes of the Community who were taken to unknown destinations.

Estimated 20 young indigenes of the Community were abducted between late evening of Saturday, August 17 and Monday, August 19, 2024. Going by several documented accounts, the nothing less than 20 abducted young indigenes of Umunze risk being executed or extrajudicially killed in military custody and falsely labeled as "IPOB/ESN assailants/terrorists that gunned down military personnel on patrol duties".

As if that was not enough, many parishioners belonging to the named three Catholic Churches, one Anglican Church and several Pentecostal Churches in the Community were stopped from attending their early morning and later morning Sunday Church Services and those already assembled were harassed, brutalized, forced out and violently dispersed by soldiers. Some of the soldiers were also reported to have marched into some of the churches already on Sunday Live Services and forced their parishioners out, screaming that "no church services must be allowed in Umunze Community that killed our personnel". According to the Truth-Nigeria of Friday, August 23, 2024; quoting an eyewitness, "a priest of St Joseph Catholic Church, Umunze, was flogged by soldiers during the incident". Further investigations revealed that the culpable soldiers from the Army's Onitsha 302 Artillery and General Support Cantonment with one Col Muhammed Abubakar, a Northern Muslim, as Cantonment Commandant. The Nigerian Army's Onitsha Cantonment is under 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu under one Major General Hassan Dada, another Northern Muslim, as its General Officer Commanding (GOC).

...NIGERIAN ARMY'S TISSUE OF LIES:

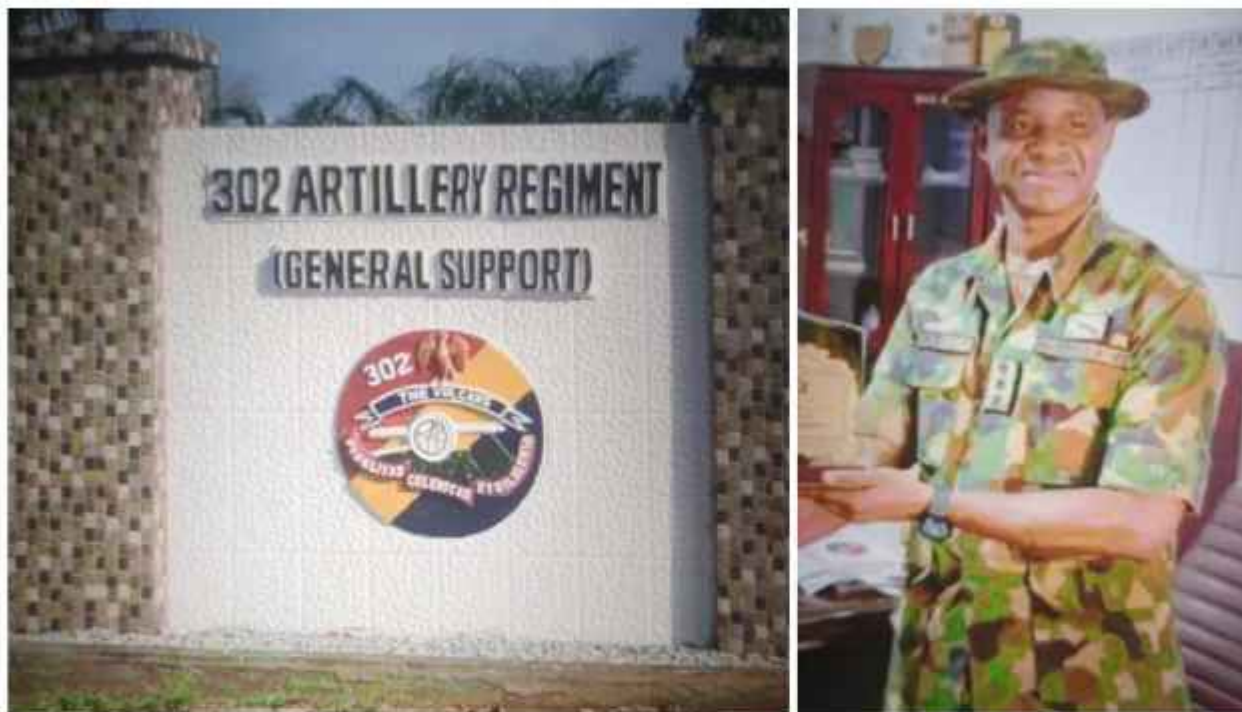
According to the Nigerian Army's statement issued on Thursday, August 22, 2024, "troops conducted cordon and search operation based on information that the assailants who attacked and killed soldiers were seen in a house close to the church being given medical treatment. During the operation, the troops evacuated the people who were considered vulnerable if shootout ensued to avoid collateral damage. Basically, the cordon and search on the community was to enable the troops effect arrest of some accomplices who escaped with gunshot wounds and blood stains from the attack that killed two of our troops. Unfortunately, the suspects had already left the building to which they were traced to have occupied".

...CLEAR CASE OF CLASS CRIMINALIZATION, ETHNO-RELIGIOUS PROFILING AND FALSE LABELING OF IGBO CIVILIANS:

The above dastardly act is not only sacrilegious and abominable but also clear evidence of military criminalization, ethno-religious profiling and false labeling of the defenseless Igbo population; a major stock-in-trade characterizing military operations in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015. It is also a further confirmation of the fact "over 90% of the military statements on its operations in the South-East and Igbo South-South are falsified and cooked up". The above is more so when nothing less than four major Church Parishes spread across Umunze including the St Joseph Catholic Church, the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, the SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church and the St. Peter's Anglican Church were prevented and sacked by soldiers from conducting their Holy Sunday Church Services of August 17, 2024. It is surprising what a shooting incident that took place along Umunze-Ogbuka-Owerre-Ezukala axis got to do with laying siege on more than four Church Parishes spreading across Umunze Community under the guise of "looking for wounded assailants hidden in a private house near a church being given treatment". Also, what is the connection between a shooting incident that took place on Thursday, August 15 and Holy Sunday Church Services in more than four different Parishes and locations that took place on Sunday, August 17, 2024, or 48 hours later?

Must soldiers ground and collapse the entire community and its lawful activities just to arrest or locate a so-called band of unlawfully armed and criminal persons? The soldiers even have the audacity and shamelessness to desecrate the Blessed Sacrament and criminalize the congregants.

There are more than ten glaring loopholes in the Nigerian Army's statement inclusive of the above. The constant lies by the military in defense of the conduct-atrocities of their field officers and personnel are such that have not only encouraged and promoted culture of impunity and repeat-offenses by its field officers and personnel but also emboldened them to behave recklessly as an outlaw and untouchable.



Photos of Onitsha Army Barracks Signpost and its boss, Col Muhammed Abubakar

Additional 5000 Defenseless Civilians Facing Disappearance By The Military In The East Since Jan 2021:

The Nigerian Military is also most likely to have been responsible for temporary disappearance of no fewer than 5,000 members of the South-East and the Igbo South-South civilian population between January 2021 and December 2024. It must further be clarified that "temporary disappeared persons" in this context are those members of the civilian population illegally arrested and detained by the authorities of the Armed Forces without public disclosure or official records of their arrest, circumstances surrounding their arrest and their whereabouts to their families or legal guardians or all the above being publicly made available. They are also "temporarily disappeared civilians" because the Armed Forces constitutionally and statutorily lack powers to "arrest, detain, investigate and prosecute them in civil courts". The no fewer than 5000 'temporarily disappeared civilian citizens' of the South-East and the Igbo South-South origin and residency included those that have been indiscriminately arrested or abducted by military authorities and kept till date in their secret military facilities scattered in the South-East, the South-South and other different locations in Northern Nigeria.

For instance, the Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces had between December 2023 and July 2024, announced "the arrest" and "detention" of 1,261 South-East civilians and about 800 of a total of 1,545 of those "arrested" and "detained" in the South-South and have them controversially labeled "IPOB/ESN combatants and members". The Defense Headquarters also announced the "killing" of no fewer than 644 others excluding those "neutralized (killed)" in the South-South. Similar announcements were made in the South-South Region which has a combined indigenous and resident Igbo population of not less than 35% who are mainly the target of the Nigerian Military crackdowns in the Region.

GRAPHIC DETAILS OF MILITARY MASSACRE AND ALLIED HEINOUS CRIMES IN THE EAST

The no fewer than 5000 abducted and temporarily disappeared civilians are those arrested and abducted alive from different parts of the South-East and the Igbo South-South from January 2021 till date, blindfolded or face-bagged and secretly bundled at late night and wee hours of the morning in military vehicles and camouflaged private and commercial buses to different undisclosed military locations outside Eastern Region including those located in places like Niger, Nasarawa, Benue, Kogi, FCT (Abuja), Kaduna, Zamfara States, etc. It has also been discovered that several of the illegally held South-East and South-South defenseless civilians are inhumanly held since January 2021 inside "WAWA Military Cantonment" in Niger State which is more than eight hours drive from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and a Northern Nigeria's insurgency hotbed. The area is also dotted with terrible bad road network and dangerously under the siege of the Jihadist Boko Haram, the Jihadist Fulani Bandits and other regionally assembled Fulani Jihadists including, some say, "recent arrivals from Benin Republic, etc."

Among the "temporarily disappeared defenseless Igbo Easterners" are those in their hundreds strongly believed to be presently detained illegally and perpetually in different secret military detention facilities spread across South-East and South-South particularly in military facilities like 14 Brigade and its 144 Battalion offshoots (FOBs) in Asa and Aba and Naval School of Finance and Logistics at Owerre-Nta in Abia State; 34 Brigade in Obinze, Imo State; 6 Division, Port Harcourt and its Battalion (FOB) at Elele; likewise, Elele Naval Base in Rivers State. The spike in military's illegal and indiscriminate arrests and perpetual detention in Abia State was particularly necessitated by the May 30, 2024 killing of five soldiers of the Nigerian Army attached to 144 Battalion (FOB) in Aba, leading to incessancy of raiding and invasion at late night of several defenseless communities and compounds during which hundreds of defenseless civilians were illegally arrested and detained in perpetuity by the Army till date. It must be noted that the Nigerian Army, a major component of the Armed Forces, later issued a statement, admitting having "arrested" and "detained hundreds".

Apart from the no fewer than 5000 temporarily disappeared defenseless Igbo Easterners in faraway Northern Nigeria since January 2021, there are also estimated 1000 additional others "arrested" and "detained" by the military authorities since August 2015 and October-December 2020 whose whereabouts have remained unaccounted for since then, out of which, many, if not most are strongly suspected to have been permanently disappeared from custody while others are likely to be alive and held perpetually under grave inhuman conditions without access to their families or legal guardians including lawyers. Among the permanently disappeared are hundreds, shot and grievously wounded at arrest or abduction and left to die on their way to such undisclosed military locations or those who died of torture or starvation. Dead bodies of those that died on their way to such undisclosed military locations; likewise those that were shot and deadly wounded at arrest or abduction and abandoned to die in captivity; or others tortured or starved to death in captivity; are strongly suspected to have been disposed like dead fowls without traces or official records identifying who they were, where they came from, when, where, how and why they were arrested and killed or tortured and left to die in custody. There are likely to be dozens who had gone the same way in different secret underground detention facilities under the office of the National Security Adviser located at the NSA headquarters and other NSA approved locations across the country particularly since January 2021 till date. Several court processes sighted recently by the Intersociety cleared showed that some secret detention facilities across Nigeria are manned by the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA).



100 Igbo Women Freed After Six (6) Months In Army Custody!!



Photos Of Just freed 63 Igbo Army Abductees

MARITAL AGE MALE POPULATION IN THE EAST BEING DEPOPULATED AND DENIED RIGHT TO FAMILYHOOD:

Critically observed with shock and disbelief is ongoing systematic depopulation of productive members of the Igbo male population by the Nigerian Military authorities and various crack and tactical squads of the Nigeria Police Force. The 'depopulation tactics' as secret operational code of the Nigerian Security Forces (**NSFs**), is also strongly suspected to be 'State Jihadism-linked' and targeted at South-East and South-South Christians and non-Muslim others. The depopulation tactics has operationally been deployed in the East in the past nine years and four months or between August 30, 2015, and December 31, 2024, and risen to an apogee since January 2021. The strongly suspected depopulation policy by the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces and their Eastern formations is systematically executed during their operations by targeting, mass-criminalizing and false-labeling members of male civilian population of Igbo Eastern Nigerian extraction particularly those between the ages of 21 and 40; and further executed using mass arrests, abductions, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, disappearances and other acts of depravities or wickedness including torture and other inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments.

The above is so shocking and alarming that up to 80% of those arrested or abducted or unlawfully held in military custodies or extrajudicially killed or tortured alive or to death are drawn from members of the referenced productive male population. It is our further observation that thousands of young widows and their children in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South are wives and children of members of such productive male population; abducted and killed in military custodies or shot and killed at arrest or abducted and permanently disappeared without traces by their families till date. There are also several thousands of others among them who will never come back alive to form familyhood. Denial of citizens' right to familyhood is a fundamental breach of Section 37 (Right to Privacy and Family) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. Also found was the fact that tens of thousands of young Igbo women of marital age brackets have been deprived of their rights to marriage and family, thereby potentially forcing them into social practices deemed to be 'against the order of nature' including lesbianism and same-sex marriages; or victimless crimes including prostitution, cultism, drug addiction, etc. These tens of thousands of young Igbo women of marital age-brackets also run the high risk of being forced into marriages that are against their will including forced Islamic and other radical religious marriages; capable of inflicting far-reaching consequences including generational breeding and formation of criminal and social deviant sub-cultures and institutionalization of societal immorality and decadence as a dominant way of life.

9,000 WOMEN WIDOWED BY MILITARY IN THE EAST IN NINE YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS: AUGUST 2015-DEC 2024:

Statistically speaking, out of estimated 15,000 unarmed and defenseless members of the South-East and the Igbo South-South civilian population killed extrajudicially and their dead body persons permanently disappeared by the drafted officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces since August 30, 2015 till date, estimated 9000 married women have been widowed; out of which 3000 were widowed by security forces between August 30, 2015 and September 30, 2020 and 6000 others widowed between October 21, 2020 and December 31, 2024. The extension of the above statistics to the end of December 2024 has arisen from the fact that the patterns and trends of the military terror in Eastern Nigeria are not expected to have any significant change or shift from present circumstances. Victims of the above included unarmed and defenseless citizens of Eastern Nigerian extraction shot and killed in the open or those shot and wounded and arrested alive and taken into custody and killed extrajudicially or those shot and wounded and abandoned on the spots to bleed to death or those shot and wounded and allowed to bleed to death on their way to secret military facilities; or those arrested alive and hale and hearty and taken into military custody where they were tortured or starved to death or those arrested alive and taken into custody from where they were permanently disappeared without traces by their families and lawyers and official records.

GRAPHIC DETAILS OF MILITARY MASSACRE AND ALLIED HEINOUS CRIMES IN THE EAST

The estimated 3000 widows in the South-East and the Igbo South-South from August 2015 to September 2020 had arisen from killing and permanent disappearance of their husbands by the Nigerian military-controlled deployed security forces in Eastern Nigeria. In other words, out of estimated 5000 extrajudicial deaths or killings and permanent disappearances covering August 30, 2015, to September 30, 2020, estimated 3000 of them were married men majorly drawn from male citizens that had clocked 25-55 years of age. The estimated 2000 others are found to belong to those yet to be married as of the time of their extrajudicial killing or disappearance including those that had clocked 19-24 years of age. Among them also were those in marital age-brackets who were unmarried as of the time they were extrajudicially killed or permanently disappeared; likewise, those that had clocked 30 years of age and above who were not married as at then. The alarming number of widowhoods during the period followed extrajudicial killing of their husbands and breadwinners in the two Regions by the military and other security forces.

On the other hand, the estimated 6000 widows had arisen from extrajudicial killing and permanent disappearance of estimated 10,300 male members of the South-East and the Igbo South-South defenseless and unarmed civilian citizens; extrajudicially killed or permanently disappeared by the military alone from October 2020 to December 31, 2024. That is to say that 4000 of the estimated 10,300 victims of extrajudicial killings or enforced disappearances are drawn from those males that were unmarried as of the time of their extrajudicial killing or disappearance. Among the estimated 5000 of such victims covering August 2015 to September 30, 2020, are estimated 2000 who were unmarried or about to marry as at then. Not forgotten is the



Igbo women captives freed from Army captivity

fact that among the 3000 widows and the 6000 widows, respectively, hundreds have died of hunger and disease-generated sicknesses. Close to 40% of children belonging to the 9000 widows are also estimated to have been forced to drop out of school, forcing many to end up as "children in the street" and "children of the school". Hundreds, if not one thousand and above have become promiscuous to survive including providing food for their children and paying their school fees, etc. Unbearable circumstances have forced grownup female or male children of many into social vices and crimes including prostitution, physical violent crimes and violent and nonviolent cybercrimes like computer and internet frauds, etc.

WIVES AND CHILDREN OF SLAIN FIGHTING PARTIES NOT INCLUDED AND NOT CRIMINALIZED:

It must clearly be clarified that the numbers above represented only wives and children of those unarmed and defenseless citizens killed extrajudicially or abducted and permanently disappeared by the military and other security forces and did not include wives and children of the slain 'fighting parties' or those killed as a result of being offensively and violently armed at the time of their killing or death other than those of them killed after having been arrested unarmed or nonviolently armed and taken into custody.

However, the above exclusion must not be a justification for them to be "criminalized" or labeled and treated by Nigerian security forces and their high commands as "members of a criminal class" or "family members of IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism"; a clear case of prohibited transfer of criminal liability or responsibility, outlawed and criminalized by Section 7 of the ACJA Act of 2015 and Section 36 of the Police Act of 2020 (as amended). As a matter of fact, and technical knowledgeability, the Intersociety does not question deaths arising from battlefield confrontations during law enforcement operations between armed state actors or security forces and armed non-state actors especially the offensively and violently armed non-state actors such as armed ESN, non-Government linked armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators (renegades) and members of the street violent criminal entities like armed robbers, kidnappers, etc.

The above position of ours is in accordance with the international best practices imbedded in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005 and allied others including the International Rules of Engagement and Principle of the Use of Force and its Proportionality, etc.

MILITARY PERSONNEL PERPETRATING OFFENSES OF MASS MURDER AND TORTURE WITH IMPUNITY:

It is totally despicable and condemnable going by maddening rate of abduction, killing, torturing and permanent disappearance of unarmed and defenseless civilians by officers and personnel of the Armed Forces and other drafted security forces in South-East and South-South Regions using false labeling, hearsay conclusions, ethnoreligious profiling and class criminalization. The above is more so when it has been established that 95% of military, police and spy police-issued security intelligence information and law enforcement operations' reports in Eastern Nigeria are highly questionable, officially concocted or twisted and falsified. It must also be clearly stated that killing civilians and labeling them "IPOB Members" or killing unarmed IPOB activists is a clear case of mass murder. It further follows that 'if offense of torture could attract 25 years imprisonment and trial for murder if resulted to death' as clearly provided in Section 8 of the Anti-Torture Act of 2017, how much more killing unarmed civilian citizens? Clearly noted in black and white is that there is no law anywhere in Nigeria or any part thereof that permits or empowers the Nigerian Security Forces (NSFs) to shoot and kill unarmed citizens irrespective of the gravity of criminal offense(s) alleged to have been perpetrated.

95% VICTIMS OF MILITARY ABDUCTIONS IN EASTERN NIGERIA NEVER LOCATED OR TRACED ALIVE:

Clearly observed and pointed out, too, is the fact that it is much more difficult to locate or trace members of the civilian population arrested or abducted by the Military than to locate or trace them if arrested or abducted by officers and personnel of the DSS and the Nigeria Police Force particularly the Force Crack or Tactical Squads such as Police Rapid Response Squad, Police Special Tactical Squad, Police Intelligence Response Team, Police Counter-Terrorism, Police Ant-Cultism, Police Anti-Kidnapping, Police Anti-Trafficking, Police Highway Patrol Team, Police CID Detectives, Police CIB Detectives, Police Anti-Robbery Squad, Police X-Squad, Special Weapons and Tactics Team and the Police IG's 'Special Intervention Squad; respectively drawn from IGP's office, Force Headquarters' FCID, FIB and OPS Departments and their subordinate departments in the 36 States and FCT's Police Commands.

MILITARY HIDING OR DESTROYING RECORDS OF THE ARRESTED, THE ABDUCTED, THE SLAIN AND THE DISAPPEARED:

The above named Nigerian military's operational recklessness and rapacious impunity in the East are so shocking and alarming that the drafted military authorities have earned notoriety in concealing or destroying records of most, if not all members of the civilian population arrested or abducted and kept in their custodies; or those shot and killed unarmed or shot and killed nonviolently armed in the open; or those shot and killed or tortured and starved to death in custody; or dead body persons of those killed outside the law in detention facilities. Permanently hidden or destroyed, too, are records of the whereabouts of all the above mentioned. Our Special Report on Obigbo Army Massacre is a typical case in point.

Against clear provisions of the 1999 Constitution, the military authorities not only notoriously deny family members of those arrested or abducted information and access to such victims, but also criminalize, recriminalize and falsely label them as "combatants of IPOB/ESN" or "parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism" or "slain bodies of IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorists". The United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz, had on June 2024, urged all the Member-States of the UN to "respect and protect the bodies of victims of unlawful deaths for purposes of Truth, Justice and Reparations", and added that "duty to respect and protect the bodies of victims of unlawful deaths was not an option but an obligation under international law for purposes of truth, justice and reparation, and also to guarantee of the relatives to mourn".

It is also so shocking to the extent that once falsely labeled and criminalized or recriminalized, such victims face the high risk of “being instantly condemned to death” by extrajudicial means including instant killing or infliction of grievous bodily harms and abduction and permanent disappearance. The above has also brought about the impossibility of those civilian citizens arrested or abducted alive or murdered in military custodies across Igbo Eastern Nigeria and beyond returning or being returned dead or alive to their families. The most shocking of it all is that more than 90% of the victims of such arrested or abducted civilians or those instantly shot dead or deadily wounded are found to be members of the unarmed civilian citizens; falsely and discriminatorily tagged “IPOB/ESN members or combatants or parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism” or “members or supporters of IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism”.



OBIGBO ARMY MASSACRE AND INTERROGATED DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS' REPORTS AS OUR EVIDENCE

Two clear cases in point backing the above highlighted military conduct-atrocities in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 till date are our Nov 17, 2023, Special Report on 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions in Rivers State, South-South Nigeria and Official Reports of Dec 29, 2023 and June 27, 2024 issued by the Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces, regarding the number of “neutralized (killed)” and “arrested ESN/IPOB Combatants or Members in the South-East and Weapons Recovered”. The Intersociety's 32-Page Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of November 17, 2023, had catalogued or documented nothing less than 1,560 dead, wounded, tortured, sexually abused, abducted, disappeared and court-freed victims of Obigbo Army War-Grade Invasion and Deadly Use of Force. The 1,560 victims had included 130 dead victims, 150 grievously wounded victims, 620 tortured victims, 40 sexually abused victims, 468 traced and court-freed victims and 152 permanently disappeared victims, who became international victims of crimes against humanity and national victims of mass murders and state terrorism. The above followed the Nigerian Army's war-grade invasion and deadly use of force that lasted for 20 days (October 21-November 10, 2020) and associated custodial brutalities that lasted since till date December 2021 or afterwards. The 32-Page Special Report also contained twelve (12) sections including Investigative Summary, National, Regional and International Legal Frameworks, List and Names of the Slain, the Wounded, the Abducted, the Disappeared, the Sexually Abused, the Traced and Court-Freed and their Ten Group Photographs; as well as List and Names of the Key Perpetrators (numbering thirteen) and their Photos; and Recommendations thereto.

It is vividly recalled that the Army's war-grade invasion and deadly use of force was brought about by former Gov Nyesom Wike's State-wide broadcast of October 21, 2020, inviting, some say; Islamic-inspired soldiers of the Nigerian Army to “flush out IPOB terrorists who killed six soldiers and four policemen and burned police stations at Oyigbo (Obigbo) and environs”. Consequently, and in crude response to Rights abusive Gov Nyesom Nwike's genocidal call, no fewer than 130 defenseless residents were killed mostly in ten days, 150 deadly injured and 540 men and 80 women of productive age-brackets abducted. Dozens (about 40) of the 80 abducted Obigbo women were also reported to have been sexually abused in secret military custodies. Till date, nothing less than 152 of the 620 abducted Obigbo civilian residents are still missing in the hands of soldiers of the Nigerian Army since October 21, 2020, or a period of almost four years. A total of 468 of the 620 abductees were traced to different secret Army dudgeons in Northern Nigerian locations including Niger State (Jebba, Zungeru, Suleja, Bida, Kontangora, etc.), Abuja (FCT), Nasarawa (. i.e. Keffi), Kaduna (. i.e. Kaduna Correction or Prisons), Zamfara (. i.e. Gusau Prisons), etc., where they were secretly abducted and held captive, from where they were eventually located and freed by courts.

The civilian houses and other properties burned down or wantonly destroyed during the Massacre were valued at over N20billion (today's market value of N130billion). The Nigerian Army massacre and abductions in Obigbo lasted for 20 days from Oct 21 to Nov 10, 2020, while placement of the area under military siege including for purpose of erasing traces or destruction of evidence, lasted from October 21, 2020, to December 2021. For instance, nothing less than 113 defenseless Obigbo civilians were traced to the Nigerian Army Alpha Commando Base along Bida-Suleja Road in Niger State in February 2021, out of which five were recorded to have died in Army custody and 107 freed. In October 2021, no fewer than 100 South-East and Igbo South-South defenseless civilians were freshly discovered in Kaduna Prisons; comprising 50 abducted Obigbo civilians of October-November 2020 and 50 others who were abducted by soldiers and secretly transferred from one military location to another and finally dumped at Kaduna Prisons under secret arrangements without trial. The nothing less than 50 non-Obigbo residents were later found to have been abducted at night and wee hours of the morning by soldiers from different parts of Imo State between January and July 2021 and finally dumped secretly at Kaduna Prisons where they were traced using credible independent intelligence. Till date, it is not clear the number of the dumped Igbo civilians of Obigbo and Imo State residencies of 2020 and 2021, respectively, who have been freed, or remained or died in the Kaduna Prisons and Lock Center's custodies.

The Obigbo abducted civilians were those abducted by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army under 6 Division in Port Harcourt and 82 Division in Enugu. The patterns and trends of their abduction and permanent or temporary disappearance included use of officers and personnel of 6 Division, Port Harcourt and its Elele Battalion; 14 Brigade, Ohafia and its 144 Battalion at Ukwangwa and Aba; and 34 Brigade, Obinze, near Owerri in Imo State; to abduct them at ungodly hours from where they were bundled at late night or wee hours of the morning in military trucks and camouflaged civilian commercial buses to different military locations in the North including those located in different parts of Niger State such as Army Alpha Commando along Bida-Suleja Road; Mogadishu Army Barracks in Abuja, etc. Dozens of others were also secretly airlifted from Obigbo (Oyigbo) to different secret military locations in the North. The victims were secretly and harshly held for several months in those secret military facilities from where they were secretly transferred in batches to the Nigeria Police and DSS abandoned facilities located in Niger State and the FCT (Federal Capital Territory), Abuja. Others were also bundled through concocted or secret remand orders and dumped outside the law in other secret locations including Keffi Prisons in Nasarawa State, Kuje Prisons in Abuja, Kaduna Prisons in Kaduna State, Gusau Prisons in Zamfara State. There were also reports of hundreds, if not more than 1000 others said to have been secretly moved to Prisons and other secret detention facilities in Benue and Kogi States. The most shocking of it all is that the patterns and trends above highlighted have remained the stock-in-trade of the "Nigerian Military Operations (Military Siege and Terror) in the South-East and the South-South" targeted at unarmed and defenseless civilians of Igbo Eastern Nigeria since till date.

FORENSIC INTERROGATION OF NIGERIAN DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

The Nigerian Military authorities had in their media conference of December 27, 2023 addressed by Major General Edward Buba, Spokesman of the Defense Headquarters questionably and controversially claimed that "a total of 6,880 terrorists were killed and 6,970 arrested during military operations across the six geopolitical regions of Nigeria from January to December 2023"... and in the South-East, "the troops of Operation UDO KA killed 464 IPOB/ESN terrorists, apprehended 907 suspects, rescued 518 hostages and recovered 65 AK47 rifles, 150 pump action guns, 53 Dane guns, 85 pistols, 684 assorted arms, 1,082 rounds of 7.62mm special, 4,371 live cartridges, 5,825 assorted ammunition and 630 other equipment". In the South-South Region, the Defense Headquarters Spokesman further claimed that "the troops of Operation Delta Safe killed 448 criminals, apprehended 1,090 others including mainly oil thieves and other criminals and rescued 309 hostages. Also, oil thieves were denied 100.3 million liters of crude oil, 60.3 million liters of AGO, 3.4 million liters of DPK and 3.5 million liters of PMS (premium motor spirit). Additionally, troops of Operation Delta Safe recovered 321 assorted weapons and destroyed 1,016 wooden boats, 16 barges/vessels and destroyed 1,374 illegal refining sites".

Further, in another media conference addressed by the same Defense Headquarters on June 27, 2024; titled: **"2,245 terrorists killed, 3,682 arrested, 1,993 kidnap victims rescued – DHQ"**;

the Defense Headquarters also claimed that the Nigerian Military had between January and June 2024 “destroyed a Massive 643 Illegal Refinery Sites, Denied N10.5billion worth of Oil Theft...storm IPOB/ESN Camp, Exhume Several Corpses in shallow graves in South-East”. Controversially and questionably, according to the Defense Headquarters, “In the South-East, troops of Operation Udoka killed 180 IPOB/ESN combatants, arrested 354 IPOB/ESN criminals and rescued 148 kidnapped hostages. Additionally, troops of Operation UDOKA recovered 28 AK47 rifles, 44 pump action guns, 58 assorted arms, 3,456 rounds of 7.62mm special, 1,402 rounds of 7.62mm NATO, 801 live cartridges and 324 assorted ammunitions. The operations curtailed the activities IPOB/ESN, being the major cause of insecurity in the SE Region. The other security threat in the SE Region are illegal bunkering/oil theft activities, weapon/ammunition trafficking, kidnap for ransom, cultism, assassinations and communal clashes. In the South-South Region, ...troops of the Operation Delta Safe during their operation killed 14 (IPOB) violent extremists and arrested 455 persons on the process”.

MILITARY KILLED “180 IPOB/ESN COMBATANTS”, “DETAINED 300 OTHERS” IN SOUTH-EAST IN JULY AND AUGUST 2024:

The Defense Headquarters also issued a statement on July 6, 2024, representing seven days of its operations in which it claimed to have “killed 17 IPOB/ESN terrorists” in the South-East and arrested and detained 42 others”. Also, in its statement of August 15, 2024, titled: “Army destroys 84 illegal refinery sites in Niger Delta, denies stealing N943.16m crude”, the Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces further claimed that “In the South-East, troops of Operation Udoka killed 9 IPOB/ESN terrorists, arrested 8 violent extremists, rescued 6 kidnapped hostages and recovered one pump action gun, 36 live cartridges, one vehicle, one Motorola radio and 3 mobile phones amongst others”. According to the military statement, dated August 15, 2024, titled: “Army destroys 84 illegal refinery sites in Niger Delta, denies stealing N943.16m crude”, “In the South-East, the troops of Operation Udoka killed 9 IPOB/ESN terrorists, arrested 8 violent extremists, rescued 6 kidnapped hostages and recovered one pump action gun, 36 live cartridges, one vehicle, one Motorola radio and 3 mobile phones amongst others”.

The strongly suspected military killings and abductions outside the law in Eastern Nigeria continued into the rest of August 2024 via the Defense Headquarters’ statement of August 29, 2024, titled: “Military killed 1,166 terrorists, apprehended 1,096 suspects in August 2024” in which the military claimed that “in the South-East, the troops conducted offensive operations against IPOB/ESN terror group and killed 34 terrorists, apprehended 82 suspects and rescued 26 kidnap hostages, recovered 10 assaulted arms, 45 rounds of 7.62 meter NATO ammunition, over 90 live cartridges, 69 assaulted ammunition and rescued 17 kidnap hostages” and added that “in the South-South, the troops spiked the nation’s daily crude oil production to over 1.5 million barrels per day in August as the troops apprehended 71 persons involved in crude oil theft and impounded 5,047,150 liters of crude oil, 1,152,500 liters of AGO, 320 liters of DPK and 28,500 liters of PMS and recovered 194 assorted ammunition and destroyed 125 wooden boats as well as 458 illegal refining sites”.

The above three statements by the Defense Headquarters officially covered two months or 60 days operations from July to August 2024 during which additional official number of “60 (unofficially nothing less than 180) IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters” killed and 102 (unofficially nothing less than 300) unlawfully arrested and detained”. In other words, more than 1500 defenseless civilian deaths were recorded in the hands of the military and more than 2500 unlawfully arrested and detained in 20 months or January 2023 to August 2024 in the South-East and Igbo South-South Nigeria. The above figures, most likely did not include “dark figures” not officially mentioned in the Defense Headquarters reports or number of those killed outside the law on the spot or after having been arrested or abducted unarmed and taken into custody as well as number of those arrested or abducted and unlawfully held since January 2023 till date without lawfully transferred to the appropriate police quarters for proper investigation and prosecution or the otherwise. The above is also going by the Nigerian Security Forces age-long culture of shrinking or mangling of the number of the arrested or abducted and detained victims and operational casualty victims including victims of unlawful open shootings and deaths arising from gunshot wounds, custodial torture, starvation and disappearances.



**LATE LIEUTENANT GEN
TAREED LAGBAJA,
IMMEDIATE PAST CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF**



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
OLUFEMI OLUYEDE,
ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF**



**LIEUTENANT GEN CHRISTOPHER MUSA,
CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF**



**ARMY SPOKESMAN, MAJOR GEN
ONYEMA NWACHUKWU**



**MISA DAURA,
BUHARI'S FIRST TENURE DG OF DSS**



**MAJOR GEN EDWARD BUBA,
DEFENSE SPOKESMAN**



IMMEDIATE PAST DG, DSS



IREFIN



ADEGBOYE



RTD. BRIG. GEN. SAGIR MUSA



**RTD. LT. GEN.
YUKUR YUSUF BURATAI**



**RTD. MAJ. GEN
BAGANANA MONGUNO**



**BRIG. GEN.
SOLOMON M. KUMAPAYI**



BRIG. GEN. IBRAHIM TUKURA

**THIRTY-THREE (33) UNANSWERED QUESTIONS TRAILING KILLING OF
OVER 1500 CIVILIANS: JAN 2023-AUGUST 2024:**

(1) Why were the full identities and biometrics including names, gender, photographs, age-bracket, marital status, occupation, towns, Local Government Area and State of origin of those shot and killed (i.e. over 1500 Igbo civilians from South-East and South-South) in 20 months not made public? (2) Is it not correct to say that the actual number of those shot and killed was falsified and mangled downwards and most likely to be higher especially when added to those who must have died of gunshot wounds and those most likely shot and killed or tortured or starved to death or permanently disappeared in military custodies? (3) How many of the shot and wounded civilian citizens taken alive from "crime scenes" are still held alive? (4) What are the names and locations of hospitals they are supposedly taken to (if any)?

(5) Is it not correct to say that those shot and wounded before being arrested or abducted alive have ended up being dumped and left to die in military custodies, if not "wasted"? (6) Is it not a high military crime (. i.e. war crime) under universal jurisdiction including in Nigeria for the shot and wounded combatants taken into custody; or combatants who surrendered and taken into custody; only for them to be killed extrajudicially? (7) With the above being absolutely correct in the eyes of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws inclusive of the International Rules of Engagement under UN System devoid of any permissible derogation by any Member-State; why then has the killing or torturing and starving to death in military custody of the shot and wounded or non-shot and wounded members of the civilian population risen to an apogee and unchecked in Nigeria or any part thereof particularly in Eastern Nigeria since August 30, 2015 till date?

(8) As a matter of fact, where are the dead bodies of those over 1500 Igbo civilians killed as publicly disclosed by the military? (9) Where were they killed? (10) When were they killed? (11) Why were they killed? (12) Who killed them? (13) How or under what circumstances were they killed? (14) Where are their dead bodies? (15) Were their families or legal guardians including lawyers informed of their instant killing or their arrest and location before being killed? (16) Was the number of those who are most likely to have been abducted alive or shot and wounded alive before being abducted and taken into military custody and killed included in the list of those killed? (17) How many of the over 1500 slain Igbo civilians were killed under situation of being unarmed and killed on the spot or arrested alive and later killed; or situation of being nonviolently armed and killed on the spot or arrested alive and later killed; or situation of being offensively/violently armed and killed on the spot or wounded under crossfire and arrested or abducted alive and later killed in custody? (18) How many of them were killed on the spot or arrested or abducted alive and later killed following indiscriminate military's late night or wee morning hours raids or invasions or aerial bombardments carried out mostly in defenseless rural Igbo communities or homes and civilian facilities? (19) How many of them were killed on the spot or arrested or abducted alive and later killed on account of rightly or wrongly suspicion of commission of military matter-criminal offenses (. i.e. terrorism, insurrection and insurgency)?

(20) Is it not correct to say that no fewer than 95% of them were killed on the spot or after being arrested or abducted; on the grounds of military barbarism and crude use of force including close-range shootings targeting and hitting their terminal body regions, custodial torture and lack of know-how in street criminal offenses management; as well as ethnoreligious profiling, false labeling, mass criminalization, class stigmatization, criminalization and recriminalization of non-military matter offenses and civil conducts and hearsay conclusions? (21) How many of the over 1500 slain Igbo civilians were killed in connection with non-military matter offenses statutorily and professionally allocated to the Nigeria Police Force such as 'street criminal offenses or crimes against persons and properties, other than military matter-offenses or 'crimes against the State' (. i.e. terrorism, insurgency and insurrection)? (22) When did the Nigerian military constitutionally and statutorily start handling under democratic setting since May 29, 1999, non-state crimes or criminal matters like intra or inter communal disputes, abduction-for-ransom, armed robbery, solid mineral theft, gunrunning or unlawful possession of firearms, cybercrimes, armed robbery, premeditated homicides, attempted homicides, manslaughter, etc.? (23) Is it not correct to say that under the above mentioned, officers and personnel of the Armed Forces in Eastern Nigeria have hidden under them and under the pretext of "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" to slaughter, abduct and permanently disappear thousands of defenseless civilians on yearly basis using ethnoreligious profiling, false labeling, mass criminalization, non-military matter criminal offense, civil conducts and civil wrongs' recriminalization and hearsay conclusions, etc.?

(24) Under the criminal laws of Nigeria including criminal offenses and law enforcement management laws or provisions, can officers and personnel of the Armed Forces lawfully arrest, detain, investigate and prosecute members of the Nigerian civilian population who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 and any other military law? (25) Is it not totally and unarguably correct to say that a coercive establishment (military) lacking power of investigation and prosecution in criminal offenses management concerning members of the civilian population also lack power to arrest and detain them?

(26) How many of the over 1500 slain Igbo civilians in the past 20 months were lawfully identified by the authorities of the Armed Forces as unarmed "members of IPOB" who must have been killed on the spot or killed after being taken into military custody? (27) Can the authorities of the Nigerian military or Armed Forces publicly provide or cite the 1999 Constitution-and-the International Law-compliant provision in any criminal or law enforcement law in Nigeria including the Armed Forces Act of 2004 authorizing officers and personnel of the Armed Forces involved in law enforcement operations in Nigeria or any part thereof to kill unarmed citizens irrespective of the gravity of criminal accusations leveled against them or any of them? (28) By killing over "1500 ESN/IPOB combatants" alone in 20 months in the East, how many violently and offensively armed "ESN/IPOB combatants" are there in the South-East and the South-South?

(29) Is it not correct to say that no fewer than 95% of the over 1500 slain defenseless Igbo civilians did not know anything about "being members or combatants of IPOB/ESN" or associated with "IPOB/ESN terrorism"? (30) Similarly, going by recent public speech of Nigeria's Chief of Army, Lt Gen Taoreed Lagbaja in Kano State; by "having over 120,000 Boko Haram fighters and their family members surrendered to Nigerian Army in the North-East in first six months of 2024"; how many Boko Haram fighters are there in the North-East and which law in Nigeria, known to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution classify family members of Boko Haram terrorists as "fighting or combatant terrorists"? (31) Where are those "over 120,000 surrendered Boko Haram fighters and their family members" including their location facilities? (32) What are the names and locations of the national and the international humanitarian agencies involved in their demobilization, disarmament, rehabilitation, "de-radicalization" and reintegration programs and who are those funding them? (33) Is it not correct to say that the above is nothing short of false gallantry and brazen falsehood under which the Nigerian Security Forces have hidden to massacre and disappear tens of thousands of defenseless citizens on the grounds of ethnicity and religion since August 2015 till date?

Twenty-Eight Unanswered Questions Trailing The Over 2500 "Arrested" Civilians: Jan 2023 -August 2024:

(1) Why were the full identities and biometrics including names, gender, photographs, age-bracket, marital status, occupation, towns, Local Government Area and State of origin of those arrested or abducted (. i.e. over 2500 Igbo civilians from South-East and South-South) in 20 months not included in the Defense Headquarters Reports? (2) Is it not correct to say that the actual number of those arrested or abducted was falsified and mangled downwards and most likely to be higher than publicly disclosed? (3) Where were the over 2000 Igbo defenseless civilians arrested or abducted? (4) When were they arrested or abducted? (5) Why were they arrested or abducted? (6) Who arrested or abducted them? (7) Under what circumstances were they arrested or abducted? (8) Are there truly available pieces of credibly indictable evidence gathered from the crime scenes linked to the arrested or abducted victims? (9) Is it not correct to say that they are victims of military crudity, unprofessionalism, inter-agency usurpation, abuse of power, hyper militarization and militarism, ethnoreligious profiling, false labeling, mass criminalization, class stigmatization and hearsay conclusions? (10) Where are the over 2500 arrested or abducted defenseless Igbo civilians being kept or detained and under what circumstances or custodial conditions? (11) If they are being held in military custodies, why are they being held under such custodies of the military that blatantly lacks powers under Nigeria's body of laws to detain, investigate and prosecute civilian citizens not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 and any other military law under democratic setting?

(12) Why have the military authorities dictatorially and abusively decided to operate like an outlaw in a state of nature by refusing to transfer their civilian captives to the facilities and authorities of the Nigeria Force with legal and professional competence under democratic setting to investigate and prosecute those militarily arrested or abducted civilian citizens or discharge and acquit them? (13) Were their families or legal guardians including lawyers informed of their arrest or abduction? (14) How many of the over 2500 arrested or abducted Igbo civilians were arrested or abducted under situation of being unarmed; or situation of being nonviolently armed; or situation of being offensively/violently armed and shot and wounded before being arrested or abducted alive?

(15) Where are they, in clinics or abandoned in secret military custodies to breed to death or “clean up at late night to decongest the custodies for new intakes”? (16) How many of the over 2500 arrested or abducted Igbo civilians were arrested or abducted alive following indiscriminate military night or wee morning hours raids or invasions or aerial military bombardments carried out mostly in defenseless rural Igbo communities or homes and civilian facilities? (17) How many of them were arrested or abducted on account of rightly or wrongly suspicion of commission of war-like criminal offenses statutorily linked to military matters (. i.e. terrorism, insurrection and insurgency)?

(18) How many of them were arrested or abducted in connection with non-military matters offenses statutorily and professionally allocated to the Nigeria Police Force such as 'street criminal offenses or crimes against persons and properties; other than military matter-offenses or high crimes against the State (. i.e. terrorism, insurgency and insurrection)? (19) When did the Nigerian military constitutionally and statutorily start handling non-military criminal matters like intra or inter communal disputes or conflicts, abduction-for-ransom, armed robbery, solid mineral theft, gunrunning and unlawful possession of firearms, cybercrimes, armed robbery, premeditated homicides, attempted homicides, manslaughter, etc.? (20) Is it not correct to say that under the above mentioned, officers and personnel of the Armed Forces in Eastern Nigeria have hidden under them to engage in indiscriminate and unchecked arrests and abductions as well as wanton looting and destruction of defenseless civilian properties particularly dwelling houses, market stores stocked with goods, worship centers or sanctuaries, etc.? (21) Is it also not correct to say that these conduct-atrocities are militarily perpetrated and perpetuated on daily basis in Igbo Land using ethnoreligious profiling, false labeling, mass criminalization, dabbling into, and non-military matters criminal offense and civil conduct recriminalization and hearsay conclusions?

(22) Under the criminal laws of Nigeria including criminal offenses and law enforcement management laws or provisions, can officers and personnel of the Armed Forces lawfully arrest, detain, investigate and prosecute members of the Nigerian civilian population who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 and any other military law? (23) Is it not totally and unarguably correct, to say that a coercive establishment lacking power of investigation and prosecution in criminal offenses management concerning members of the civilian population also lack power to arrest and detain them? (24) By arresting or abducting over “2500 ESN/IPOB combatants” alone in 20 months in the East and arresting or abducting over 5000 others since January 2021; how many “ESN/IPOB combatants” are there in the South-East and the South-South?

(25) As a matter of fact, where are those defenseless Igbo civilian citizens arrested or abducted in their thousands by the military particularly between January 2021 and December 2024 as well as those arrested or abducted and still held captive between August 30, 2015, and December 2020? (26) Are they still alive, if yes, under what circumstances of their custodial fundamental freedoms? (26) If no, what happened to them or what are their whereabouts? (27) Is it not correct to say that using the outcomes of the 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions; those thousands of Igbo defenseless civilians are being held in solitary confinement, if still alive; with likelihood of hundreds having been extrajudicially killed or permanently disappeared from military custodies? (28) Is it not correct to say that nothing less than 95% of the arrested or abducted defenseless Igbo civilians across the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South particularly since January 2021 till date did not know anything about “being members or combatants of IPOB/ESN” or associated with “IPOB/ESN terrorism”?

Interrogation Of The Military's Claims Of “Rescuing 1009 Hostages” In The East: Jan 2023-August 2024:

Seventeen Unanswered Questions: (1) Why were the full details including identities: names, gender, photographs, age-bracket, marital status, occupation, towns, Local Government Area and State of origin of the “1009 Rescued Hostages” in the South-East including “518” rescued from January to December 2023 and “149” rescued from January to June 2024; and “309” rescued in the South-South from January to December 2023, etc., not included or provided in the Defense Headquarters Reports? (2) What are the whereabouts of the “rescued 976 hostages”?

(3) Were they "rescued" and taken back to their captors or "rescued" and camped inside secret military barracks or facilities or kept where? (4) Where are verifiable photographs or video clips of their assemblage after having been "rescued"? (5) Who are their parents or legal guardians and where are they from? (6) Where were they kidnapped? (7) When were they kidnapped? (8) Why or under what circumstances were they kidnapped? (9) Who kidnapped them? (10) Under what circumstances were they "rescued"?

(11) How many of the "rescued hostages" died while being rescued or shot and wounded while being "rescued"? (12) Where are the biometrics of the "rescued hostages", mandatorily required of the rescuing authorities from the rescued hostages? (13) Where are the pieces of valuable information mandatorily required from the rescued hostages by the rescuing authorities? (14) How many of the "976 rescued" hostages were kidnapped by State-protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen in their security forces-protected dens in the East? (15) How many of the "976 hostages" were "rescued" from them? (16) How many were abducted and freed from the hands of the suspected Nigerian Government-linked or clandestinely sponsored Counterfeit Agitators and other National and Sub-National Government-linked violent criminal entities, militias and mercenaries? (17) How of the "1009 rescued hostages" were kidnapped and freed from the hands of sub-state actor and non-state actor violent criminal entities such as kidnappers-for-ransom, MACABAN Vigilantes, Jihadist Fulani Bandits and genocidal Ebubeagu militias in Imo, and Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra and Abia States?

INTERROGATION OF THE "KILLING OF 1500 IPOB/ESN COMBATANTS" AND "RECOVERY OF 130 AK-47S":

It must technically be pointed out that claims by the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces through the Defense Headquarters of "killing more than 1000 IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters" in Eastern Nigeria from beginning of January 2023 and end of August 2024; a period of 20 months, during which "about 130 AK-47s and other weapons and ammunitions were recovered"; are mired in controversies and dotted with glaring loopholes. Going by the universal principles of the use of force and proportionality of the same, the legitimacy of such claims is dead-on-arrival. The above claims by the Defense Headquarters have therefore clearly exposed indiscriminate and reckless abuse by officers and personnel of the Armed Forces in Eastern Nigeria, of the use of force and proportionality of the same. Loopholes arising from the above claims are also a serious breach of the Fundamental Human Rights provisions in the 1999 Constitution and amounted to nothing short of total disregard to the sanctity of human life safeguarded by Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution (Fundamental Human Right to Life) as well as its Subsection 4, also brazenly and glaringly abused and observed in breach.

Using the Literal Rule of Interpretation under which the provisions of the 1999 Constitution including its Chapter Four are framed and worded, killing of citizens during law enforcement operations or situation of lawful arrest; are strictly guided and regulated. In other words, it is only in a situation of exchange of gunfire between the arresting or law enforcement authorities and the offensively or violently armed members of a criminal entity or an armed opposition group that such killings are permitted; during which casualties arising from the same can come from either side under "battlefield or combat field casualties". Killings arising from such circumstances must also strictly be regulated and forensically subjected to the principles of use of force and proportionality of the same. The above is to say that "killing over 1500 IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters" during which only about "130 AK-47s were recovered" is glaringly devoid of "permissible defense" and a clear case of mass murder fueled by abuse or misuse of force and proportionality of the same. Such killings: likewise, extrajudicial killing or execution of nonviolently armed citizens dislodged or arrested alive and taken into custody from where they are killed or executed or disappeared, is also nothing short of glaring abuse of the principle of legitimate self-defense and heinous perpetration and perpetuation of crimes against humanity.

RECOVERY OF UNPROHIBITED FIREARMS BY NIGERIAN DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS DO NOT COUNT IN FIREARMS ACT:

It must be reminded that in Nigeria, members of the defenseless civilian population are empowered under the Firearms Act of 2004 to possess (under license) 'personal defense weapons' or "personal firearms", for purposes of self-defense, hunting, gaming and other lawful domestic uses. The above is safeguarded by Sections 286-293 of the Criminal Code Act of 2004 for Southern Nigeria and Sections 59-67 of the Penal Code Act of 2004 and guaranteed under Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution (Citizens' Right to Life). The statutory right to bear lawful personal firearms for lawful use in Nigeria is further strengthened by citizens' Fundamental Human Right to Personal Dignity guaranteed by Section 34 of the 1999 Constitution. The possession of such "unprohibited firearms" is mandatorily subject to renewable license issued by the Inspector General of Police. Categorized under "Unprohibited or Personal Firearms" are the likes of Pump Action Guns, Single Barreled Guns, Double Barreled Guns, Dane Guns, Locally Made Pistols and allied others. According to Section 4 of the Firearms Act of 2004, "No person shall have in his (or her) possession or under his control any firearm of one of the categories specified in Part II of the Schedule to this Act (in this Act referred to as a "Personal Firearm") except in accordance with a license granted in respect thereof by the Inspector-General of Police, which license shall be granted or refused in accordance with principles decided upon by the President".

OUT OF EVERY 100 CITIZENS KILLED BY THE MILITARY IN THE EAST, 90 WERE KILLED UNARMED AND EXTRAJUDICIALLY:

Totality of the above is to say that the decision of the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces to lump together or mix-up the "recovered prohibited firearms with unprohibited firearms" for purposes of justification of the mass killing of over 1500 members of the Igbo civilian population in Eastern Nigeria and mass arrest and detention in perpetuity of over 2500 others was brazenly done in bad faith to cover such conduct-atrocities, showcase false gallantry and intensify the Nigerian Military's false-flag operations in the South-East and the South-South, targeted at members of the defenseless Igbo population. It is therefore most likely correct to conclude that "killing over 1500 members of the Igbo civilian population in 20 months and recovery of 130 AK-47s" is a clear case or evidence of mass murder and a height of military conduct-atrocities and blatant abuse of the use of force and proportionality of the same. It is totally and glaringly disproportional to kill over 1500 defenseless members of Human Family during which "only 130 AK-47s or prohibited firearms were recovered". It further means that out of every 120 members of the defenseless civilian population killed with AK-47-originated live bullets, only ten AK-47s were recovered. In other words, nothing less than 90 civilians were killed unarmed and extrajudicially.

It is also glaringly evident that 90% of the Dane Guns, Single-Barreled Guns, Double-Barreled Guns and their likes, presently in possession of the Nigerian Security Forces particularly the Nigerian Armed Forces are those seized from defenseless Nigerians including hunters, village guards and local watchmen; seized during the Nigerian Military's recent years one-sided "arms mop-up operations" aimed at disarming communities and villages to make them vulnerable for widely suspected Government-protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and Jihadist Fulani Bandits regular attacks and wreaking of havocs targeted at forcing the Eastern rural dwellers into being radically Islamized. It must further be clarified that the recovered Pump Action Guns, a member of unprohibited firearms in Nigeria, are mostly those belonging to or seized from licensed and unlicensed owners, licensed and unlicensed importers and others procured for sub-state actor vigilantism and other non-substate actor collective or individual security arrangements. It is also unarguably evident that 98% of armed non-state actor violent criminal entities and armed opposition groups and their armed operatives are in possession of 'prohibited firearms and their ammunitions or 'illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in Nigeria'; with only a fraction using Pump Action Guns.

There is also zero percentage use of Dane Guns for violent criminal activities in the East. The above is more so when no law in Nigeria empowers military officers and personnel to open fire and kill licensed and unlicensed owners or licensed and unlicensed importers of Pump Action Guns and their ammunitions anywhere particularly at the point of their arrest.

Also important to point out is the fact that Pump Action Guns are speedily replacing Dane Guns and allied others as "personal defense and other lawful use firearms in Nigeria", particularly in the East, which further explains why most of the publicly displayed Dane Guns and their likes are those that have been stocked for ten years and above in military or other security armories; or disused or abandoned others in civilian hands or custodies. The above is also brought about by modernization, speeds and easiness in the weaponry functions and uses. All the above is more so when the military authorities in Nigeria have earned notoriety in recycling and costuming the stored and seized unprohibited firearms and ammunitions particularly by having them publicly displayed as "weapons or firearms and ammunitions recovered from IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters in the South-East". Part of the military's notoriety in this regard is the incurable habit of publicly displaying dead bodies of defenseless civilians by having their archived and costumed Dane Guns or Pump Action Guns or AK-47s and fake charms and other objects placed on top of their dead bodies for purposes of misinforming and misleading the public and showcasing false gallantry.

RECAPPING THE NIGERIAN DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS WEAPONS' RECOVERY CLAIMS:

It must be recalled that the Defense Headquarters had in its December 29, 2023, and June 27, 2024-Reports claimed that "in the course of dislodging IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters in different locations in South-East and South-South, gun-fire exchanges erupted during (over) 1000 IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters were killed and total of about 130 AK-47s as well as other weapons recovered". The above figure of "1000 (1500 Igbo civilian deaths covering Jan 2023-August 2024) slain IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters" had arisen from total of 1,206 slain persons announced by the military in the two Regions. The Defense Headquarters also claimed to have specifically "recovered 65 AK-47s" from January to December 2023 leading to "killing of 464 IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters" in the South-East and "about 40 AK-47s" in the South-South leading to "killing of 448 IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters and oil thieves". From January to June 2024, the Nigerian claimed it "recovered 28 AK-47s" and "killed 180 IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters" in the South-East and "recovered assorted weapons" and "killed 14 IPOB extremists" in the South-South.

The authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces through the Defense Headquarters also claimed to have recovered in 18 months (Jan 2023-June 2024) from the South-East "150 pump action guns, 53 Dane guns, 85 (locally made) pistols, 684 assorted arms, 1,082 rounds of 7.62mm special, 4,371 live cartridges, 5,825 assorted ammunition and 630 other equipment" and "321 assorted weapons in the South-South"; and further "recovered 44 pump action guns, 58 assorted arms, 3,456 rounds of 7.62mm special, 1,402 rounds of 7.62mm NATO, 801 live cartridges and 324 assorted ammunitions in the South-East and the South-South from January to June 2024". The Defense Headquarters further issued a statement on July 6, 2024, and claimed to have "killed 17 IPOB/ESN terrorists" in the South-East and arrested and held 42 others".

Also, according to the Nigerian Defense Headquarters statement dated August 15, 2024, titled: "Army destroys 84 illegal refinery sites in Niger Delta, denies stealing N943.16m crude", "In the South-East, the troops of Operation Udoka killed 9 IPOB/ESN terrorists, arrested 8 violent extremists, rescued 6 kidnapped hostages and recovered one pump action gun, 36 live cartridges, one vehicle, one Motorola radio and 3 mobile phones amongst others".

The strongly suspected military killings and abductions outside the law continued into the rest of August 2024 via the Defense Headquarters' statement of August 29, 2024, titled: "Military killed 1,166 terrorists, apprehended 1,096 suspects in August 2024" in which the military also claimed that "in the South-East, the troops conducted offensive operations against IPOB/ESN terror group and killed 34 terrorists, apprehended 82 suspects and rescued 26 kidnap hostages, recovered 10 assaulted arms, 45 rounds of 7.62 meter NATO ammunition, over 90 live cartridges, 69 assaulted ammunition and rescued 17 kidnap hostages" and added that "in the South-South, the troops spiked the nation's daily crude oil production to over 1.5 million barrels per day in August as the troops apprehended 71 persons involved in crude oil theft and impounded 5,047,150 liters of crude oil, 1,152,500 liters of AGO, 320 liters of DPK and 28,500 liters of PMS and recovered 194 assorted ammunition and destroyed 125 wooden boats as well as 458 illegal refining sites".

WHAT THE MILITARY DID NOT TELL THE PUBLIC ABOUT "RECOVERED" TENS OF MILLIONS OF LITERS OF CRUDE OIL WORTH BILLIONS:

It is recalled that the Nigerian Defense Headquarters had in its various statements, covering January 2023 to October 2024 claimed as follows: "in the South-South, the troops of Operation Delta Safe maintained momentum against the activities of crude oil thieves and apprehended 41 perpetrators of oil theft and rescued 158 kidnapped hostages. Troops also denied the oil theft of 9,225,149 liters of stolen crude oil, 2,874,915 liters of AGO, 29,900 liters of DPK and 31,380 liters of PMS. Furthermore, troops recovered 2,752 assorted weapons and destroyed 243 wooden boats, 2,752 assorted ammunitions and 543 illegal refining sites. Troops in the Niger Delta area discovered and destroyed 15 dugout pits, 17 boats, 62 drums, one receiver and 27 storage tanks, 32 cooking ovens, 2 outboard engines, 2 pumping machines, 2 vehicles, one tricycle, 3 motorcycles and 84 illegal refining sites.

"Oil thieves were denied 100.3 million liters of crude oil, 60.3 million liters of AGO, 3.4 million liters of DPK and 3.5 million liters of PMS (premium motor spirit). Additionally, troops of Operation Delta Safe recovered 321 assorted weapons and destroyed 1,016 wooden boats, 16 barges/vessels and destroyed 1,374 illegal refining sites". Troops also recovered 920,800 liters of stolen crude oil, 88,760 liters of illegally refined AGO and 7,500 liters of PMS. Towards this end, troops have discovered and deactivated 84 illegal refining sites as well as denied the siphoning of crude valued at the estimated sum of N943.16million (Nine Hundred and Forty-Three Million One Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Naira (N943,161,680.00). Troops denied the oil thieves of estimated sum of N501.08 million by discovering and destroying 49 illegal refining sites with 20 dugout pits, 32 boats and 32 storage tanks. Other items recovered include 58 cooking ovens, 17 vehicles, one pumping machine, 5 mobile phones as well as one million liters of stolen crude oil and 141,664 liters of illegally refined AGO".

The 6 Division of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, under Major Gen Jamal Abdulsalam as the GOC, also released the following statement on September 2, 2024: "Over 115 illegal refining sites, 66 boats destroyed, 22 suspects arrested, 27 stolen pipes, four pumping machines recovered, five illegal connections clamped and over 170,000 stolen products confiscated in addition to other ancillary items deactivated. In Bayelsa State, troops of the division conducted operations around the swampy Ibidi general area, Twon Brass, Agip Terminal in the Brass Local Government Area, where one illegal refining site, one generator, one pumping machine, one reservoir as well as one large wooden boat with stolen illegally refined products estimated to be over 90,000 liters was intercepted. Also, in the Southern Ijaw LGA, around Igbomotoru, two illegal refining sites, one wooden boat as well as over 2,000 products were confiscated. In the same LGA, around Opotoma and Isinugbene, troops deactivated two illegal refining sites and confiscated over 2,500 liters of stolen crude. "Similarly, at Oyenebene also in the Southern Ijaw LGA, four illegal refining sites, two wooden boats, and pumping machines were recovered, in addition to over 2,500 liters of stolen crude confiscated".

"At Okarki forest, one illegal artisanal refinery was destroyed with over 5,000 stolen crude oil confiscated. In Rivers State, troops of the division also dominated the operations environment, with footprints of operational successes. At the notorious Imo River, over 79 illegal refining sites, 59 wooden boats were destroyed, with over 40,000 stolen products recovered. These recoveries were in addition to other ancillary items deactivated at the sites. Additionally, troops acting on credible intelligence, on the activities of vandals at an installation owned by Webster Global ventures limited, close to Cawthorne Channel II, flow station in Degemay LGA, mobilized to the site and arrested four suspects. The suspects were arrested with a wooden boat laden with scraps and parts of the installation pipes suspected to have been stolen." In another operation at Ebocha oil field around Krakarma in Bille general area of Degema, troops observed an attempt to re-activate earlier destroyed site, where three illegal refining sites were destroyed and products estimated to be over 3,000 liters confiscated.

"Troops also closed on oil thieves at Odagwa in Etche LGA, where several illegal connection points were identified and clamped. This was in addition to two drum pots, one pumping machine hidden in the swamp, one oven, two receivers, and three dugout pits were deactivated with over 2,000 liters of stolen crude recovered. In Ondoni, Onne LGA, troops intercepted two suspects conveying 27 suspected vandalized Nigerian Agip Oil Company pipes in a Daina pickup truck with Reg No Ebm 126 XA RI. Also, at Krakarma and Bille general area in Degema, four illegal refining sites were destroyed, and six suspected oil thieves were arrested. The same feat was recorded at Ogbogolo forest in Ahoada East, where seven illegal refining sites were destroyed with over 2,000 liters of stolen products handled appropriately."

The Defense Headquarters also on October 10, 2024, released another report, covering its law enforcement operations for the month of September 2024 in the East and claimed as follows: "In addition to the elimination of 165 terrorists, troops also apprehended 238 suspected militants and rescued 188 kidnapped civilians. The ongoing efforts, Buba said, have brought significant progress in various conflict zones across the country. Further adding to the successes, 35 suspected oil thieves were arrested in the South-South region, and an estimated N688 million in stolen oil was recovered, signaling a blow to criminal networks profiting from illegal oil activities. Troops in the Niger Delta area discovered and destroyed 2 dugout pits, 58 boats and 39 storage tanks. Other items recovered include 13 cooking ovens, 35 drums, one motorcycle, one tricycle, 4-speed boats, 13 vehicles, and 65 illegal refining sites. Troops recovered 789,200 liters of stolen crude oil and 64,950 liters of illegally refined AGO and recovered 153 assorted weapons and 2,182 assorted ammunitions comprising 81 AK47 rifles, 23 fabricated rifles, 27 Dane guns, 13 pump action guns, five locally made pistols, three revolver pistols, 30 AK47 magazines, and one bayonet. Others are 1,561 rounds of 7.62mm special ammo, 278 rounds of 7.62mm NATO, 70 rounds of 50mm ammo, 72 rounds of 9mm ammo, 87 live cartridges, one baofeng radio, 19 vehicles, 21 motorcycles, 45 mobile phones and the sum of N64,100.00 only amongst other items"; during which dozens of civilians were also gunned down in the South-East by the military and hundreds arrested or abducted.

DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS FALSE LABELING IN THE EAST CONTINUED INTO THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024:

The Nigeria's Defense Headquarters' false labeling in Eastern Nigeria continued into the months of October and November 2024. Following the violent leadership of suspected Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' threat-call for "sit-at-home" in the South-East on Monday and Tuesday, Oct 21 and 22, 2024, the Nigerian Military through its Defense Headquarters reacted violently and saw it as an opportunity to launch attacks on South-East civilians and their properties leading to killing and abduction spree. The Defense Headquarters on Thursday, October 24, 2024, announced "neutralization (killing) of 24 IPOB/ESN terrorists" and apprehension of "IPOB/ESN Founding Fathers and Commanders and dozens of others in Abia, Enugu and Anambra Raid".

According to the Nigerian Military, through the Defense Headquarters statement, dated Friday, October 24, 2024, titled: "Nigerian Army Arrests IPOB/ESN Founding Leader, 3 Commanders, in Fresh Anambra, Abia, Enugu Raid... apprehended Pius Iguh, a founding leader of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), along with three other IPOB commanders and recovered a substantial cache of weapons, including 10 AK47 rifles and 15 pump-action guns"; the Defense Headquarters further controversially stated as follows: "In a significant operation in the Southeast, the Nigerian Army has apprehended a founding leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and three commanders of its armed wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN).

"Troops from Operation Udoka successfully captured Pius Iguh, identified as a founding father of the ESN in the Orsu area of Imo State, along with Emmanuel Onwugu, another IPOB commander arrested in Abia State. The operations also led to the capture of Ifeanyi Rock, a notorious cult leader, along with 10 of his commanders in Arochukwu, Abia State. "Troops at Forward Operation Base, Orsu, conducted a sting operation that culminated in the arrest of an IPOB terrorist leader. The efforts have resulted in neutralizing 24 terrorists, arresting 12 terrorists and rescuing one kidnapped hostage during these operations. "In addition to the arrests, the troops recovered an impressive cache of weapons, including 10 AK47 rifles, 15 pump-action guns, and 153 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition. The operations, conducted from October 15 to 22, 2024, saw the troops engaging with terrorist groups across several local government areas, culminating in a series of successful encounters". In the war against crude oil theft, he said the troops arrested 18 suspected perpetrators of crude oil theft. According to him, troops in the Niger Delta recovered over 1,122,710 liters of stolen crude oil and over 557,210 liters of illegally refined AGO better known as diesel. They also destroyed illegal refining sites in the Niger Delta region".

As if the above was not enough, an 89-Year-Old defunct Biafra Army (Nigeria-Biafra Civil War of 1967-1970), Pa Chief Moses Amaechi, was arrested since October 12, 2024, by the Imo State Police Command, Tiger Base, Shell Camp, Owerri and detained him since then despite his old age. Pa Chief Amaechi, apart from being ex Biafra/Nigerian soldier and a pensioner, is also said to be a nonviolent member of Chief Raph Uwazuruike's MASSOB-BIM and was arrested on his way to their annual meeting in Owerri, during which it is compulsory for their members to attend with their MASSOB leadership issued identity cards. He was arrested when a public bus conveying Amaechi from Cross River State to the national meeting in Owerri was stopped, and all the occupants in the vehicle ordered to be searched, during which a membership card personally signed by Chief Ralph Uwazuruike was found in Elder Amaechi's possession; leading to him being tagged "a member of IPOB/ESN and its sponsor, responsible for carrying out heinous attacks on police and military facilities".

MILITARY MUST ACCOUNT FOR TENS OF MILLIONS OF LITERS OF 'RECOVERED' CRUDE OIL AMOUNTING TO BILLIONS OF NAIRA:

The Nigerian military had in the above highlighted statements claimed that it had in the past 20 months or January 2023 to August 2024, "destroyed nothing less than 2,723 illegal crude oil refinery sites in the Niger Delta that produced tens of millions of liters of crude oil and allied products including 12.2 million liters of crude oil comprising 9,225,000 liters of crude oil and 3m liters of illegally refined crude oil products: AGO and PMS, recovered or destroyed". The military also specifically claimed to have recovered from crude oil thieves "920, 800 liters of crude oil, valued at about \$500,000 on average of 50 US Cents per liter, totaling N750million and 239,000 liters of illegally refined AGO and PMS". The recovered part of the 9.25million liters of crude oil amounting to 4.5m liters is also valued at about \$4.5m or N6.3billion. In all these, the authorities of the Nigerian Defense Headquarters did not publicly disclose the whereabouts of the "recovered" crude oil and allied refined products as well as accrued billions of naira involved. The Nigerian Military through Defense Headquarters had also between September and November 2024 announced, "recovery of additional tens of liters of stolen or illegally mined crude oil and other allied crude oil products and destruction of hundreds of illegal crude oil mining sites in Eastern Nigeria".

In all the above, the Defense Headquarters failed woefully to be specific including disclosure of the total number of existing "illegal crude oil mining and refining sites in Niger Delta and other oil producing parts of the South-East". For instance, if Nigerian Armed Forces could "destroy over 2,800 illegal oil refineries in Niger Delta and other oil producing areas in the past 20 months (Jan 2023-October 2024) excluding those most likely to have been "destroyed" by "Police Anti Bunkering Squads"; how many of such illegal crude oil mining and refining sites are there in the affected oil producing areas? How many of their sponsors or illegal crude oil mining and refining kingpins have been arrested by the Defense Headquarters in the past 24 months or between January 2023 and December 2024? Are those (in their hundreds) protecting one of the major Government political actors-linked illegal crude oil wells and refineries in interior part (Ogwu-Ikpere and Ogwu-Anaocha or Umuzu Communities) of Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State not drawn from members of the Nigerian Armed Forces? Who brought them there, if yes and who are they holding brief for? Where are the billions of naira in military custody accrued from the recovered hundreds of millions of liters or tens of millions of barrels of crude oil and their allied products? Is the Nigerian military telling the public the truth or being economical with the same regarding what is truly going on in the Niger Delta and other oil producing areas of the South-East and the South-South?

...A CASE OF SEPT 3, 2024 BURNING DOWN BY MILITARY OF OVER 20 CIVILIAN HOUSES IN AMIYI (OGBARU), ANAMBRA STATE:

Authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces particularly those of the Army and the Navy and their officers and personnel are presently aiding a major secret crude oil mining in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State, which has brought about youth restiveness and activities of armed youths. This is even as Anambra State still struggles to be enlisted as a lawful recipient of the crude oil revenues under 13% derivation funds. Crude oil in large quantity is presently found unofficially in about four communities in Ogbaru Local Government Area including Ogwu-Ikpere, Ogwu-Anaocha, Umu-uzu and Amiyi (Amaiyi) Communities. Some years back, without the involvement of the host Anambra State Government, leading members of a northern Muslim cabal linked to then Central Government of Nigeria headed by Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari were said to have stormed the area (Ogwu-Ikpere and Ogwu-Anaocha, later followed by Amaiyi) with heavy duty oil mining equipment and machineries and accompanied by a quarter battalion military officers and personnel. Members of the culpable cabal had also included collaborators from Anambra State and overseas (including USA which was possibly connected or unconnected with 2023-armed attack on US Consular officials in Ogbaru).

As if the above was not enough, the secret crude oil miners also went through the backdoor and paved untarred road link for secret thro and flow movements of their oil mining equipment and machineries and laid millions of dollars' worth of oil pipelines through Ogwu-Ikpere (Anambra) into Ndoni in Rivers State through Ogwu-Ikpere-Ndoni River and Oguta Lake-Ogbaru River links. The secretly paved untarred road link connects the area with Ihiala part of Anambra State and Imo State. Since then, the activities of the secret crude oil miners and their collaborators have brought untold hardship, Government neglect and unspeakable insecurity and other unsafe conditions particularly to the people of the area and their properties and Ogbaru Local Government Area in general. Apart from the military laying siege in the area including widespread reports of indiscriminate arrests and secret killings and aiding and abetting sundry violent criminal activities like kidnap-for-ransom; the youth restiveness and armed violence have also forced some prominent leaders of the area to flee their homes and relocate to places like Asaba in Delta State and Onitsha GRA, etc.

Several senior persons from the Ogbaru hinterland have also lost their lives to assassination and other acts of murder or violence. The Ogbaru Base of the Nigerian Navy has also made the matter worse by involvement of its officers and personnel in sundry criminal activities ranging from direct and indirect roadblock extortion to aiding and abetting violent activities and protection of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen presently quartered on 'River Niger Island' between Ogbaru in Anambra and Asaba in Delta State. The above was so unbearable that a high-ranking legislator from the area had to pay a private visit to the Author-in-Chief of this Special International Report, Emeka Umeagbalasi, about three years ago on 'Save-Our-Soul' visit.

The situation also recently got out of hand, forcing youths from the affected areas to embark on peaceful sometime in August 2024. On September 1, 2024, two personnel of the Ogbaru Naval Base were gunned down at Amaiyi Junction during violent confrontation with a group of armed men and two days later on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, hell was let loose on Amaiyi Community by officers and personnel of the Navy, the Army and the Nigeria Police Force ('Anambra Joint Security Taskforce', during which more than 20 defense civilian houses were burned down and their defenseless inhabitants sacked or abducted or killed.

One of the affected dwelling houses belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Osita (Ossy).... Mr. Osita is the Chief Security Officer of the Saint Gregory De Great Catholic Church Parish in Iyiowa Odekpe (Ogbaru) whose wife runs a successful restaurant (Iyawo Restaurant) at Odo-Rubber, along Atani-Ogwu-Ikpere Road in Ogbaru. There were also reports of abduction of several young persons and secret extrajudicial killing of scores of them under the pretext that "they are supplying information to unknown gunmen". A certain old woman, a local farmer, was said to be one of those abducted recently by the military with serious uncertainty of her still being alive. She was abducted and possibly disappeared by the Ogbaru Naval Base officers and personnel under a pretext that "she supplied information to unknown gunmen".

BAYELSA STATE GOV OPENLY ACCUSED MILITARY OF INVOLVEMENT IN OIL THEFT IN NIGER DELTA:

According to media reports, Gov. Douye Diri of Bayelsa State on Monday, October 21, 2024, expressed sadness over Nigerian Military's alleged role in Crude Oil Theft in Niger Delta. Bayelsa Gov had expressed sadness over what he described as alleged involvement of the military in crude oil theft in the Niger Delta. Governor Diri made this known when he received the Joint Monitoring Team of the Defense Headquarters of Oil and Gas at the Government House in Yenagoa the State's capital. The visit by the Joint Monitoring Team of the Defense Headquarters is part of the mandate of the Chief of Defense Staff General Christopher Musa at ensuring that crude oil theft is reduced to the barest minimum. Expressing his displeasure over the allegation of military involvement in oil theft, the Bayelsa State Governor Douye Diri who assured the team of his support said, "there will be no end to oil theft if security agencies are involved". On his part, the chairman of the Joint Monitoring Team, Major General Jamil Jimoh said he looks forward to partnering with the Bayelsa State Governor in reducing crude oil theft. The collaboration between the Bayelsa State Government and the military will no doubt go a long way, in curbing crude oil theft and all forms of criminality in the Bayelsa territorial waters.

OTHER CRITICAL QUESTIONS BEGGING FOR PROFESSIONAL AND LAWFUL ANSWERS:

It was observed that nothing was said about the location and custody of the "recovered prohibited weapons" and "tens of millions of barrels of stolen crude oil". Where are they being kept and who are those keeping them? How many illicit small arms and light weapons are in wrong hands in Eastern Nigeria and the rest of the country? Is it not correct to say that the Nigerian Armed Forces have imaginarily created "terrorism" across the country's six geopolitical zones going by their own reports and classifications; and by falsely mass-criminalizing all criminal offenses and social deviances and civil wrongs in Nigeria as "acts of terrorism" in the South-East, the South-South, the South-West, the North-West, the North-Central and the North-East? What have been the general impact of the Nigerian Military and other Security Forces operations on the citizenry and the country at large? Has the country's insecurity particularly in Eastern Nigeria not gravely degenerated and escalated under the watch of the military? In other words, how free, safe and secure are the citizens of Nigeria particularly those of the South-East, the South-South and the Old Middle-Belt Regions? Is it not correct to say that under the watch of the Nigerian military, approximately half or 3million civilian population of Benue State, with over 95% Christians, have been uprooted and displaced by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others, particularly since mid-2015?

Are the Armed Forces of Nigeria truly providing security and safety to defenseless Nigerian citizens or complicating and compounding them with false gallantry and grossly biased law enforcement operations? What is the fundamental essence of establishment and maintenance of the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies? To protect themselves or defenseless civilians and their properties and territories? Is it possible to protect "National Security" without first steadily ensuring security of lives and properties of the defenseless Nigerians? When has it become a tradition in modern military and other security forces establishments for "ten defenseless civilians to die instead of loss of a soldier or a law enforcement officer? How safe and secure under the watch of the Nigerian military are the indigenous citizens of the North-East particularly Taraba, Adamawa, Yobe and Borno? What about the defenseless citizens of Kebbi, Kaduna, Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina in the North-West and Niger, Kogi, Plateau, Nasarawa and FCT in the North-Central? Is it not correct to say that Nigerian Armed Forces are complicating and compounding the territorial and citizens' security and safety of Nigeria or any part thereof?

How come despite those claims by the military of "rescuing thousands of hostages", "killing and arresting thousands of terrorists and bandits" yearly, the situation has gotten out of hand? How many hostages have been freed and how many others are still under captivity in Nigeria particularly in Eastern Nigeria since October 2020? How many illegal mining sites are there in the Niger Delta and oil producing part of the South-East and how many have the military destroyed so far? How did the military come about the exact quantities of crude oil and its separated elements and their market values "destroyed or recovered" from crude oil thieves in the two Regions? How safe and secure are the territories and citizens of the South-East and the South-South and their properties under the watch of Nigerian Armed Forces and their law enforcement operations particularly since the October 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions? How many dwelling houses and allied properties belonging to defenseless Eastern Nigerian civilian population have been razed or destroyed by the military and other armed state actors since October 2020? Is it not correct to say that the Armed Forces have razed or destroyed the civilian properties six times more than those razed by armed criminal entities in the two Regions particularly since October 2020?

**MILITARY LIKELY TO HAVE EXTRAJUDICIALLY KILLED
1,800 DETAINED UNARMED CIVILIANS,
OTHERS IN ELEVEN MONTHS: JAN-NOV 2024:**

The Nigerian military is likely to have openly and secretly killed outside the law a total of no fewer than 1,800 members of the civilian population, labeled "oil thieves" and "IPOB/ESN/Biafra terrorists". Victims of the mass killings are drawn from those the military authorities openly admitted having been killed during its law enforcement operations in Eastern Nigeria from January to November 2024 and others arrested or abducted and taken into perpetual detention outside the knowledge of their families and lawyers from where they have been routinely shot and killed in such detention facilities without official accountability. The Nigerian military authorities have publicly admitted, through their reports or press releases between January and November 2024, killing no fewer than 600 members of the civilian population drawn from the South-East and the South-South. The slain victims are those controversially labeled "IPOB/ESN/Biafra terrorists" and "Niger Delta oil thieves". Contrarily, our findings strongly indicated that not less than 90% of the slain citizens have been shot and killed unarmed and the remaining 10% likely to have been shot and killed while violently or offensively armed as of the time of their death.

The Intersociety further found that 95% of those abducted or arrested by the military in Eastern Nigeria are most unlikely to return alive and healthy to their families; more so when 98% of their families are not aware or informed of their whereabouts from the point of arrest or abduction to locations where they are militarily held, not to talk of their present state of health in such military dungeons. Pieces of evidence abound showing that dozens of such perpetually detained unarmed citizens are killed weekly or bi-weekly in military custodies or detention facilities.

The Intersociety has also stumbled into several court processes containing written requests from military authorities for the transfer of all detained citizens labeled "IPOB/ESN/Biafra terror suspects" to designated military formations and facilities in faraway Northern Nigeria including "the WAWA Military Cantonment in Niger State". Such requests are found to have been specifically made by the Nigerian Army to Police and DSS authorities and were duly complied with; thereby indicating clearly that those arrested or abducted by the military are never transferred to the police.

The estimated figure of 1,800 military killings outside the law in Eastern Nigeria from January to November 2024 was arrived at going by non-disclosure and non-release of those arrested or abducted and held since January 2024 or earlier, who are dying in their large numbers in such military facilities. The above is to the extent that in the past eleven months of 2024 alone or January to November 2024, the military has arrested or abducted over 1,500 civilians from the East and thrown them into perpetual detention where they are dying and being killed in dozens every week or bi-weekly. It is also important to disclose, from our findings, that greater number of the slain victims (about 70%) are victims of secret killings including those arrested or abducted alive or shot and wounded before being arrested or abducted alive and taken into custody where they are left to die or "wasted" following their untreated gunshot wounds; or those arrested or abducted unhurt and alive and deliberately tortured or shot and killed in custody and have their dead body persons disappeared and criminally interred. Others are those left malnourished or starved to death in such perpetual military detention facilities. Victims of open killings constituted the remaining 30%.

CONTINUED KILLING OF UNARMED EASTERNERS BY THE MILITARY USING "IPOB" AS A PRETEXT:

Troops of the Joint Task Force South-East Operation UDO KA have continued to intensify its operations in the South-East region, as they neutralize Suspected members of the proscribed Indigenous people of Biafra IPOB and Easter Security Network ESN Members and discovered IED Making Factory along the Imo River in Isiala-Ngwa North of Abia State. The Assistant Director, Army public Relations, 82 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Jonah Eromosele Unuakhalu disclosed this in a statement made available to newsmen Monday in Enugu on behalf of the task force. He said the clearance operation took place in the early hours of today 25, Monday November 2024.

Below is recent military statement, dated Monday, November 25, 2024: "During the operations, troops encountered the terrorist's group who fled in disarray and abandoned their Camp due to superior fire power. "Troops exploited the camp and recovered a Toyota Hilux, three motorcycles, a Dane gun, one sword, three pairs of Nigeria Police camouflage uniform, one fragmental jacket, and radio chargers. Other items include two six kilograms of gas cylinders, three registered plate numbers, three ATM cards, driver's license and food stuff, while the camp was destroyed immediately. In the same vein, yesterday Sunday 24 November 2024, troops neutralized four members of the Indigenous People of Biafra and its armed affiliate the Eastern Security Network (IPOB/ESN) during a clearance operation in Umudi and Imuezeosuru Forest in Umuaku of Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State. Troops acting on credible information carried out the operations in the suspected area and neutralized (killed) 4 members of IPOB/ESN while others escaped with gunshot wounds. Items recovered from the camp include one motorcycle, sixteen live cartridges, twenty-nine rounds of 5.7mm ammunition with the magazine, one fragmental jacket, two metal plates for fragmental jackets, two long range shells, and two Baofeng radios. Others are one jack knife, two machetes, two pairs of Nigeria Police uniforms, Police identity cards, torch light, shovel, ATM cards, three mobile phones and two notebooks containing their minute of meeting. The camp was subsequently razed down. On the same day, troops also conducted clearance operations within Ekeututu, Ihiteukwa, Edenta, Awo-Idemili and Isseke communities in Orsumoghu Local Government Area of Imo State and Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State respectively. During the operation, troops came across multiple roadblocks and obstacles emplaced by the irredentists to deter troops' movement. However, the gallant troops were able to clear the route of the obstacles and Improvised Explosive Devices that were destroyed immediately".

"The troops also came in contact and neutralized two members of the irredentist group while two female suspects were arrested. An IED production factory was also discovered with different IED making equipment. The IED Items recovered are three filing machines, one chainsaw, thirteen IED tubes and one sack containing gunpowder. Other items include, one IPOB patrol Hilux, one Toyota 4Runner Jeep belonging to the Eze of Awo-Idemili, two generator sets, one PKT chain with 10 rounds of ammunition and one locally made pistol. Similarly, on the 21 November 2024, troops conducted a clearance operation along Ekeututu, Ihtenansa, Amaruru, Assah Ubiriele, Ihioma, Umuhu-Ikabia, Amanachi, Amanukwo and Awo-Idemili communities in Orsu Local Government Area of Imo State. During the operations, troops recovered ten gas cylinders used for making IEDs and four motorcycles with 2 IPOB/ESN members neutralized. Also, on 23 November 2024, troops deployed at Nkwerre Local Government Area of Imo State arrested one suspected member of the irredentist's group one Mr. Nwosu Okwudiri aged 58 years at Nkworji of the same Local Government Area. Items recovered during the arrest include one Pump action rifle, one Dane gun, seven live cartridges, one empty case and Biafra currencies".

NIGERIA POLICE LIKELY TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATELY ARRESTED OVER 40,000 CITIZENS FROM JAN-DEC 2024

No fewer than 40,000 civilian citizens of Nigeria are likely to have been arrested by the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force from January to December 2024 alone. The arrests had cut across the country's six geopolitical regions of South-East, South-South, South-West, North-West, North-East and North-Central and the FCT (Abuja); out of which greater number of the arrestees came from the South-East, followed by the South-South. The higher number of the arrested civilian citizens in one year by Nigeria Police Force, alone, is clear evidence of incessant and indiscriminate arrest of defenseless and unarmed Nigerian citizens using guesswork accusations, hearsay conclusions, false labeling, mass and class criminalization and stigmatization, ethno-religious profiling, and selective law enforcement operations, reckless and indiscriminate use of phantom accusations and prosecutorial vindictiveness; and abandonment of due process and skillfully developed and digitalized detective, preventive, investigative and intelligence policing or "Man-Mental-Machine Policing".

It must further be noted that totality of the above has given rise to unchecked, untamed and indiscriminate abductions including unlawful and hours of the blue law invasions and arrests; enforced disappearances including blindfolding or face-bagging victim-citizens from their point of arrest or after having been arrested and taken into custody from where they are secretly executed and their dead body persons disappeared and criminally interred; deadly use of force including indiscriminate shooting of unarmed citizens at close range and at their terminal body regions; extrajudicial killings resulting from open shootings and killings or killings arising from detention facilities; torture including bodily lacerations and body dismemberment; abandonment of the shot and wounded citizens to bleed to death or die from untreated gunshot injuries or wounds as well as heinous criminal practice of "congestion of police detention facilities" by way of late night custodial executions and disappearance of dead body persons of the slain pre-arrested and post-arrested detained unarmed citizens and criminal interment of their dead body persons to "clear way for new intakes".

NIGERIA POLICE FORCE SAYS IT "ARRESTED 10,852 PERSONS IN 105 DAYS AND RESCUED 369 KIDNAPPED VICTIMS":

Nigeria's Inspector General of Police, Kayode Agbetokun on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, disclosed in a meeting with senior police officers across the country and in clear display of false gallantry and self-praise that "Police arrested 10,852 suspects in three and half months or past 105 days (July 1-October 15, 2024) and rescued 369 kidnapped victims". The arrests, Egbetokun said, were carried out "through tactical operations, intelligence-led policing, and community engagement strategies". The IGP revealed this at the quarter conference with the strategic managers of the Nigeria Police Force.

He said the Nigeria Police Force has successfully rescued 369 kidnapped victims, recovered 416 firearms of various makes, retrieved 178 vehicles, and seized 3,672 rounds of ammunition of different calibers and added that "between July 2024 and August 22, 2024, the Enugu State Police Command made substantial progress in common crime, resulting in the arrest of 133 suspects and the rescue of 19 kidnapped or abducted victims". Many of the arrested suspects have been prosecuted (arraigned in before Enugu State Magistrate Court) and are currently held in custodial centers. The successful operation led to the recovery of 15 AK-47 rifles, 25 pump-action guns, and 35 firearms of various calibers and a total of 710 live ammunition of different calibers and 187 live cartridges were seized during this period.

...A Clear Case Of Indiscriminate Arrests, False Labeling And False Gallantry:

With IGP's disclosure, no fewer than 40,000 civilian citizens of Nigeria must have been arrested across the country by the Police alone from January to December 2024; on quarterly average of over 10,000 arrest of civilian citizens and it is most likely that about 80% of the arrested citizens must have been arrested under questionable or controversial circumstances including under phantom allegations or trump-up charges of "being involved in IPOB/ESN/Biafran Terrorism". Clear cases in point abound including the disclosure by IGP Kayode Agbetokun of arrest of "133 suspects and rescue of 19 kidnapped victims in Enugu State between July and August 2024". The Enugu State Police Command had on August 22, 2024, paraded "123 suspected armed robbers, kidnappers and other criminals" under "IPOB/ESN Terrorism" and "rescued 19 kidnapped victims" and "recovered 15 AK-47s and assault rifles and 25 Pump Action Guns and others including Dane Guns and ammunitions", etc. More arrests were made between August 23 and end of September 2024, totaling 133 arrestees between July and September 2024.

The 133 civilian citizens who were controversially categorized by the Enugu State Police Command as "parties to IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" included six innocent members of the Enugu State Neighborhood Watch (Community Vigilante Group) belonging to Ajame Akpawfu Autonomous Community in the Nkanu East Local Government Area of the State. The Community's Vigilante Group was also labeled "an affiliate of IPOB Terrorist Group". Five of the six innocent victims were identified as Sunday Nwobodo, Onyeka Nnaji, Nnamdi Gabriel, Nweze Igweshi and Nwabunkeonye. The sixth victim was returned to the Enugu State Police Command, having been deadly shot and wounded in his legs and the wounds left untreated to decay and stink. The most shocking of it was that the five innocent victims named above were deadly shot in their legs and wounded, after having been mercilessly tortured in the Octopus Tactical Department of the State Police Command's Department of Criminal Investigations (SCID) where they spent three weeks amidst severe torture and other inhuman and degrading treatments. The severe torture so deadly meted included being hanged with ropes four feet above the floor inside torture chambers of the Police Tactical Squad and left to faint and revived, after which the torture continued. All the above were meted out on the victims in a bid to force them into confessing to violent crimes including involvement in premeditated homicide and being members of "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorist Group", etc.

As if the above was not enough, the Enugu State Police Command on September 19, 2024, arraigned them before an Enugu Magistrate Court on trump-up charges bordering on "membership of IPOB/ESN terrorist group, terrorism, murder and armed robbery" from where they were remanded in the Enugu State Correctional Center or Prisons with intent to have them rot in endless awaiting trial custody. According to the Punch Newspaper's report of September 24, 2024, quoting the Traditional Ruler of Ajame Akpawfu Autonomous Community in the Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State, Igwe Christopher Nnamani who also addressed the media on the incident, there was a land dispute between two individuals in the community during which one of them threatened the other with death, leading to the death of the deceased who first issued the threat; on account of which the Police Octopus Tactical Team from the Enugu State CID stormed the Community with a list of wanted persons. Several meetings were held between the police team and leaders of the Community during which in the list of wanted persons presented by the police investigation team, none of the six innocent vigilantes was among them.

The Community also offered maximum cooperation with the Enugu State Police Command and later organized a search party which paid off with identification of one of the culprits who confessed before the Community's leaders of being one of the killers and was forced to report himself to the Police. Surprisingly, the Enugu State police authorities played foul by releasing the prime suspect and holding the six innocent vigilantes and on further enquiries, it was suspected that a certain family with long history of police enlistment and membership and connections was behind the police foul play and manipulation of the matter. The Community's Traditional Ruler further disclosed that because of gunshot wounds sustained in the hands of the detaining police authorities while in custody, the Enugu State Correctional Center (Prisons) refused to take them into custody and asked the police to go and treat them first. The Inspector General of the Police, Kayode Agbetokun, was also duly informed of the manifest biasness of the Enugu State Police Command, yet he went ahead and cited such controversial arrests and false labeling as one of "the successes recorded by the Nigeria Police Force in the months gone by". The Intersociety also spoke with the respected Traditional Ruler on phone on Thursday, October 17, 2024, and he corroborated the Punch Newspaper's publication of September 24, 2024 and added that the victims were on September 19, 2024, arraigned at an Enugu State Magistrate Court on trump-up charges bordering on "the offenses of membership of the IPOB/ESN Terror Group, terrorism, murder, kidnapping and armed robbery", from where they were remanded in the Enugu State Correctional Center (Prisons), with intent to have them rot in endless awaiting trial custody.

From the foregoing, therefore, it is most likely that 80% of the 133 arrested and paraded civilian citizens, controversially labeled "suspected IPOB/ESN members involved in murder, armed robbery and kidnapping" are innocent and victims of police false labeling, class and mass criminalization and stigmatization and hearsay conclusions. In other words, it is most likely that about 80% of them, if not more, have nothing to do with such strongly suspected phantom or spurious allegations, accusations or charges. They are also most likely to be members of lawful citizens going about their businesses or resting from work or at their places of relaxation at the point of their arrest. There are also likely to be dozens of others killed extrajudicially who were not mentioned or included in the police public statements. Claims by the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters of "rescuing 369 kidnapped victims between July and October 2024" are also highly questionable going by the emerging facts and realities on the ground, particularly in the South-East and the South-South, where this Special International Report found that "estimated N550billion was violently seized by kidnappers from estimated 55,000 defenseless Easterners including N50billion arising from criminal sale of about 10,000 millennium or exotic cars seized from the kidnapped victims".

It is not only that police and other members of the security forces hardly come to the rescue of kidnapped victims in the country particularly in the East but also ransoms are paid with utter alacrity in situations of helplessness. Some authorities of the Nigeria Police Force have also been found to be occasionally "advising" relatives of the kidnapped victims to pay ransoms; likewise, some top Government functionaries who sometimes pay such ransoms to free victims working for them or those related to them.

It is most likely correct to conclude that the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force are taking advantage of post kidnap saga lodgment of reports at the police stations or divisions or state or area commands to include them as "part of kidnapped victims rescued from kidnappers".

Such post kidnap saga reports at police stations are mandatorily required to ward off incrimination and criminal use of kidnap crime proceeds and items for perpetration of further crimes including mobile phones, cars, sim cards, ATM cards, identity cards, etc. It is therefore safe to conclude that "out of every ten successful kidnap incidents and victims, eight paid ransoms to be freed and spared alive while two others either got killed or freed on health or "humanitarian grounds"; or freed by security forces including police and military, in most cases, after ransom payments must have been made or in few cases where no ransoms were paid. It is also possible that arms said to have been "recovered from the hoodlums" particularly "Pump Action and Dane Guns" are those violently seized and criminalized from the hands of members of enemy community vigilante groups and other possessors of lawful firearms (such as Pump Action and Dane Guns).

OCT 20, 2024-MASS KILLING OF SIXTEEN DEFENSELESS YOUTHS AT NIBO (ANAMBRA) AND POLICE HASTY AND HEARSAY CONCLUSIONS:

Another clear case in point was the Sunday, October 20, 2024, mass killing of no fewer than sixteen defenseless young Igbo citizens in two locations at Nibo Community in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. The sixteen defenseless youths were shot and killed by yet-to-be identified gunmen, numbering about ten, who stormed the first scene at the Community's Oye-Nwochichi, close to Anambra Governor's Lodge and opened fire at a group of defenseless citizens, killing eight and moved to another location at the Community's Eke Market Square where they also opened fire, killing the rest. The mass killings have occurred during the Community's annual "Iri-Ji" Festival, known as "Oli Onwa Asaa". The most shocking of it all was that the two scenes of the killings are located at the backyard of the Anambra State Governor's Lodge at Amawbia where the State Police Command Headquarters, the State CID Headquarters, the State Directorate of DSS and the State's Prisons or Correctional Center are also situated.

Information also has it that the armed attackers stormed the two spots in black Lexus SUV car and a Sienna Vehicle with about ten armed persons on board and operated and escaped uncaught and untracked. As widely expected, the Anambra State Police Command, without any form of detailed and conclusive investigation, hurriedly and hastily blamed the mass killings on "cult-related killings", an obvious attempt to technically legitimize the killings and diminish their severity; or a sort of baptizing police act of murder as "accidental discharge". Contradictorily, on Monday, October 21, 2024, the State Commissioner of Police, CP Nnaghe Obono Itam visited the Nibo Community and accused its indigenes of "obstructing investigations into the killings".

The CP had during his "medicine-after-death" visit "expressed frustration over the swift burial of the victims by their relatives" which, according to him "has impeded the investigation into the violent act and identification of those responsible". The Government of Anambra State, on its part, also toed the same line by blaming the killings on "cult clashes/killings". In a separate shooting spree that occurred on Thursday, October 24, 2024, no fewer than seven persons were shot dead at Ifite-Awka, near the school-gate of Nnamdi Azikiwe University by another set of yet-to-be-identified gunmen during which several persons were hit and wounded by bullets in their several corners. The above brought total number of citizens lost in Awka and environs in four days to no fewer than 25.

It is therefore safe to conclude that totality of the above amounts to hasty and hearsay conclusions and transfer of criminal liability-under which hundreds of thousands of innocent and defenseless Igbo citizens have indiscriminately been arrested or abducted across the East including Anambra State over the years and tens of thousands shot and killed in the open or abducted and permanently disappeared from military and police detention facilities using phantom or trump-up charges the slain, the abducted and perpetually incarcerated and the permanently disappeared victims knew nothing about.

The killing of sixteen defenseless and unarmed youths at backyard of the Anambra State Seat of Power and Security and Intelligence Establishments by about 10-Man armed gang without being tracked and caught, further exposes emptiness of State actor security and intelligence providers in the State and presents a glaring picture of continued deterioration of security and other safe conditions across the State. It is also feared that the State Police CP's accusation leveled against defenseless and mourning indigenes of Nibo Community is likely a license to his subordinates and members of other security forces to clamp down on innocent indigenes of the Community, using "ongoing investigations" as a pretext or cover.

The "successful" execution of the killings further indicates that the Anambra Seat of Power and its nearby security, intelligence and correctional headquarters are not safe; to the extent that not even security cameras and related tracking devices in use, if any, have been activated till today to track down the perpetrators. Ordinarily such security cameras and related tracking devices, if in place and adequately manned, could have tracked the 4-Man armed gang more so when the two scenes of the mass killings are close to Anambra Governor's Lodge and the State Headquarters of Police Command, DSS, State CID and Awka Prisons or Correctional Center: or a stone's throw from them.

It is the technical and informed position of the Intersociety that the mass killings are most likely not "cult-related" and going by patterns and trends of recent others, they bear the handiwork of pro-establishment elements, recruited and armed by State actors to engage in subversive activities including "false-flag operations"-with intent to blaming same on designated "enemy non-State actors" such as the mainstream Pro Biafra Agitators. Relatedly, such random and aimless killings also evidently bear the atrocity trademarks of Government-linked armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators; with intent to instill panics and fears on defenseless civilian citizens especially during issuance of "threat-calls" for sit-at-home-a clear case in point being that of Tuesday and Wednesday, October 22 and 23, 2024.

It further saddens our heart that Police Commands and Military Formations across the South-East have also embarked on indiscriminate arrests and perpetual detention of unarmed and defenseless citizens using "IPOB/ESN Terrorism" as a pretext. Such arbitrary arrests and indefinite or perpetual detentions and associated extrajudicial killings or summary executions or unchecked extortions are heightened during threat-calls for "sit-at-home" issued by Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators including recent threat-call for "sit-at-home" on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct 22 and 23, 2024 under which the Imo State Police Command and other State Police Commands in Anambra, Abia, Enugu and Ebonyi have hidden under and used as an opportunity to indiscriminately and recklessly arrest, falsely label and extrajudicially kill or summarily execute unarmed and defenseless Igbo citizens in their tens of thousands as "IPOB/ESN hoodlums". One of such was the announcement by the Imo State Police Command of "smashing IPOB/ESN terrorists' camp and detaining 29 suspects at Nnempi in Oru West Local Government Area of the State during which the State Police Command claimed to have "recovered three AK-47s". The Command also cited Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' Oct 22 and 23 2024 "sit-at-home threat-call" as ground upon which the attack was carried out. In the end, findings clearly indicated that it is not only that the **Imo** State Police Command's announcement was cooked up as an excuse to indiscriminately arrest, detain and harm innocent and defenseless citizens of the State using "IPOB/ESN Terrorism" as a pretext but also such has recklessly and indiscriminately been used to kill and permanently disappear thousands of unarmed, defenseless and falsely labeled citizens across the State particularly since January 2021 till date.

MILITARY UNLAWFULLY KILLED 40 IN SOUTH-EAST IN THIRD WEEK OF OCT 2024 (OCT 15-22) FOLLOWING "SIT-AT-HOME" THREAT CALLS:

The Nigerian Armed Forces (Military) had in third week of October 2024 (Oct 15-22), opened fire and killed no fewer than 40 civilians in different parts of the South-East and labeled them "IPOB/ESN Founding Fathers, Commanders and their combatant-members"; during which dozens were also abducted or arrested and taken to secret locations only known to Nigerian Army and other branches of the Armed Forces.

The Intersociety had in this Special International Report found that the military killings in the South-East to be habitually heightening during threat-calls for "Sit-At-Home" by strongly suspected Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators or during attacks on military and police personnel and their facilities by armed non-State actors. It was further found that such threat-calls for "sit-at-home" have severally led to opening fire with automatic weapons by such strongly suspected Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators and others drawn from security forces, detailed for "false flag operations" targeted at unarmed and defenseless Easterners.

Such heightening military killings and allied others perpetrated by the strongly suspected Government-linked armed non-State entities are further perpetrated with impunity using false labeling and mass criminalization and class stigmatization, using: "recovery of AK-47s, Pump Actions and other assorted weapons from IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorists" as a cover; during which the slain, the arrested, the abducted and the disappeared victims are tagged or falsely labeled "Founding Fathers and Commanders of IPOB/ESN and their combatants". Going by our several findings, most or not less than 90% of those arrested or abducted and perpetually held, or those openly shot and killed, or those arrested or abducted alive and taken into detention from where they are executed have been found to be innocent, unarmed and defenseless; and in accordance with Section 36 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution.

The whereabouts of those abducted or arrested and dead body persons of those killed have also ended up unlocated and untraced and outside the knowledge of their family members till date; likewise, the whereabouts of “assorted weapons recovered (if any)”.

Monthly claims by Nigerian Military and Police of “recovering tens of thousands of assorted weapons and ammunitions across the country particularly in the East (“from IPOB/ESN terrorists and oil thieves”) were recently rubbished and delt a heavy blow by destruction of over 2,400 recovered weapons by the National Center for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) under the Office of the National Security Adviser, which on Thursday, October 17, 2024 carried out destruction of “over 2,400 illicit weapons, comprising a mixture of unserviceable, decommissioned and recovered arms” from across Nigeria. Found commonly in use by drafted military and police authorities in the East since August 2015 till date is reckless and indiscriminate impersonation of victims of their conduct atrocities including linking them to those already in the wanted list or use of fabricated names to rope them in or frame them up; to justify their killing or arrest or abduction or permanent disappearance.

Strong suspicions abound regarding announcement and display by military and police authorities, of “assorted weapons recovered” including “AK-47s and Pump Action Guns and their ammunitions”. There are strong suspicions that such weapons are being recycled or reassembled or re-displayed or re-announced before the media or public; likewise, matters involving “recovery of stolen tens of millions of crude oil and destruction of illegal crude oil mining sites in Niger Delta”. For instance, a name declared wanted five years ago by military or police authorities is found to be recklessly and indiscriminately used to raid several uninvolved civil quarters including communities or houses or other civilian facilities; or falsely label those killed or abducted or disappeared or perpetually held in detention facilities. There is also recycling and re-issuance of “military and police reactive public statements” whereby statements issued some years or several months ago and stored in computer storage facilities are dusted up and re-issued whenever military and police public duties are publicly questioned or interrogated by advocacy groups or activist citizens. Such strongly suspected operational misconducts have promoted a culture of impunity and incorrigibility within the country’s security establishments and emboldened their officers and personnel and high commands and facilitated “repeat-offenses and atrocity-crimes”.

It is hereby recalled that violent leadership of strongly suspected Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators had in the third week of October 2024, issued a threat-call for “sit-at-home” and unlawfully ordered the same to be observed on Monday and Tuesday, Oct 21 and 22, 2024. The Nigerian Military reacted to the threat-call and as usual, saw it as an opportunity to launch attacks on unarmed South-East civilians and their properties. As sadly expected, the Defense Headquarters on Thursday, October 24, 2024, announced “neutralization (killing) of 24 IPOB/ESN terrorists” and apprehension of “IPOB/ESN Founding Fathers and Commanders and dozens of others in Abia, Enugu and Anambra Raid”.

According to the Military, through the Defense Headquarters statement, dated Friday, October 24, 2024, titled: “Nigerian Army Arrests IPOB/ESN Founding Leader, 3 Commanders, in Fresh Anambra, Abia, Enugu Raid... apprehended Pius Iguh, a founding leader of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), along with three other IPOB commanders and recovered a substantial cache of weapons, including 10 AK47 rifles and 15 pump-action guns”; the Defense Headquarters further stated as follows:

“In a significant operation in the Southeast, the Nigerian Army has apprehended a founding leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and three commanders of its armed wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN). Troops from Operation Udoka successfully captured Pius Iguh, identified as a founding father of the ESN in the Orsu area of Imo State, along with Emmanuel Onwugu, another IPOB commander arrested in Abia State. The operations also led to the capture of Ifeanyi Rock, a notorious cult leader, along with 10 of his commanders in Arochukwu, Abia State. “Troops at Forward Operation Base, Orsu, conducted a sting operation that culminated in the arrest of an IPOB terrorist leader. The efforts have resulted in neutralizing 24 terrorists, arresting 12 terrorists and rescuing one kidnapped hostage during these operations.”

"In addition to the arrests, the troops recovered an impressive cache of weapons, including 10 AK47 rifles, 15 pump-action guns, and 153 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition. The operations, conducted from October 15 to 22, 2024, saw the troops engaging with terrorist groups across several local government areas, culminating in a series of successful encounters". In the war against crude oil theft, he said the troops arrested 18 suspected perpetrators of crude oil theft. According to him, troops in the Niger Delta recovered over 1,122,710 liters of stolen crude oil and over 557,210 liters of illegally refined AGO better known as diesel. They also destroyed illegal refining sites in the Niger Delta region". Going by patterns and trends of the Nigerian Military Siege and Terror interrogated and technically questioned by the Intersociety, it is most likely that no fewer than 40 unarmed and defenseless Igbo Easterners were shot and killed by the military in the open or in secret and scores of others injured in ten days or October 15 to October 25, 2024, using "IPOB/ESN Sit-at-Home Order" as a cover or pretext.

As if the above was not enough, an 89-Year-Old defunct Biafra Army (Nigeria-Biafra Civil War of 1967-1970), Pa Chief Moses Amaechi, was arrested since October 12, 2024, by the Imo State Police Command, Tiger Base, Shell Camp, Owerri and detained him since then despite his old age. Pa Chief Amaechi, apart from being ex Biafra/Nigerian soldier and a pensioner, is also said to be a nonviolent member of Chief Raph Uwazuruike's MASSOB-BIM and was arrested on his way to their annual meeting in Owerri, during which it is compulsory for their members to attend with their MASSOB leadership issued identity cards. He was arrested when a public bus conveying Amaechi from Cross River State to the national meeting in Owerri was stopped, and all the occupants in the vehicle ordered to be searched, during which a membership card personally signed by Chief Ralph Uwazuruike was found in Elder Amaechi's possession; leading to him being tagged "a member of IPOB/ESN and its sponsor, responsible for carrying out heinous attacks on police and military facilities".

The above therefore clearly represents unchecked and unaddressed cases of indiscriminate arrests and abductions and extrajudicial killing, custodial execution or unlawful killing by security forces in the South-East and the South-South, of defenseless, innocent and unarmed Easterners in their tens of thousands in the past nine years and four months (August 30, 2015 to December 31, 2024) and mindless disappearance of the dead body persons of those shot and killed in the open and others abducted alive and shot and killed in military and police detention facilities, using "IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism" as a pretext.

We Are Sticklers For Due Process And Rule Of Law:

It must be clearly and strongly restated that killing of (over) "1000 IPOB combatants (unarmed civilians)" is a clear case of mass murder and a height of military conduct-atrocities. Under the present circumstances in Eastern Nigeria, "there are no IPOB combatants". That is also to say that 'the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) as an organization is comprised of "IPOB as a mother body, peopled with unarmed membership and its security outfit, Eastern Security Network (ESN), peopled by armed persons or squads".

Being member of a rightly or wrongly proscribed organization is universally not a license to kill any of its unarmed members or any of its armed members arrested unarmed or arrested nonviolently armed. It also follows that the Nigerian Security Forces particularly the military have not killed "over 120,000 Boko Haram fighters and their families" who the Chief of Army Staff (Taoreed Lagbaja) announced recently in Kano State as "having been surrendered to the Nigerian Army under the first six months of 2024". The worst and most dangerous of it all is indiscriminate and unchecked targeted mass killing by the military and other law enforcement personnel of members of the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South defenseless civilian population under false labeling and mass or class criminalization. This is also going by the fact that out of every ten civilians targeted and shot and killed, nine are most likely to be members of the civilian population who know little or nothing about "IPOB", not to talk of being its unarmed members or linked to its ESN security outfit.

Going by the Universal Laws (already explained above in this Special International Report) under UN System with zero permissible derogation by Member-States including Nigeria, there are two sets of laws and regulations guiding "unarmed citizens" and "armed non-state actor citizens".

Similar situation is obtained in the Laws of the International Armed Conflicts or 'inter/intra state armed conflicts' whereby it is 'a war crime offense' to kill the wounded or the self-surrendered and other prisoners of war, arrested alive and taken into detention and thereafter killed in custody. In the case of "unarmed" and "armed civilians", it is a serious offense of murder or crime against humanity or war crime to open fire on unarmed civilians and kill them or have them killed after having been arrested and taken into custody. There is also no law anywhere authorizing officers and personnel of the military or members of other security forces to open fire and kill or custodially kill unarmed civilians irrespective of the gravity of offenses alleged to have been committed. It further follows that the essence of arrest and detention, globally, is to ensure unhindered criminal investigation; the essence of criminal investigation is to obtain sufficient evidence to ensure diligent prosecution; and the essence of prosecution is to secure fair-hearing-induced conviction and sentencing. It also follows that the authority that is statutorily barred (in the case of the military) from criminal investigation and prosecution of civilians is also statutorily ousted to arrest, detain and kill outside the law.

All the above is to conclusively assert that "IPOB members are those who are unarmed and defenseless and have never used or advocated for violence". It must further be clarified that "not all IPOB members are members of their group's armed Eastern Security Network"; just as "not all members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality are members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)"; not all members of the Hausa-Fulani Muslim population are Jihadist Boko Haram Islamists or Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen Islamists or Jihadist Fulani Islamic Bandits, etc. It must, therefore, be clearly pointed out that the Intersociety and the Author-in-Chief of this Report do not have sympathy for members or any member of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) that has chosen to be members or a member of an Armed Opposition Group especially those that are offensively armed during confrontations with security forces such as during arrests or law enforcement operations.

At the same time, it must be clarified that it is unlawful for members of the Nigerian Security Forces including the military to open fire and kill on the spot suspected members of the ESN who are unarmed at the time or point of their arrest; likewise, extrajudicially killing those arrested alive and taken into custody from where they are killed or executed and their dead body persons disappeared. Opening fire and killing 'black-and-white' IPOB members during arrests or law enforcement operations or killing or executing them extrajudicially after having been arrested and taken into security custody is inexcusably unlawful and seriously punishable. The Intersociety will always rise in defense of such victims; likewise, those arrested and thrown into perpetual detention or captivity.

There is no different between law enforcement officers and personnel who indulge in habitual act of indiscriminately arresting South-East civilians and detaining them in perpetuity and members of unlawful organizations they are existentially paid or funded to apprehend. It follows that any law enforcement operation outside the law and due process is worse than the criminal offenses and offenders seeking to be unmasked and smashed.

It must further be stated that the cardinal focus of the Intersociety is protection and safety of defenseless and innocent members of the civilian population from military and other security forces' attacks and similar dastardly acts arising from armed non-state actors and armed sub-state actors. The Defense Headquarters had in its June 27, 2024- Report, admitted killing members of the unarmed civilian population during their operations in the South-East and the South-South; with a promise to "minimize the civilian casualties during such operations".

PATTERNS AND TRENDS OF ARMED CRIMINAL ENTITIES AND ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS IN THE EAST:

Going by our several detailed investigations of the patterns and trends of insecurity and other unsafe conditions and their perpetrators in the South-East and the South-South Regions, there are nothing less than four major categories of armed groups operating in the South-South or Niger Delta Region alone; subdivided into first, second, third and fourth categories. They are further differentiated by the types of prohibited weapons they use, and activities they carry out.

Unmasking Those in The First Category: Those in the first category are those operating with war-grade weapons or firearms (Small Arms and Light Weapons-SALWs), such as anti-armored car explosives, improvised explosive devices, revolvers, submachine guns, battle rifles, assault rifles, machine guns, carbines, multiple-barrel firearms, grenade launchers, underwater firearms, anti-tank rifles, etc. Armed Groups under the above include the likes of members and leaders of the former and pseudo-demobilized and disarmed Niger Delta Militants including remnants of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force of Alhaji Asari Dokubo, now transformed into "private security and pro-jihadism mercenaries" strongly believed to secretly operating in places like Anambra, Imo and Ebonyi in the South-East and different parts of Niger Delta Region including Rivers State. The pro-jihadism mercenaries of the former Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force also reportedly operate alongside Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and Jihadist Fulani Bandits in Old Middle Belt Region including Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa and Plateau where they are strongly suspected to be operating under the protection of the Nigerian Security Forces.

There are also remnants of the former Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta presently loyal to one of their former commanders, named "Boyloaf"; likewise, remnants of the former Niger Delta Vigilante, a former Ijaw militia in Niger Delta; loyal to Tom Ateke, their former leader. The above is in addition to others loyal to "Tompolo", another former top commander of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta and chief priest of Egbesu deity. While many of these ex-Niger Delta Militants are strongly suspected to be working hand in hand with the Federal Government of Nigeria and its security forces and top political actors linked to some State Governments in the Niger Delta Region; others are those strongly suspected to be clandestinely operating on their own and reportedly engaging in sundry violent criminal activities with war-grade weapons or illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons; including oil bunkering and proliferation of illicit arms and other forms of contraband businesses. It must be pointed out that in most cases, during military and law enforcement operations, the strongholds of these well-armed former militants are usually "no go areas" for Nigerian Security Forces owing to 'war-grade weapons' at their disposal; during which the security forces end up targeting and killing defenseless civilians and arresting thousands of others for purposes of showcasing false gallantry, misinforming and misleading the public. Members of the Nigerian Security have also been severally fingered of involvement in such violent criminal activities.

HIRED NIGER DELTA MILITANTS' INCURSIONS INTO IMO AND ABA WITH WAR-GRADE WEAPONS:

It must however be pointed out that there are random use and disappearance of war-grade weapons by hired Ex-Niger Delta Militants in places like Imo and Abia States. This is further explained via a situation whereby politically hired Niger Delta militants operating with war-grade weapons such as anti-armored car explosives, improvised explosive devices, revolvers, submachine guns, battle rifles, assault rifles, machine guns, carbines, multiple-barrel firearms, grenade launchers, underwater firearms, anti-tank rifles, etc., are contracted to cross into those parts of the South-East to randomly execute their mission and retreat back untracked and uncaught to their Niger Delta base with their war-grade weapons.

A strongly suspected typical case in point was the May 30, 2024-killing of five soldiers in Aba; strongly suspected to be politically oiled by powers that be to register their anger and frustrations over the near-total civil compliance to the May 30, 2024-sit-at-home call by leaders of the mainstream pro-Biafra movement. The dastardly act of killing five innocent soldiers was strongly believed to have been politically masterminded and used as a cover to kill hundreds of members of the South-East civilian population and massively arrest thousands of others as partly admitted in the Defense Headquarters Report of June 27, 2024. It is also no longer news that relentless efforts by federal powers that be through their externally planted political and security surrogates and puppets in the East to make Abia State ungovernable and a conquered territory through a flurry of sponsored subversive, bizarre, strange and barbaric criminal activities across the State including Bende, Aba and environs, Ohafia, etc.

“Not IPOB”, Gov Alex Otti Uncovers Real Sponsors Behind Gunmen Attacks In Abia:

Governor Alex Otti accuses opposition politicians, with external support, of sponsoring violence in Abia State, saying that such attacks, including the killing of soldiers and police are aimed at destabilizing the Government of Abia State and distract from its development agenda. Otti promises a “counter-offensive” to eradicate criminal activities and maintain peace in the State. Abia State Governor, Alex Otti accused opposition politicians, in collaboration with external parties, of being behind the recent wave of insecurity in the State. The Governor's statement comes amid rising gunmen attacks and violence in the region, which has raised concerns among residents and security officials alike.

Legit.ng reported that on Wednesday, 13, November 2024 two Nigerian soldiers were killed at a checkpoint on the Umuahia-Owerri Road in Ekeneobizi, Umuahia South Local Government Area. Another attack occurred on Sunday, November 16, when gunmen killed a police officer during an assault on the convoy of a Nigerian lawmaker. While the Nigerian Government has accused the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) of orchestrating the violence, IPOB has denied any involvement. Governor Otti says politicians responsible for attacks. In a statement released on Monday, November 18, 2024, by his media aide, Ferdinand Ekeoma, Governor Otti revealed that his administration has uncovered that opposition politicians in the State, rather than IPOB, are responsible for sponsoring the attacks. He explained that the violence started in late May and has continued to escalate as part of a strategy to disrupt his administration's focus on development.

Adding that “the sole agenda is to cause disaffection and distract the Government of Abia State from its focus on the development of the State,” Otti said. He further added that the opposition's efforts to fabricate lies against the government had failed, and now, they were resorting to violence. We will smoke them out, Governor Otti vows. Governor Otti vowed that his administration would not allow any group or individual to destabilize the peace in Abia State. He stated that a “counter-offensive” was being launched to eliminate the terror structures set up by criminals. It needs to be understood that the Government of Abia State will not sit idly by and watch any person or group of persons unleash violence on innocent and peace-loving citizens of the State,” he asserted. Previously, Legit.ng reported that police authorities in Abia state have confirmed the killing of Inspector Bala Mohammed, one of the security officials assigned to Ginger Onwusibe, a member of the House of Representatives representing the Nsiala-Ngwa North/South Federal Constituency.

Unmasking Those In The Second Category: The second category of armed groups independently traced and found to be operating both in the South-South or Niger Delta and the South-East or Mainland Igbo Regions are the strongly suspected Government-linked and protected MACABAN Vigilantes, Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, Jihadist Fulani Bandits and Counterfeit Biafra Agitators. Among the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen are two sub-Jihadist groups responsible for acts of terror, barbarism and savagely across Mainland Igbo States in recent times. They include Igbo Land born and bred Jihadist recruits (born in Igbo Land in 1990s and early 2000s from among Hausa-Fulani settlers who hear and speak Igbo Language fluently) and regionally assembled Baggara, Maghreb and Shuwa Jihadists and those from other black African countries, wavered into Nigeria's Christian held areas by former Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari in 2017. The mixture of the trio (Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their Igbo Land born and bred kinsmen and regionally assembled others) are strongly suspected to have a hand in a flurry of savagely acts across Igbo Land including beheading, organ harvesting and lifeless body dismemberment; joined by Government-linked criminal entities engaged in subversive criminal activities including Counterfeit Biafra Agitators.

These four violent criminal entities and counterfeit armed opposition groups have been independently investigated and strongly suspected to have links with the Government of Nigeria and its collaborator political actors across the South-East and some South-South States including Rivers State. Included in this category are those involved in possession of prohibited firearms other than war-grade weapons or illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Nigerian Security Forces particularly officers and personnel of the Armed Forces rarely or hardly target and go after them particularly the trio of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, Jihadist Fulani Bandits and MACABAN Vigilantes and subversive others including currently Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators spreading across Igbo Land forests, bushes, farmlands and security forces formations in the two Regions. Apart from turning blind eyes to their countless genocidal atrocities, the drafted officers and personnel of the Armed Forces also visit unspeakable violence against members of the defenseless Igbo civilian population and their properties by framing and false labeling them or turning around to tag them as “perpetrators” of the atrocities perpetrated by the Islamic Jihadists. Violent criminal activities of the Counterfeit Agitators have also been severally found to be clandestinely promoted by Government of Nigeria and the country’s lopsidedly composed security forces to criminalize and adulterate the activities of the mainstream Biafra agitators and mass-criminalize members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality by massively labeling them as “members of IPOB/ESN/Biafra Terrorism in the South-East”.

Unmasking Those In The Third Category: The third category of armed opposition groups majorly found in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-south are groups such as ‘the Eastern Security Network’, formed by the leadership of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in December 2020. The formation of the armed ESN, from our detailed investigations, had arisen from three major grounds: (1) indiscriminate crackdowns and clampdowns by Government of Nigeria and the country’s Security Forces particularly the Armed Forces; leading to thousands of defenseless civilian deaths and abduction of thousands of others and uncountable number of enforced disappearances, from August 2015 to November 2020; (2) Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of October-November 2020; and (3) flooding of Igbo Land forests, bushes, farmlands and other strategic locations with armed Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen using the decades-old Southward Fulani Cattle Grazing Routes and Networks. The Southward violent movement of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their forceful rural settlements had begun in 2016 following the alleged Army’s National Forest Mapping of late 2015; later executed using “different Army operations (. i.e. 2016 Nigerian Army’s Operation Python Dance in the South-East)” as a cover. The ESN was majorly found to have been partly formed to ward off Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others’ incursion and their attacks or threats in Igbo Land. It must further be stated that ESN presently possesses AK-47s and allied others and a handful of Pump-Action Guns, etc., other than war-grade weapons or illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons or SALWs.

Unmasking Those In The Fourth Category: The fourth category of armed groups mostly found in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South are members of “street violent criminal entities”; subdivided into “sub-state actors”, government-linked and non-government-linked. A sizeable number of them also exist in the rest of the South-South Region. The armed sub-state actors include armed vigilantes, and killer squads are also sheltered using such sub-state actor security outfits as a cover. The government-linked armed groups are those clandestinely established and funded by state actors or political actors linked to such State Governments. One of the leading Counterfeit Biafra Agitating Armed Groups in the East is strongly suspected to be Government-linked. The group also represents a typical example of “Government-linked armed group engaging in sundry subversive activities under the cover of substate actor security arrangements”. A typical case in point was the formation of “Ebubeagu Security Outfit” in April 2021 by the South-East Governors Forum which later gave rise to strongly suspected Government-funded armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators through compromised top political actors of South-East extraction particularly from Imo and Ebonyi States.

Others in the fourth category of armed groups are armed non-state actor criminal entities engaging in sundry violent criminal activities including robberies and armed robberies; kidnap-for-ransom, solid mineral theft, trafficking-in-illicit arms, trafficking-in-illicit drugs and goods and trafficking-in-persons; organized violent cybercrimes, etc.

Those in the fourth category are found to be in possession of AK-47s and allied others and a handful of Pump Action Guns; other than war-grade weapons (, i.e. anti-armored car explosives, IEDs, revolvers, submachine guns, battle rifles, assault rifles, machine guns, carbines, multiple-barrel firearms, grenade launchers, underwater firearms, anti-tank rifles), etc. It must further be clarified that those in substate actors' category such as State or Local Vigilantes are those that commonly possess Pump Action Guns; a major component of 'Personal Self-Defense Firearms'.

Found through closed-source intelligence and other reliable pieces of information are places like Anambra, Imo and Ebonyi States where there are strong suspicions that "special strike force or squads" of their security outfits are secretly possessing AK-47s and allied others illicitly procured by their respective State Governments through their Ministries of Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters. These prohibited firearms are habitually kept off public glance or unnoticed in daytime but operationally deployed for use at night including during unmarked Government-ordered politico-security operations such as organized attacks against political opponents or false-flag operations or hunting down of high profile violent criminal suspects, etc. There have been few instances whereby some members of such "special squads" have been publicly sighted bearing such prohibited firearms like AK-47s. A clear case in point was Anambra State in 2022 when the Government of Charles Soludo reportedly hired and brought into the State no fewer than 150 former Niger Delta Militants with their offensive weapons to the State "to assist in tracking down violent criminals wreaking havoc across the State". Today, it is not only that the State Government seems to have lost the grip or control of many, if not most of those "AK-47-handling special squads" but it is also strongly estimated that there exists 200-300 Ex-Niger Delta Militants in the State quartered in several places including Ihiala, Nnewi South and Aguata LGA or Vigilante headquarters who now uncontrollably operate with such assault rifles at will and unchecked.

Estimated 300 AK-47s or more are also suspected to be presently in secret possession of those "AK-47-handling special squads" and some of them are strongly suspected to sometimes get involved in violent criminal offenses of kidnapping-for-ransom and allied others, perpetrated alone or in conspiracy of their supervising officers and ministry (Homeland Security). Also owing to money spinning nature of kid-for-ransom, for instance, an average security or law enforcement officer (military officer or police officer or sub-State actor vigilante at roadblock) in the South-East particularly in Anambra, Imo and Abia, is seen by many passersby as "a potential kidnapper" by direct involvement or conspiracy; more so when it is widely believed that about 80% of offenses of kidnap-for-ransom are perpetrated uncaught near such roadblock. In other words, any security personnel or law enforcement officer capable of handling AK-47 rifle is widely seen a potential kidnapper or aider of same in the South-East and when perpetrated, the same security officers and their authorities will turn around and have same and other subversive criminalities blamed on defenseless and innocent members of the public and have such victims arrested, false labeled and killed or hounded into indefinite detention without indictable evidence and diligent prosecution.

6000 UNLAWFULLY DETAINED IGBO CIVILIANS FACING KANGAROO ARMY COURT-MARTIAL IN NORTHERN BARRACKS:

The systematic ethnic and religious cleansing going on in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South, targeted at killing or disappearing thousands of defenseless Igbo male civilian citizens of productive age brackets has taken a more dangerous dimension-to the extent that extrajudicial, extra jus and extralegal arrangements unknown to democratic, human rights and rule of law principles in the Fundamental Human Rights provisions of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and the country's acceded Regional and International Human Rights Treaty Law; have hurriedly been put in place by Nigerian Armed Forces in conjunction with Office of the Attorney General of the Federation (Nigeria) to hastily court-martial, convict and sentence no fewer than 6000 defenseless South-East and Igbo South-South civilians held for years in secret military detention facilities majorly located in different parts of Northern Nigeria.

It has been discovered that several of the illegally held South-East and South-South defenseless civilians are being inhumanly held since January 2021 inside "WAWA Military Cantonment" where they are ongoing kangaroo military court-martial.

The notorious “WAWA Military Cantonment” is in New Bussa-Kanji, Niger State; more than eight hours drive from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

It must be reminded that systematic ethnoreligious cleansing by Nigerian Security Forces (**NSFs**) drafted to Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 particularly the Armed Forces had been the case since then and further risen to an apogee since January 2021 till date; to the extent that thousands of such victims defenseless citizens, dominated by males in productive age-brackets, both married and unmarried, have been uncovered to be languishing in several military facilities located in Northern part of the country. The figure of no fewer than 5000 Igbo abductees and perpetual detainees, was arrived at using the Nigerian Defense Headquarters Reports of December 29, 2023, and June 27, 2024, and those of August, September and October 2024, as a case-study. The above is in addition to findings arising from our Special Report on Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of November 17, 2023-which has remained undenied till date; as well as our earlier Special Report on Military Massacre Operations in Eastern Nigeria: August 2015-September 2017, released in January 2019. The Nigerian Defense Headquarters had in its Reports admitted “arresting” and “holding” over 2000 “IPOB/ESN combatants or fighters and other criminals in South-East and South-South between January 2023 and June 2024”. Similar Reports by the Defense Headquarters were also issued between January 2021 and December 2022, containing similar statistics of those killed and others “arrested” and “detained”.

Further findings made by the Intersociety by interrogating the two military Reports under reference clearly showed that there were no pieces of verifiable evidence showing that those arrested or abducted alive were transferred to the authorities of the Nigerian Police Force (. i.e. FCID and SCIDs) for competent investigation and prosecution; or discharge and acquittal if found uninvolved; likewise, lack of verifiable evidence showing the whereabouts of those shot and wounded before being arrested or those abducted alive and taken into custody as per whether they were adequately treated or dumped to die of gunshot wounds after which their dead bodies disappeared. The above also applied to those shot and wounded who died on their way to secret military custodies. Nothing was also said in the Defense Headquarters Reports regarding those most likely to have been permanently disappeared after being arrested or abducted alive and taken into custody.

Some Names Of Unarmed Igbo Civilians “Convicted” And “Jailed” Inside 'WAWA Army Barracks':

The most shocking part of it is that scores (estimated at over 20) have secretly and hurriedly been tried and jailed “in connection with offenses of being IPOB/ESN members” or “being parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism”. Their “imprisonment terms” are said to be “five years”, “ten years” and “twenty years”; after which they are transferred or dumped in the same military custodies and retained as “military convict detainees”, with high risk of being killed or tortured or starved to death in such inhuman detention facilities. Another shocking aspect is that those military detainees have perpetually been denied access to their families and lawyers from the point of their arrest or abduction to the point of their perpetual incarceration till date. Some names of the court-martialed and “jailed” defenseless Igbo civilian citizens were given as: 1. David Ogbonna, 2. Emmanuel Ariwuzo, 3. Uchenna Nwaoha, 4. Richard Ngonadi, 5. Vincent Emeka Ibe and 6. Victor Chidi. Despite not being allowed access to their families and lawyers of their choice since their arrest till date, they were “convicted” and “jailed” even they pleaded not guilty. They were also said to have been “jailed” for 5 years imprisonment and above “for membership of IPOB”.

RECAPPING THE ONITSHA/NKPOR ARMY MASSACRE OF 2016 AND THAT OF OGWE/ABA/AFARA-UKWU OF 2017:

The Intersociety had relied on findings arising from its Special Report on Nigerian Military-led Security Forces Massacre Operations in Eastern Nigeria (122 Pages); covering August 2015-September 2017 and released in January 2019. Part of the shocking findings of that Report was how soldiers of the Nigerian Army from the 302 Onitsha Army Cantonment under 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu massacred nothing less than 140 defenseless Igbo civilians who gathered at Nkpor, Onitsha and Asaba to mark the annual Igbo Heroes Day Anniversary.

We also had it on good authority that 80% of their dead bodies were openly and secretly conveyed to Onitsha Army Cantonment Burial Grounds where they were dumped inside about 12 freshly dug pits and melted with raw acid substances on average of eight dead bodies per pit. Dead bodies of others shot and killed and dumped inside gutters and roadsides were later gathered by public spirited individuals and groups and buried in nearby graveyards and bushes. Others in a state of decomposition were burned to avoid constituting public health hazards. Scores of others were retrieved by their loved ones and deposited in morgues from where they were later taken home and interred. At Asaba, several gravely wounded persons were dumped inside the Niger River swamps to die; likewise, scores shot and killed and dumped and left to decompose. Dead bodies of the rest were also dumped in different public and private morgues including FMC in Asaba with a tag: "Government Property, No-Go Area"; during which only few were wangled out and retrieved by their loved ones and taken home for burial.

Earlier in Onitsha, scores of those shot and killed by soldiers of the Onitsha 302 Army Regiment (Cantonment) on December 2 and 17, 2015 at Niger Bridgehead were dumped at Onitsha General Hospital by some police officers hired to do so by soldiers of the Cantonment; from where their dead bodies were retrieved by their families and buried. The 2019 Intersociety Report also exposed how soldiers invaded private hospitals at late night in Nkpor, near Onitsha, following mass shooting, wounding and killing of December 17, 2015, and abducted more than 15 shot and wounded defenseless civilians and their legal guardians taking care of them at intensive care hospital wards. In Abia State, the Report also graphically exposed how soldiers of the 34 Brigade, Ohafia and their 144 Battalion (FOB) offshoot in Asa and Aba, under 82 Division in Enugu, opened fire and killed nothing less than 180 defenseless civilians under three days or from September 12 to 15, 2017. The massacre had taken place at various locations including Ogwe, Aba, Isiala-Ngwa and Afara-Ukwu parts of Abia State during which not less than 80% of their dead bodies were abducted by soldiers and shallowly buried in different secret locations including forests and bushes located in Ogwe, Isiala-Ngwa and Afara-Ukwu near Umuahia. Several dead bodies were also dumped in private and public morgues including FMC in Umuahia; out of which only dozens were hurriedly retrieved by their families and redeposited in different morgues for security reasons. Scores of the shot and wounded were also hurriedly moved out of Abia State by their loved ones to avoid being located, abducted and extrajudicially killed by soldiers. Hospitals where several shot and wounded citizens were taken to for medical treatments were also invaded by soldiers and such wounded persons whisked away to unknown locations till date.

6000 ABDUCTED CIVILIAN EASTERNERS STILL LANGUISHING IN SECRET MILITARY DETENTION SINCE AUGUST 2015:

Using open-source and close-source gathered intelligence and findings contained in the Intersociety's Special Report on Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of November 17, 2023; it has been discovered that there are no fewer than 5000 members of the defenseless Igbo civilian population presently languishing in different secret military detention facilities dominated by Army barracks mostly located in Northern Nigeria including places like Niger WAWA Military Cantonment, New Bussa-Kanji, Niger State. Others are those located in Nasarawa, Kogi, Benue, Federal Capital Territory including Mogadishu Army Barracks; Kaduna and Zamfara; in addition to hundreds, if not more than 1000 others who must have secretly been abandoned to languish untried in different prisons (correction centers) and lock centers scattered in several Northern and Southern States.

The referenced 1000 languishing untried inmates are most likely to have been drawn from victims of "remand orders" crookedly issued or obtained from compromised magistrates. Such victims are usually abandoned to rot or languish in detention without trial or regular court appearances after the expiration of the first remand orders supposedly issued for their detention for purpose of investigations into alleged criminal accusations leveled against them. This is more so when maximum period statutorily allowed for such remand is 90 days for purpose of conclusive investigation which never continued and concluded.

Several hundreds of defenseless South-East and South-South civilians are also strongly believed to be languishing in similar military detention facilities scattered in different parts of the two Regions particularly those military barracks located in Abia, Imo and Rivers States. Credibly estimated, too, are not fewer than 1000 others most likely languishing in different prisons and lock centers mainly in Northern Nigeria, comprising those abducted from Anambra, Abia, Ebonyi, Delta and Rivers States, etc., between August 30, 2015, and September 30, 2017: bringing the total to not fewer than 6000 since August 2015. It is therefore most likely safe to conclude that the decision of the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces to constitute kangaroo military court-martials for hasty "trial and conviction" of more than 6000 South-East and South-South defenseless civilians, mostly members of productive Igbo civilian population, controversially tagged "IPOB/ESN members" or "parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism" has arisen on account of the increasing number of intakes (fresh abductees) and those killed or tortured to death or starved to death in military custodies, during which any must have also died, and others permanently disappeared.

MILITARY CAN'T INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE CIVILIANS OR DEPOSIT THEIR SLAIN CORPSES IN PUBLIC MORGUES:

Authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces have become an outlaw particularly since the Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions of October-November 2020 in Rivers State. The Intersociety had in December 2015 enquired into the killing at Onitsha Niger Bridgehead of about 13 civilian protesters and shooting and wounding of about 17 others. The enquiry had arisen from the dumping of five of the slain civilians at the Onitsha General Hospital (now FMC, Onitsha) and it was discovered that the authorities of the Onitsha Army Cantonment had hired some police officers to deposit the corpses because, "the military officers and personnel are not empowered by law to kill and deposit corpses of those killed (civilian citizens) at public morgues". Five years down the line, the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces or the Military had gone to the extent of mindlessly impeaching their establishment law by importing such "ouster-powers" and arrogating to themselves, the "powers not given" including powers of arrest, detention, investigation, prosecution" and "killing, seizing and detaining in perpetuity" dead bodies of the militarily slain members of the South-East and the Igbo South-South defenseless civilian population.

It must specifically be emphasized or pointed out that the power of arrest and detention granted to members of the Armed Forces by Section 121 of the Armed Forces Act of 2004, is strictly restricted to be used against members of the Armed Forces alone. That is to say that the Armed Forces Act does not empower members or officers and personnel of the Armed Forces (Army, Airforce and Navy) to arrest and detain, investigate and prosecute members of the civilian population, whether unarmed or defensively armed or suspected unarmed criminal persons; with the only exception being the exercise of the power of arrest under "the Nigerian Citizens' Power of Arrest" granted in "General Criminal Law" (.i.e. Section 39 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015). Under the above, officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, just like other citizens of Nigeria are firmly directed to transfer or handover such arrested citizens apprehended under suspicion of offending the criminal law to the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force for competent investigation and prosecution; or otherwise. The above is in line with the essence of "arrest and detention" which is for purpose of investigation and prosecution. It further follows elementarily that an authority that cannot investigate and prosecute a particular class of citizen or group of such citizens cannot also "arrest and detain" them.

It is in accordance with the above that a landmark judgment was delivered by Hon Justice Taiwo Taiwo of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court on Feb 17, 2021 who held that "Nigerian Army (as an embodiment of the Armed Forces) lacks power to arrest, detain, (investigate) and prosecute citizens who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 or any other Military law"; which has not been set aside till date. And in accordance with Section 287 (3), such landmark judgment of the Federal High Court "shall be enforced in any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons (including the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces) and by other courts of law with subordinate jurisdiction to that of the Federal High Court...".

It must further be noted that "Citizens who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 and any other military law" are members of the Nigerian civilian population irrespective of whether they are unarmed or defensively armed or suspected unarmed criminal persons. Several related 'Decided Cases' also abound.

SOUTH-EAST FAMILIES PRINCIPALLY BOYCOTTED "END BAD GOVERNANCE PROTESTS" OVER SEVERAL MISSING FAMILY MEMBERS:

Our findings have shown that many or maddening increase in the number of missing civilians belonging to South-East and Igbo South-South families was remotely responsible or the remote reason why members of the South-East civilian population and their counterparts from Igbo part of the South-South did not join the queue during the recent country-wide or national "anti-hunger protests". Open-source intelligence and other reliable information gathered had pointed to the fact that "many families of sedentary Igbo extraction have quietly and painfully been searching for their missing loved ones particularly in the past five years and above; with several fingers pointing particularly at officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, DSS and various crack and tactical squads of the Nigeria Police Force as being responsible for their disappearances or unlawful killings till date. As if that was not enough, the boycott of the South-East and the Igbo South-South civilian population of the July 2024 "anti-hunger physical protests" also led to averting another round of defenseless civilian population massacre and mass abductions in Eastern Nigeria as plans were hatched and concluded by the military to unleash more mayhem on Eastern civilian population had they joined others in the protest.

Some traders and white-collar professionals who returned to Onitsha from Aba and Umuahia; and from Enugu and Abakiliki had told the Intersociety the anger and frustrations visited on them by soldiers and other military officers and personnel specifically drafted from Northern Nigeria to quell such protest (if any). The drafted military personnel at South-East roadways were said to be led by Northern Muslim officers who barked murderously at them, looking for slightest provocation to open fire on such travelers and gather and display their dead bodies in the media as "bodies of IPOB/ESN hoodlums that infiltrated and hijacked the protests to cause mayhem". The above genocidal barking was said to have been encountered along Owerre-Nta-Owerri Road, Umuahia-Isiala-Ngwa-Aba axis of Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway, Onitsha-Owerri Expressway, Old Awka-Enugu Road, Onitsha-Enugu Expressway, etc. Some of those returnees with fluency in Hausa Language further informed that many of the soldiers with headcover Arab Hijab had barked and shouted at them and threatened them with lethal outbursts; amidst other violent and foul languages said or communicated in Hausa Language; strongly indicating that "they had been ordered not to spare any protester or group of protesters in Igbo Land or South-East". The eyewitness-travelers also reported that the drafted military personnel were armed to the teeth and positioned with military trucks with order to massacre and abduct, other than to guard and protect the protesters and provide other humanitarian services which are the international best practices during such democratic assemblies.

"COUNTER-SUBVERSION BILL 2024"-BACKDATED LEGISLATION TO COVER-UP "COURT-MARTIALING" OF IGBO CIVILIANS:

The authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces are stopping at nothing to criminally codify and justify their highly reprehensible act of defenseless Igbo civilians' "court-martial trials" involving nothing less than 5000 South-East and Igbo South-South defenseless civilians, arrested or abducted across Eastern Nigeria and held in perpetual detention for years, particularly since October 2020 till date.

There are also estimated 1000 others abducted and detained in perpetuity by the military between August 2015 and September 2020. These 6000 defenseless civilian citizens mostly male citizens in productive age-brackets who are also survivors of the military's rampant and unchecked custodial killings and disappearances, are strongly suspected to be undergoing "military court-martialing" over "crimes or offenses" they have never come across, not to talk of offending them.

The dastardly act of “court-martialing” by the Armed Forces, of the no fewer than 6000 mostly Igbo defenseless civilian citizens is perpetrated in conspiracy with the Office of the Attorney-General of Nigeria, presently headed by Lateef Fagbemi, SAN; and secretly ongoing in different military barracks dominated by Nigerian Army barracks located in the North-Central and North-West part of Nigeria, etc. According to close-source and open-source intelligence and other obtained information, scores have already been hastily tried and convicted and sentenced to jail terms of five, ten and twenty years.

As if that was not enough, authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces have reprehensibly gone ahead of their dastardly act by proxy to rubberstamp same through a legislation with retroactive force of law which came to the fore on July 23, 2024, when Speaker of the House of Reps, Mr. Tajudeen Abbas announced the introduction of a controversial bill (Counter Subversion Bill 2024) seeking to “criminalize subversive activities by associations, organizations, militias, cults, bandits and other proscribed groups in Nigeria”. The Bill also proposes “a 25-year imprisonment or N10million fine or both, for any person convicted for making a statement or taking an action that leads to separatist agitation or inter-group or sectional conflict in the country”. The Bill is strongly suspected to have been presidentially and militarily sponsored aimed at retroactively codifying and justifying the dastardly act of militarist “court-martialing” of estimated no fewer than 6000 abducted and perpetually held members of defenseless Easterners. The Bill is also likely aiming at further terrorization of the South-East and the South-South Regions and their defenseless population and properties and has been trailed by controversies forcing Office of the Speaker of House of Reps to issue a statement on August 15, 2024, insisting that the Bill must see the light of the day and “not targeted at any group”.

It must be reminded that authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces have earned notoriety in indulging in such dastardly act and conduct-atrocities, after which they use the powers that be to codify and justify them through hurriedly passed criminal legislation or “presidential proclamation”. In September 2017, this same Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces coordinated a genocidal operation in different parts of Abia State including Etche-Abia Boundary, Ogwe, Aba, Isiala-Ngwa, Afara-Ukwu and Umuahia. In the bloody military operation and its civilian massacre that lasted for three days or September 12-15, 2017, no fewer than 180 defenseless civilians were shot and killed (see the reference page for more details) and more than 150 others wounded. It was later discovered that most of the victims were passengers traveling within the roadway axis of Rivers, Abia, Imo, Enugu and Ebonyi States and others converging at Afara-Ukwu, the hometown of Nnamdi Kanu, Leader of IPOB. The Defense Headquarters on receiving intelligence signals of the high number of defenseless civilians massacred and gravely wounded, hurriedly designated IPOB as “a terrorist group” which was retroactively done to cover up their perpetrated conduct-atrocities and have same backed with a retroactive criminal legislation. With the above having been hurriedly done on September 15, 2017, the genocidal baton was hurriedly passed to the Presidency of Retired Major Gen Muhammad Buhari which two days after or on September 17, 2017, announced the proscription of IPOB as a terrorist organization and subsequent crackdowns that followed till date.

...Constitutional Rights To Personal Liberty And Fair Hearing In Gross Breach:

By Section 35 (4) of the justiciable Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution: “any person who is arrested and detained in accordance with subsection 1(c) of this Section shall be brought before a Court of Law within a reasonable time and if he is not tried within a period of- (a) two months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who is in the custody or is not entitled to bail (in the case of a person arrested and detained over capital offenses of treason, treasonable felony, terrorism, insurrection, armed robbery, abduction, murder, etc.);

or (b) three months from the date of his arrest or detention in the case of a person who has been released on administrative bail, he (or she) shall (without prejudice to any other further proceedings that may be brought against him (or her) be released either unconditionally or upon such conditions as are reasonably necessary to ensure that he (or she) appears for trial at a later date”.

It must further be stated that other than the circumstances highlighted above for purposes of subsection 4, an arrested person in Nigeria is not liable to be arrested and detained beyond 24 hours or 48 hours without fair trial and fair hearing.

Relatedly, by Section 36 (8) of the justiciable Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution, "no person shall be held to be guilty of a criminal offense on account of any act or omission that did not at the time it took place, constitute such an offense, and no penalty shall be imposed for any criminal offense heavier than the penalty in force at the time the offense was committed". By Section 36 (12), "subject as otherwise provided by this Constitution, a person shall not be convicted of a criminal offense unless that offense is defined and the penalty therefor is prescribed in a written law; and in this subsection, a written law refers to an Act of the National Assembly, or a Law of a State, and any subsidiary legislation or instrument under the provisions of a law (subject to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution)". By Section 36 (3) of the same 1999 Constitution (Citizens' Right to Fair Hearing), "the proceedings of a court or the proceedings of any tribunal relating to the matters mentioned in subsection (1) of this section including the announcement of the decisions of the court or tribunal shall be held in public (open court attended by parties thereto and others not thereto including journalists and any other member of the public)"; and by subsection 4 of the same Section 36, "whenever any person is charged with a criminal offense, he shall, unless the charge is withdrawn, be entitled to a fair hearing in public within a reasonable time by a court or tribunal..."; by subsection 5, "every person who is charged with a criminal offense shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty".

MILITARY, POLICE, GOVS PROTECTING CRIMINAL PERSONS AND ABDUCTING AND KILLING LAW ABIDING CITIZENS:

The chronic decay in Nigeria's political landscape including failed leadership, failed governance and political corruption has created situation where mass poverty and near-total collapse of moral uprightness have forced many to turn to criminality and social deviance as means of livelihood and social measurement. It is more dangerous going by the fact that greater number of those in charge of public affairs in the country are persons with questionable characters who have resorted to the use of deviant and crime-prone citizens as their foot-soldiers including revenue agents, political thugs, high and low cadre political appointees, government-appointed market leaders and sub-state actor others. Totality of the above has steadily forced hundreds of thousands annually to go into sundry criminal activities and other deviant conducts.

In Eastern Nigeria with high volume or larger concentration of persons and families living under "blue-collar sub-culture", tens of thousands have steadily been moving out of good and lawful ways of life into crime and other social deviances including touting, thuggery, violent land scouting and grabbing, road transport occupation, revenue-related violent activities and other crime-and-deviance-infested activities. In Anambra State, for instance, thousands are moving into crime and other social deviances on yearly basis. It has also been found that two major crime-and-social deviance breeding grounds in the State are commercial road transport and land grabbing occupations. It is from the above that embryonic criminal persons further move into street criminalities including kidnapping, political hit squads, Government-killer squads, armed robbery, sub-State actor criminal vigilantism, violent cybercrimes, computer and internet frauds, etc. The above is to the extent that no fewer than 80% of the persons in the crime-prone occupations above are persons originally drawn from trading but forced out of their trades by economic hardships, challenges arising from family upkeep and Government harsh economic, trade and commerce policies including unsolved and heightening insecurity and other unsafe conditions, criminal taxation, multiple taxation, over taxation and extortion; and abdication of Government duties such as provision of quality and affordable education, health, shelter, food and other social service deliveries; as well as secured and protected environment and protection of lives and properties.

Generally, in the eyes of South-East State Governments, it has become "a crime" for citizens to be law abiding especially by engaging in meaningful ways of life and livelihood.

To engage in lawful occupation such as trading or small and medium scale production or artisanship in Anambra, Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu, Rivers and Delta States is now “a curse” and an avenue for Government sundry extortions and criminal taxations. Being successful in these areas also instantly attracts the killer-eyes of persons of the underworld and members of the country's security forces particularly officers and personnel of the Armed Forces and the Police. In a place like Imo State, the maddening rate of insecurity and other unsafe conditions in the State have forced hundreds of thousands of lawful and defenseless citizens of productive age-brackets to flee and greater number of others who stayed behind to move into crime and other social deviances including serving as “informants” and agents to the State's dreaded Ebubeagu militias, armed sub-state actor and armed non-state actor criminal entities. Such persons also serve as partners-in-crime to drafted federal security agencies and their officers and personnel including the military and its officers and personnel.

It is also glaringly evident and shocking that today in Nigeria or any part thereof, particularly in Eastern Nigeria, members of the criminal class are the ones receiving the highest protection from the military and other security forces while defenseless law-abiding citizens receive little or zero protection. The worst of it all is that defenseless law-abiding citizens are indiscriminately mass-criminalized and made victims of false labeling; to the extent that they are constantly at the receiving end of the military shootings and killings, abductions, acts of torture, custodial killings and uncountable number of enforced disappearances. On the other hand, they are also at the receiving end in the hands of the violent activities of non-state actor criminal entities including genocidal activities of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, the Jihadist Fulani Bandits, Government-hired Niger Delta street criminal and Jihadist mercenaries, Government-linked and non-Government-linked kidnappers-for-ransom, cybercrime and armed robbery violent criminal entities, etc.

It is on empirical record that despite the genocidal activities of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others in Eastern Nigeria since the Nimbo Fulani Herdsmen massacre of April 2016, not even one of them has been arrested and paraded since then till date (2024) by the military and other security forces. The above is despite thousands of civilian deaths and burning down of thousands of dwelling houses and other properties recorded in the hands of the Jihadists. Members of the media have also severally been censored or barred from reporting or mentioning “Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen” in their reports. They are also sometimes forced under state censorship to blame such genocidal activities of the Jihadists on “IPOB/ESN fighters/terrorists/hoodlums” and kept sealed lips over atrocious activities of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others.

In Imo, Anambra, Abia, Ebonyi and Enugu, innocent and defenseless citizens are being killed in their hundreds by officers and personnel of the military, the police and the DSS on monthly basis with their dead bodies publicly displayed in the end as “slain bodies of IPOB/ESN fighters or combatants”. Their intelligence gathering and security operations have also been beclouded by “IPOB/ESN-phobia”, to the extent that any act of deviant behavior including disagreement between husband and wife or bothers or parents or sisters or friends or business partners is labeled “IPOB/ESN terrorism matters”. Acts bordering on simple offenses (traffic offense) or misdemeanors (assault, wandering, drug abuse) or non-military-related felonious offenses (cyberstalking/stealing/burglary/house-breaking/vandalism) are militarily labeled as “offense of IPOB/ESN terrorism” in the South-East. It is further shocking and alarming that those engaged in violent criminal activities are hardly gone after or caught, even when they are well known to members of the security forces who turn blind eyes on them or protect them by collecting or receiving daily or weekly “returns” from them or protect and aid their genocidal activities on religious and ethnic grounds.

For instance, Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and Jihadist Fulani Bandits secretly deployed and strongly suspected to be protected by Government and its security forces in Eastern Nigerian forests, bushes and farmlands are widely believed to be most militarily protected in the Region.

On the other hand, defenseless law-abiding civilian citizens of the South-East and Igbo South-South extraction have not only remained the most vulnerable, endangered and unprotected in the hands of the military but also most of them are treated like criminals or members of a criminal class at military roadblocks where the stock-in-trade of the drafted officers and personnel of the Armed Forces is extortion, harassment, brutalization, periodic shootings and killings, mass arrest, late night abductions leading to disappearances, etc. It has also been investigated and found that "greater percentage of kidnap-for-ransom and roadway armed robbery cases perpetrated by those Jihadists take place in most of the areas with roadway military or police roadblocks in the South-East and the Igbo South-South".

Further, armed robbers, rapists, arsonists, vandals, cybercriminals, traffickers-in-illicit arms, traffickers-in-persons, traffickers-in-illicit drugs, possessors of prohibited firearms, contraband goods vendors, cultists, ritualists, election riggers, militarily hired street urchin roadblock extortionists, terrorists and insurgents etc., have been found or perceived as being more protected in the hands of the military and police tactical and crack squads and personnel of the DSS than members of the law-abiding civilian population particularly rural dwellers, farmers and road users. The above is to the extent that most of those being harassed and brutalized at military roadblocks and rural communities are members of the law-abiding civilian population particularly passengers or travelers and other road users. In other words, the military authorities are fond of criminalizing innocent and defenseless citizens at roadblocks and other public arenas during which the real criminal persons remain under their protection and operate freely unchecked and uncaught. As a matter of fact, the drafted military personnel have become "state actor armed robbers at roadblocks" by way of extortion, defined by Section 108 of the Armed Forces Act of 2004 as "obtaining money or other material value with force" (. i.e. with or under the threat of AK-47s).

JIHADIST FULANI KIDNAPPING KINGPINS RESORTING TO RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL INFORMANTS IN IGBO LAND:

It was our investigation and finding that the militarily protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen quartered in roadway forests, bushes and farmlands and other strategic areas across the South-East and the Igbo South-South have resorted to recruitment of local informants or agents mainly drawn from communal Igbo Christian or Traditional religious criminal civilians through whom potential kidnapping victims are identified and eventually seized on roads before being forced and moved inside forests, bushes and lonely farmlands to meet Jihadist Fulani kidnapping kingpins and forced to pay the demanded ransom fees or to renounce their non-Muslim religions or get killed in captivity. Criminal sums arising from such kidnappings are also used to settle the informants or agents during which several of them get induced or forced to renounce their faith for radical Islamism. The recruited communal urchins are found to have sometimes "sabotaged" their Jihadist Fulani kidnapping paymasters by resorting behind the scenes, seizing targeted kidnap victims and randomly "negotiating" with them on how much ransom fees to pay; failure of which risks the victims into being taken to their Jihadist Fulani kidnapping paymasters.

As a matter of fact, the above has become a commonplace in many, if not most of the 18 communities in Ezeagu Local Government Area of Enugu State where kidnap ransom prices are presently as cheap as N300,000 to N1m and as high as N3m to N10m. Those victims "lucky" to have run into the hands of the Jihadist Fulani-recruited local informants or agents in "good mood" stand the chance of paying lesser if such ransom fees are randomly arranged or negotiated; than those taken or forced to meet the Jihadist Fulani kidnapping kingpins. Similar situations have also been reported in places like Ugwuoba, Achi and Olor communities in Oji River Local Government Area of the State and other communal areas of Orumba North, Orumba South, Oyi, Nnewi South, Ayamelum, Awka North and Awka South LGAs in Anambra State and others in Ebonyi, Imo and Abia States. It must also be noted that the idea of recruiting criminal civilians in aid of kidnappings was remotely sold to the Jihadist Fulani kidnappers in Eastern Nigeria by officers and personnel of the Nigerian military by way of 'partnership-in-crime'.

It must be remembered that officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces are also responsible for originally “invention” of the use of criminal civilians to perpetrate military roadblock extortion. The Nigerian military, in turn, had criminally borrowed from officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force the act of ‘roadblock extortion’ which they “invented” since 1990s.

**...GENOCIDAL ACTIVITIES OF JIHADIST FULANI HERDSMEN IN THE EAST
REMOTELY AIDED BY THE MILITARY:**

It must be stated that the genocidal activities of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen across Eastern Nigeria including kidnap-for-ransom and kidnap-for-radical Islamism have continued to be remotely protected and treated with zero law enforcement attention from officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security forces in Eastern Nigeria. Several efforts by citizens including human rights activists and media practitioners to draw the attention of the military and others to such Jihadist Fulani genocidal activities have severally been rebuffed or ended up being counterproductive. We are aware, for instance, that several efforts have been made to draw the attention of the Enugu State Police Command to the unchecked criminal activities of the Jihadist Fulani kidnapers and their recruited local informants or agents in Ezeagu and Oji River areas of the State, but to no avail. Security forces and various State Governments across Eastern Nigeria have undeniably covered up and protected genocidal activities perpetrated by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others including twisting such atrocities and occasionally blaming them on “IPOB/ESN terrorism”. The above explains why from April 2016 till date, there are no verifiable records from high commands of the military and other law enforcement agencies regarding verifiable details of the arrested and prosecuted or “neutralized” Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others in Eastern Nigeria despite massacring thousands in the area since the April 2016 Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen massacre at Nimbo in Uzo-Uwani part of Enugu State.

**INVOLVEMENT OF IGBO LAND BORN JIHADIST FULANIS,
OTHERS IN ORGAN HARVESTING AND LIFELESS BODY DISMEMBERMENT:**

A report, on October 1, 2024, of abduction of husband and wife (Joseph and Comfort Udo) in Isiala Community in Bende Local Government Area of Abia State and cannibalization and dismemberment of their lifeless bodies, despicably displayed in a video clip, is one of the major reasons why this Special International Report was put together. One of the cracking successes of the Report was its ability to unmask those behind several acts of barbarism and savagely in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 and entities and persons behind their sponsorship as well as motives driving them and their dastardly acts. The Report was also able to unmask motley of armed entities troubling the defenseless civilians of the East and their properties.

It must therefore be pointed out that those behind body organ harvesting and dismemberment of lifeless bodies of those abducted and killed are remotely Government-linked and one of the crudest false-flag and subversive activities aimed at blackening or darkening the territorial image of the South-East and internationally portraying the Region and its defenseless population as a “territory of scavengers, barbarians, cannibals and terror Ethnic Nationality”; with intent by their sponsors to use it as an excuse to further levy or visit the territory and its defenseless population with unspeakable State Violence including intensification of the ongoing military siege and terror and accompanying abductions, mass arrests and killings, frameups, false labeling, enforced disappearances, perpetual detentions and war-grade or wanton destruction or burning down and looting of defenseless civilian properties including dwelling homes, sacred places of worship and allied others.

Such acts of barbarism have also been found to bear the trademark of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen going by patterns and trends of their genocidal massacre operations across the country particularly in the old Middle-Belt in recent times. Having unmasked membership of the “Jihadist Criminal Entities” and “Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators” in the East, it is our strong suspicion that such acts of barbarism such as that reported in Bende part of Abia State, is traceable to the doorsteps of remotely Government-linked “Igbo Land born and bred Hausa-Fulani Jihadist recruits” or “Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators”;

or both or others with jihadist traits including Jihadist mercenaries of one of the ex-Niger Delta warlords, an Islamic Mujahadeen.

Also observed is the fact that among the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen under our strong suspicion are two sub-Jihadist groups widely blamed for acts of terror, barbarism and savagely across Mainland Igbo States in recent times. They include Igbo Land born and bred Jihadist recruits (those born in Igbo Land in 1990s and early 2000s from among early Hausa-Fulani settlers who also hear and speak Igbo Language fluently) and regionally assembled Baggara, Maghreb and Shuwa Jihadists and those from other black African countries, wavered into Nigeria's Christian held areas by former Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari in 2017. The trio (Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their Igbo Land born and bred kinsmen and regionally assembled others) are strongly suspected to have a hand in a flurry of savagely acts across Igbo Land including beheading, organ harvesting and lifeless body dismemberment, which are traditionally and oracularly "un-Igbo-like". Conceptual definition of "Jihadism" below offers better understanding of the explanations and informed suspicions above.

Scholarly Definition Of Jihadism

Jihadism is commonly used to differentiate between violent and nonviolent Muslims or Islamists. The Jihadists aim to reorder Government and society in accordance with Islamic Law or Shariah. They see violent struggle as necessary to eradicate obstacles to restoring Allah's rule on Earth and defending the Muslim community or Ummah against the infidels (Christians, Traditionalists, Jewish Religionists, etc.) and apostates. If Ummah or Muslim community is threatened by aggressors or any, the jihadists held that Jihad is not just a collective obligation (fard kifaya) but an individual duty (fard ayn) that must be fulfilled by every able Muslim, just like ritual prayer and fasting during Ramadan. Jihadists are also referred in some climes as "Deviants".

Jihad aims at changing the social and political organization of the State, by establishing sovereignty on a territory perceived as occupied or dominated by non-Muslims, defending the Ummah or Muslim community from external non-Muslim -threats-focusing on what they call "near-enemies" or "far-enemies". Jihad also aims at correcting other Muslims' behavior, intimidating and marginalizing other Muslim sects. Jihadists also divide the world into "the realm of Islam" (dar al-Islam) or lands under Muslim rule where Shariah prevails, and "the realm of war" (dar al-harb) or lands not under Muslim rule and where under certain circumstances, war in defense of the faith can be sanctioned. Muslim rulers and Governments who Jihadists believe have abandoned the prescriptions of the Shariah are considered by them to be outside "dar al-Islam" or lands no longer under Muslim rule and therefore legitimate targets for Jihadist attacks.

LEGISLATIVE PLOTS TO ISLAMIZE AND IMPOSE SHARIAH LAW ACROSS NIGERIA THICKEN AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

"You Cannot Islamize Nigeria" — Lawmakers Clash Over Bill To Pass Shariah Law, Impose Muslim/Islamic Governance In Nigeria.

According to several media reports, "in a heated House of Representatives session held on Friday, October 25, 2024, Nigerian lawmakers clashed over a controversial bill to pass Shariah Law and impose Muslim/Islamic governance in Nigeria. The proposed bill, introduced by Rep. Aliyu Missau, sought to amend sections of the Nigerian Constitution to remove the word "personal" from the provisions related to Sharia law, which would have broadened its application beyond family matters such as marriage and inheritance. Missau argued that the bill would address specific challenges faced by Islamic financial institutions, like Jaiz and Taj banks, which operate under Sharia-compliant principles. He claimed the amendment would foster an inclusive regulatory environment for these businesses".

"However, opponents saw the bill as a dangerous step that could blur the lines between state governance and religious law in a country already balancing diverse faiths and cultures.

Many lawmakers expressed concerns that the proposal could potentially infringe on the secular principles of Nigeria's Constitution. Rep. Bamidele Salam, representing Osun State, voiced strong opposition, arguing that any constitutional amendments that might extend religious laws into public or commercial domains could lead to greater division in the country. "We must be cautious of amendments that risk the religious freedoms and unity of all Nigerians," Salam warned, noting that the issues Missau raised could already be addressed under existing commercial regulations".

"Awaji-Inombek Abiante, another lawmaker, expressed similar reservations, urging his colleagues to reject the bill due to the potential dangers it posed to Nigeria's delicate religious balance. Despite support from some lawmakers, primarily from the northern states, who argued that the proposal was harmless, the bill faced overwhelming opposition. Many House members ultimately voted against the proposal, underscoring concerns over the preservation of Nigeria's secular governance and religious freedoms. After Deputy Speaker Ben Kalu put the bill to a voice vote, the "nays" prevailed, marking the formal rejection of the proposal. This decision serves as a reminder of the complexities surrounding religious and cultural issues in Nigeria, where legislative actions involving faith must balance unity with the respect of individual rights". Not satisfied, northern promoters of the controversial bill promised to go back to the drawing board and reintroduce the bill later.

The above is not only a clear confirmation of findings made by this Special International Report but also a grave violation of the country's existing secular Constitution of 1999 and Nigeria's multireligious and multiethnic population size of roughly half Muslims and half Christians and non-Muslim others, totaling 234.3m as of October 31, 2024, according to UN estimates. It further explains why "Muslim President and Muslim Vice President" was imposed on the country during the controversial presidential election of February 25, 2023, in a multireligious and multiethnic country with over 100m Christian and over 100 Muslim populations and others.

HOW HERDSMEN INVITED NEW TERROR GROUP, LAKURAWA, TERRORIZING SOKOTO, KEBBI, OTHERS SINCE 2018:

Unknown to many, the new terrorist group, Lakurawa, the army raised the alarm about, last week, did not just spring up recently. As far back as 2018, it was discovered that the group had commenced operations in Gongono Forest, Tangaza Local Government Area. This is the story: On December 16, 2018, I received a call from then Sokoto State Director of the Department of State Services, Ibrahim Bello, while on a visit to my village. Bello said he wanted to see me for a discussion. I left my village early Sunday morning with my family to meet the DSS boss. At 2pm, I received another call from the same person asking if I had arrived Sokoto, I said yes. He asked me to come to his office, which I did without hesitation. My conversation with the DSS boss while in his office was if I was aware of the presence of a terrorist group in Tangaza Local Government. I said no that I was not aware. After responding to his question, he started telling me about the emergence of the group and support given by the then Sokoto State governor, Aminu Tambuwal, to security operatives including DSS, Police and Army to chase the group out of Gongono Forest. He said Tambuwal had offered series of support to security agencies fighting the group in Gongono Forest, which served as their hideout and center of their activities.

The DSS boss asked me to write a report on the emergence of the group and how security operatives in the state chased them out after killing their members and setting the entire forest ablaze. Few members of the group pleaded for one week extension for them to leave the area completely, saying they sent a member on an errand to Lagos to dispose their cattle after which they will relocate to where they initially came from. The group, according to communities in the area were initially invited by nomadic herdsmen formerly occupying the area for protection against bandits who often conduct series of attacks and rustled their herds of cattle. Shortly after their arrival, the jihadists who were said to hail from two African countries, Algeria and Mali, established what seems to be like a colony or an empire with strict adherence to Islamic ideology.

The group banned cigarettes smoking, alcoholism, adultery, non-shaving of bears among men and ensured mandatory wearing of hijabs for Women. Also, the sect enforced Zakkat on Fulani with large number of herds of livestock sale as enshrined in the Holy Qur'an.

The group's re-emergence might not be unconnected with the location of the forest and its lush vegetation that stands between the borders of Nigeria and Niger as well as its proximity to Niger Republic, the country that shares border with Algeria and Mali. The Malian jihadists were also reported to engage in the struggle to establish a training base for hard-line Islamic fundamentalism in the area. During the group's first encounter with security agents in the densely populated forest in Gongono, many extremists were killed after which jihadists' flag was recovered. It is their symbol of authority with Islamic inscription similar to that of Alshabab, the group operating in Somalia.

After the encounter with security agents, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association issued a statement, saying the jihadists were not terrorists as claimed but herdsmen from Mali, adding that nobody should disturb them. This was despite evidence that they had seized many communities in two Local Government Areas of the state and forcing them to pay taxes. Tangaza/Gudu Federal Constituency is surrounded by two forests that include DarnaTsaulawo Forest that stretches to Gwadabawa, Illela and Niger Republic and Kuyan Bana forest which extends to Gudu and Niger Republic. Sani Alhaji Yakubu, a member of the National Assembly representing the area, revealed that the terrorists have joined forces and vowed to make life difficult for people who are predominantly farmers in the area. He said: "The two forests house two terrorist groups, the Lakurawa who claimed to be jihadists from Niger, Mali, Libya, Algeria and the local Bandits. "The two groups who were earlier sworn enemies, have now joined forces, making it much more difficult for deployed security operatives to penetrate or cordon the general area of the forest.

In his motion at the floor of the National Assembly, Yakubu urged the military to deploy more personnel and hardware to comb the forests to flush out criminals. "People of my constituency are always in shackles of one terrorists' group or the other since 2018 and government is not doing enough to free them from the groups wanton attacks and cattle rustling." The first victim of the group when they first arrived at the area was a traditional ruler, the district head of Balle, the headquarters of Gudu Local Government Area, Magajin Garin Balle, who was beheaded by the group after a misunderstanding between the sect and his son. Defense Headquarters had raised the alarm, last week, about the new terrorist group with strongholds in Sokoto and Kebbi states, saying they are already causing havoc. "Now that we know where they are, we are already going after them, and we will take them out," Defense Headquarters spokesman Maj-Gen Edward Buba, said. According to him, the sect is linked to Islamic State, ISIS. He added that when they settled in Sokoto and Kebbi, the people did not raise the alarm until they started their nefarious activities. (Sunday Vanguard: Text only).

DETAINING CIVILIAN CITIZENS FOR YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL FUELING CUSTODIAL KILLINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES:

The Nigerian Armed Forces' dastardly act of indiscriminate abduction of thousands of defenseless and unarmed members of the South-East and the Igbo South-South civilian population during which they are taken to unknown military facilities and held under life-threatening conditions for years have continued to fuel custodial killings and enforced disappearances in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015. Such civilian Easterners in their thousands have rampantly been abducted and taken away outside the knowledge of their families and official records during which the military authorities holding them usurp their statutory limitations by unlawfully and bluntly refusing to transfer them to the authorities and facilities of the Nigeria Police Force for proper investigation and trial, if any.

The most shocking and alarming is that instead of them being lawfully transferred to the police within 24 hours or 48 hours as clearly stipulated in several statutory and constitutional provisions in accordance with the provisions of Sections 35 (Right to Personal Liberty) and 36 (Right to Fair Hearing) of the 1999 Constitution, the reverse has not only become the case but such citizens in their thousands have also been held for months or years without trial by Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Department of the State Security Service (DSS) under controversial labeling of being "IPOB/ESN fighters or combatants". As if that was not enough, such defenseless Police and DSS detainees are secretly transferred to military facilities located in different parts of faraway Northern Nigeria and further held arbitrarily and inhumanly for years with high risk of being extrajudicially killed or tortured or starved to death.

It has further been discovered that such secret transfer and arbitrary detention included those ordered or directed by the Office of the National Security Adviser headed by a retired Police Assistant Inspector-General; whose office also maintains several secret detention facilities in northern part of the country where hundreds of unarmed citizens mostly from the East are arrested and detained in perpetuity without trial or subjected to circumstances of custodial killings or disappearances. Saddening and shocking is the fact that officers and personnel of the military abduct and take away such victims without following due process of law including denial of access to the victims' families and lawyers. Those of them that are shot and wounded or physically and psychologically tortured after having been abducted are also denied access to doctors or proper medical treatments.

There are also hundreds of others who are custodially killed or subjected to torture and other inhuman treatments or punishments leading to their custodial death after which their dead bodies disappeared including being melted with raw acid substances and secretly buried in mass graves to erase traces of responsibility and culpability. Arrest and detention in perpetuity leading to rampant cases of custodial killings and enforced disappearances by the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces had remotely arisen from total lack of statutory powers and expertise regarding "detention, investigation and prosecution of members of the civilian population not subject to the Armed Forces Act and any other military law in force". The above is further fueled by rampancy of ethnoreligious profiling, class criminalization, false labeling, mass stigmatization and radical Islamism approaches to defense and security by the Nigerian Military.

Totality of the above remotely brings about lack of indictable evidence forcing the culpable authorities to run to or take refuge in "prosecutorial vindictiveness" propelled by false labeling and class criminalization and recriminalization. The Intersociety was privileged to have stumbled into some court processes against the Department of the State Security Services (DSS/SSS) by some human rights lawyers and perusal of same revealed that several citizens arrested and temporarily disappeared by DSS were found to have been "secretly transferred to undisclosed military facilities in the North". The authorities of the DSS were also found to have admitted "arresting and detaining" such citizens and holding them beyond the periods permitted by law from where they are transferred to unnamed military facilities through "orders from above". Such admission by the DSS was also found to have contained in deposed "counter affidavits of facts" attached to the court processes including names of their arrested and arbitrarily detained victims secretly and unlawfully transferred to military facilities.

Some of the lawyers spoken to also told the Intersociety that aside names of those attached by DSS, it was almost impossible for them to get names of thousands of others abducted from the East and secretly transferred to such military facilities particularly those located in Northern Nigeria. However, further investigations of ours have identified one of such notorious secret military facilities in Northern Nigeria as "the WAWA Military Cantonment" located in New Bussa area, after Kanji Dam in Niger State in North-Central Nigeria which is inaccessible with terribly bad road network and one of the most dangerous places prone to attacks by Jihadist Boko Haram and ISWAP insurgents and Jihadist Fulani Bandits and allied others including Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen. The Niger State where the killer-military Cantonment is located has largest landmass in Nigeria measuring over 76,000km². The killer and tortuous Cantonment was used as 'a court' in 2017 and 2018 to try estimated 2,500 Boko Haram insurgents.

Further identified as commonplace and stock-in-trade of officers and personnel of the Armed Forces is use of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatments or punishments. Clear cases in point are the ordeals of Pius Awoke Esquire, an Ebonyi State-born Legal Practitioner and Onyibe Emmanuel Chinonso, a Final Year Computer Science student of the Ebonyi State University. The duo, arrested by the DSS on July 26, 2021 along the Muritala Mohammed Bridge in Kogi State, on their way back to the East after attending the criminal court proceedings against IPOB Leader, Nnamdi Kanu; were detained for two months inside underground cell of the DSS Headquarters in Abuja before being secretly transferred to the "WAWA Military Cantonment" in Niger State where they were held inhumanly for three years until their release on June 21, 2024.

The two defenseless citizens were arrested and taken away alongside nine others including two drivers of the Sienna vehicles they were returning to the East with.

As of the time they were released on June 21, 2024, about seven of them were never seen alive or accounted for. Only the two drivers were reportedly seen being taken out of their cells and it could not be confirmed whether they were dead or alive thereafter or till date. Throughout their three years of solitary confinement at the 'WAWA Military Cantonment', Barrister Awoke Pius and Emmanuel Onyibe were never told of their offenses or taken to court. Looked plump, hale and hearty before their arrest and abduction back in July 2021, Barrister Awoke Pius and Emmanuel Onyibe came out of the "WAWA Military Cantonment" looking haggard and brutally malnourished and starved bearing scars of physical and psychological torture inflicted upon and undergone in the hands of their torturers at the killer-Cantonment.

Below is the account of what Barrister Awoke Pius experienced in the hands of the authorities of the Abuja DSS and the WAWA Military Cantonment, New Bussa, Niger State after having been detained for three years without trial:

"Can you take us back to that day in July 2021 when the Department of State Service (DSS) arrested you?

"I was arrested on July 26, 2021. That day, around 4:00 pm and 4:30 pm, I was returning from the Federal High Court, Abuja, after witnessing the arraignment and trial of Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). While I was returning with some other occupants of the vehicle I boarded, at the end of Muritala Mohammed Bridge, along the Abuja-Lokoja Expressway, we met a military checkpoint, and they stopped us. They met our driver and told him that there were some vehicles that DSS officials were pursuing from Abuja, that we should park there and wait for them, that we should be patient and not be in a hurry, that very soon, the DSS officials would show up. We waited because we were not suspecting anything because we had no incriminating object in our vehicle. We parked by the roadside and waited for the DSS. After some 30 minutes, they arrived, and by the time they came, we had already alighted from the bus. They told us to go back, and we returned into the Sienna bus. Then, they came and asked us to surrender our phones, which we did. Afterwards, one of them brought out a piece of paper from his chest pocket. It seemed there was a phone number he needed, and he started dialing the numbers on the piece of paper one after the other. He was dialing the numbers on our phones. Later, I think he didn't find the number he was looking for on any of our phones, and they returned our phones to us".

"After this, they went back behind some vehicles and had some brief discussions. They returned to us only to ask for our phones again, and we gave them to them. This second time, they started re-dialing the numbers again, and – maybe they didn't find the numbers on our phones – gave them back again. Meanwhile, let me say that there were two vehicles, and there were eleven of us in both. We were all going to Ebonyi from Abuja on that day, and all of us were stopped. The second time they requested our phones, they said that if you had any other phone in the vehicle, you should bring it out, but nobody had any other phone. Then they said we should come out of the vehicle. We did, and they searched the vehicle with their own hands but didn't find anything there. So, they began to search our bodies one after the other but still did not find anything. So, one of us, Ojima Kenneth, had two extra batteries because the journey was to take us about two days – we had left Abuja the previous day".

"The officers asked him what phones used the batteries, and he said it was the same phone as the one they took from him because the other batteries could fail him on the road, but they said it was a lie, that he had thrown away the phone that had that battery, and that was where the problem started. They told him to lie down, and they started using their boot to hit his head. They also used some cassava sticks to hit him. Afterwards, they arrested all of us and used ropes to tie our hands behind us, just like common criminals, and took us to the DSS headquarters in Lokoja that night. The following day, I kept asking them what our offence was. I kept asking them to tell us what we had done, but all they said was that there were people who asked them to bring us, and if they took us there and we were not the ones they were looking for, they would release us. They took us back to Abuja, and on our way there, they blindfolded and handcuffed us. We were even afraid they were going to kill us because they were with guns".

What happened when you got to Abuja?

"When we got to the national headquarters of the DSS in Abuja, we were still blindfolded. I can't tell everything that transpired there, however. They handed us over to some other officials, and they took snapshots of us and took records of the items that were in our possession, even though other things were in the vehicle. They then took us to a cell called 'Basement 2 Underground Cell'. There, we spent two months before they transferred us to one military cantonment. That day we were arrested; we did not eat anything because we were just driving to get something to eat in Lokoja. The day they also took us to Abuja, there was no food for us to eat, except that some of us drank water, as we found some of it in the cell. When we asked them to give us food after they had closed offices, one of them, Joshua Daniel, came alone into the cell. He had some handcuffs with him. He asked that we file out of the cell; we did and then he asked us to undress. After we did, he began to touch our bodies to know if any of us had any marks. If he found any, he would quiz the person and ask how he had come about it".

"When this was done, he picked an empty can of water, went to a corner, poured his urine into it and used it to bathe us one after the other. He poured it over our faces and mouths. He then handcuffed our hands together, two people to one handcuff. If you had to pee that night, you had to wake the other person up. After about five days in that military cantonment cell, they started to interrogate us but failed to file us for an interview. They refused to tell us the exact offence they were holding us for. They were interviewing us in line with the Eastern Security Network (ESN), whether we knew them or what they represented. I told them I did not know what an ESN officer looked like because I had never set my eyes on one. We remained in the cell amidst several interrogations until September 23, 2021. By then, they had already removed the two drivers who drove the vehicles. On the eve of the same day, they removed one of us from the cell, and by then, there were only eight of us remaining. The remaining eight of us, they mixed us up with other Boko Haram suspects and drove all of us to the Wawa Military Cantonment in Niger State. I was there until my release on Sunday".

AFTER THEY TOOK YOU TO WAWA CANTONMENT, WERE YOU AT ANY POINT BROUGHT BEFORE A JUDGE, MADE TO APPEAR BEFORE A COURT OR OFFERED BAIL?

"While I was there, I never saw anyone I knew. In fact, from the day they took me to the military cantonment, I never set my eyes on any civilian except Red Cross officials. I was never arraigned in any court. I was never even interrogated for a supposed crime. The only thing they did for us was computer verification. Nobody ever interrogated me in Wawa. I never had any discussion with any official about the cause of my arrest".

Did you ever request to be allowed to contact your relatives or even demand to know the exact cause of your arrest?

"They knew I was a lawyer. At the point I was arrested, I had my wig and gown with me, and they currently still have them in their possession. I also had my diary and pen with me. I showed my identity card to them and asked them repeatedly what my offence was. When they were taking names, I even told them to add the title 'barrister' to my name, but they removed it deliberately and ignored every evidence I had to prove I was wrongly arrested".

How did you survive the three years you spent in detention? Can you describe your experience?

"I am just thankful to God because I left detention alive. A lot of people lost their lives in that place. That place is a house of torture. My trauma is something I can't quantify. If I tell the world what I passed through at the hands of the army, they will be too shocked to believe me. You know their character. The truth is, when we got to that place, they stripped us naked, all of us, in the open. They manhandled us, including physical torture, mental torture and the rest of it. That is all I can say".

Can you describe one of your most horrible moments in detention?

"Like I told you, I am just grateful I am alive. Is it chronic hunger or thirst? Even as I am talking to you, there is no food there. The horrible experiences are too numerous to mention".

Was there anything that kept you going in the three years you were in detention, despite all the various forms of torture you endured?

"I really do not know, but I know people were praying for me, I would also pray for freedom every day in my cell. We usually stay hungry the whole day, say from 6 am to 6 pm. The type of food they gave us there made everyone go into fasting. You had to fast the whole day so you could join the three meals you would be served and eat once so your body could at least get something. Every day around the clock, we fasted from dawn to dusk just to join the meals together. They terribly underfed us. You must have seen my pictures on the internet. We had extremely poor diets. The three meals they served us daily were not even equal to one meal for a free person".

What kind of meals were you served?

"The most common meal they served was eba. It came almost every day. They gave us rice as well. There was a time they would serve us beans, but now they say it is too expensive. They started by telling us that a bag of beans was sold for N120,000; later, they told us it had moved to N200,000. Then, they said beans was no longer available in the market. They would then give us only pap, the basic one which was brought by Red Cross. Also, they would grind maize, put it in hot water and serve it like that".

Were you released alongside the eight people you were arrested with?

"I was detained with the people I was arrested with from September 23, 2021, to March 12, 2022. And as we were separated on that day in March, there are some of them I never saw again till I was released. We were mixed up with Boko Haram suspects. In our cell, a one-room cell, we were 15 inmates. We had an open toilet and bathroom. The toilet is open, no door. If someone is using it, you'll both be looking at each other. When you stare long enough, you distract yourself with something else. And sometimes, you wouldn't even get water to clean up. Until the end of last month, I stayed for one month and 17 days without a bath. I remember that in early June, I stayed days without water because there was none. There are a lot of horrible stories to tell, but I do not want to go into them because I am now a free man".

I understand you were released alongside Onyiba Emmanuel Chinonso, a computer science student at the Ebonyi State University. Was he in the same vehicle as you?

"Yes, Chinonso and I were in the same vehicle. We were arrested on the same day and released on the same day. He was in Wawa Military Detention with me, and we had the same experience".

How did your release happen from your own end?

"It was just a Wednesday. They had already served us for the day and closed our door and locked us inside. Before he left, the person who was like a porter, came back and opened our door. He called my name. Those in the cell knew me as Barrister. Most of them were Boko Haram suspects, and they did not know my name. So, when the porter called my name, he just simply asked, 'Who is Pious?' One of us who was at the door said, 'No Pious here,' but I heard it. I then raised my hand and said, 'I am the Pious.' He told me to come out and put on my footwear. When I got outside, I saw a man sitting in front of three military men. He was sitting on the ground, in front of his own cell. This man, I later found out, was Chinonso. So, I was suspicious that maybe something happened, and Chinonso called my name. When I got there, they asked for my name, I told them. They asked for details of my arrest, and I recounted it. Since I was arrested, I had stuck to the same version of my arrest, which is the truth, just because I did not want them to misquote me. However, I must state that when they called me, they asked for my name. I gave them my name, and they asked me where I came from. I told them and added that I'm an international lawyer".

"While we were there, one military personnel said I would stay in detention until I died. But the other person cautioned him and said that was not going to happen. Then the person who was interrogating me said he knew me. After a couple of minutes, he said they would call me to meet with the commander of the cantonment, that I should tell him the same story I told them and that I should also be praying. That was the way they put it. The following day, a Thursday, they brought Chinonso and me out again, but this time for computer thumb printing.

This didn't work because there was no blood again. In the evening of the same day, they took us to the center of the cantonment, where we met seven military men, including the commander, who interrogated us all over. He asked us a few more questions and then said, 'Happy freedom.' He then gave the order that we be given clothes, but I was still skeptical. The next day, they provided us with the clothes, and they asked us to pack our things into a room. In that same room, they blindfolded us with black clothes and led us through the stairs and into a car".

"They blindfolded us till we arrived at the DSS office in Minna. At the time, we didn't know where we were. They just stopped the vehicle. After several hours of travel, they brought a document for me to sign, but I asked them how I could sign a paper blindfolded. This was when they told me I could remove my blindfold, and then I realized we were in the DSS office, Minna. Another surprising thing was that one of the officers became very friendly with us, and he was imploring my patience while stating that I would soon meet the chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Minna, as he would sign my surety, and they would hand us over to him. All the while, I thought they were planning to transfer us to another cell. When he came, we met, and he filled his forms. The next day, they drove us in a DSS convoy to the DSS office in Abuja, where we met the NBA national chairman and were released fully..."

Torture Attracts 25 Years Imprisonment In Nigeria And Trial For Murder If Tortured To Death In Custody:

Under Section 8 of the Nigeria's Anti Torture Act of 2017, under "Penalties"; "a person (law enforcement official or armed opposition group's fighter or combatant or a criminal civilian torturer) who commits offense of torture shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment to a term of 25 years and if death occurs because of the torture, the person involved will be charged with murder".

RAMPANCY OF PROSECUTORIAL VINDICTIVENESS IN NIGERIA

According to 2009 Edition of the Black's Law Dictionary, "Prosecutorial Vindictiveness" is understood to mean arbitrary directive of the Attorney General of a country or its sub-national unit (i.e. State or Region or Province) or other State authorities such as the NSA, in the case of Nigeria, to clamp unarmed and defenseless citizens of a particular region or religion or tribe in their large or individual numbers into indefinite detention usually without official or public records such as the arrested and detained victims' biometrics; during which such victims are further denied custodial liberties including access to their families and lawyers, doctors or medical treatments, fair hearing, etc. Such citizens are victims of 'Prosecutorial Vindictiveness' by being spuriously accused of committing crimes or offenses attracting capital and other severe punishments on triable conviction.

Such spuriously levelled offenses include "insurgency", "terrorism", "terrorism financing" and "insurrection" as well as "kidnapping", "armed robbery", "murder", "arson", "burglary", "arms trafficking", etc. The coercive State actor authorities know that such spuriously levelled offenses are un-prosecutable due to zero investigative and indictable evidence, yet they go ahead to level them with intent to inflict severe pretrial custodial punishments of lethal proportions on the victims. The central motive behind such State authorities' spurious accusations against the victim-citizens is to hold them in indefinite detention with no access to regular court trials and legal representations of their choice. The above is also fueled by "endless criminal investigations" brought about by lack of professional skills and techniques and absence of prima facie evidence needed to stimulate such criminal investigations.

Part of "prosecutorial vindictiveness" is reckless resort to "remand orders" usually issued through "order ex parte (one sided)" by court magistrates. Court Magistrates and their Courts in Nigeria are perpetually and statutorily barred from adjudicating or presiding over criminal trials including high profile criminal offenses mentioned above; yet they are allowed to issue remand orders; formerly known as "Holden Charge"; designed to keep citizens in perpetual detention without regular and proper court trials.

It must further be explained that under the above circumstances, the principal aim of such culpable State authorities is not to secure court convictions against the perpetually detained citizens through diligent prosecution and fair trial but to unlawfully, extrajudicially and crudely punish them including remotely killing or permanently disappearing them in custody using abusive power of investigation and its endlessness.

Dangers of "prosecutorial vindictiveness" include reckless use of obnoxious and draconian provisions that are gravely inconsistent with Fundamental Human Rights Provisions in Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and the country's acceded Regional and International Human Rights and Humanitarian Treaties as methods of processing civilian citizens accused of offending criminal offenses of felonious nature or character. Heavy reliance on the above has resulted to detention without trial of the detained defenseless citizens and denial of access to their families and lawyers; likewise, fair hearing and fair trial including presumption of innocence until the contrary is established by law courts, accordance with Section 36 (5) of the existing Constitution of Nigeria 1999 as amended. "Prosecutorial vindictiveness" in Nigeria has also led to gross abuse and degradation of the rule of law; likewise, crime detection and prevention and criminal investigation and prosecution processes in Nigeria or any part thereof particularly in the South-East and the South-South in the past nine years and four months or end of August 2015 to end of December 2024.

The inability and unwillingness of the law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities to follow due process of the law and their maddening recourse to "short cuts" such as "prosecutorial vindictiveness" have further hindered successful criminal prosecution and due process judicial convictions against those accused of such crimes-as cases of judicial convictions against those accused of "IPOB/ESN terrorism" or "parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism" have been very rare, if not totally unavailable in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015. The above explains the authorities of the Nigerian Armed Forces' crude and maddening resort to ongoing "exparte court-martial" to clamp members of the Eastern Nigerian civilian population into extrajudicial jail terms at all costs after having been abducted and held for years in secret military custodies.

Statistically, there are more than 6000 victims of "prosecutorial vindictiveness" under the authorities and custodies or facilities of the Nigerian Armed Forces alone, covering August 30, 2015, and Dec 31, 2024, who are likely to still be alive and languishing in different secret military facilities across Nigeria including hundreds or above inhumanly languishing in "WAWA Military Cantonment" in New Bussa/Kanji part of Niger State. The not less than 6000 civilian detainees did not include those who must have been shot and killed in custody or starved or tortured to death and permanently disappeared by the military. Estimated thousands of others are strongly suspected to be languishing in different open and secret DSS and Nigeria Police Force facilities across the country particularly in detention centers located in Abuja, Ogoni in Rivers State, Niger State, etc.; among whom hundreds must have secretly been moved to military facilities from their former captors. Apart from DSS, the culpable police departments are the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) and the Force Criminal Investigations Department (FCID) and their subordinate facilities across the country's 36 States where such victims are detained for several months or one year and above without trial.

A clear case in point was the arrest of six young females working as "salesgirls" in 2022 in Owerri, Imo State. The six young girls were arrested by the operatives of the Department of State Security Services (DSS), Imo State Directorate and randomly accused of "being girlfriends of the wanted IPOB/ESN fighter or combatant" leading to them being tortiously held for more than five months without trial or March 14 to August 19, 2022. Their sudden release was prompted by impregnation in DSS custody of one of them which leaked to the media, forcing the authorities of the DSS to hurriedly free them weeks after.

Despite wielding enormous investigative and prosecutorial powers under the law; coupled with skillful expertise and techniques, officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS have rampantly engaged in long detention of unarmed citizens without trial using "prosecutorial vindictiveness" and abusive powers of detention and criminal investigation.

GRAPHIC DETAILS OF MILITARY MASSACRE AND ALLIED HEINOUS CRIMES IN THE EAST

Amnesty International had in its statement issued on Monday, August 19, 2024, “expressed concern over the systematic enforced disappearance of individuals arrested by Nigerian security agencies in Southeast Nigeria”. The global human rights watchdog also criticized the security agencies’ denial of involvement, stating that it has caused immense suffering for the families and loved ones of the missing individuals. The globally respected human rights watchdog had on Monday, August 19, 2024, issued a statement alleging that “security forces are using accusations of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) membership as a pretext to detain individuals in secret, without due process or transparency”. The global human rights organization listed several individuals arrested by the Nigerian military, Police, and Department of State Services (DSS)... between 2018 and August 2024, who have since gone missing.

It further said, “In southeast Nigeria, many people were arrested by state agents, without any trace of their whereabouts, and the state denies knowledge of where they are, putting their families through endless anguish: “Sunday Nwafor, a 47-year-old businessman was last seen on 27 February 2020 after his arrest by army officials from 14 Brigade Ohafia, Abia State. “Obioma Okoroafor (40 years) Ozoemela Nwaokorie (34 years) and Ogechi Ifere Matins were arrested on 27 October 2020 by men of the Nigerian Army at Oyigbo, Rivers State during the #EndSARS protests. “Sunday Ifedi and Calista Ifedi, a couple, were taken by security operatives from their home in Enugu on 23 November 2021, because of their alleged membership of the Indigenous People of Biafra and had gone missing since then. “Maduabuchi Obinwa, aged 22, disappeared after his abduction on 24 April 2022, when security agents from the Awkuzu Annex of the State Criminal Investigation Department raided his house in Ekwulobia, Anambra State. The whereabouts of all these people remained unknown at the end of the year.”

Another typical case study was Friday, November 1, 2024, arraignment of 29 minors before a Nigerian High Court of Justice on charges of “treason”-with death penalty or life jail on conviction. The 29 minors, ages 12 to 17 were among 76 protesters who were arrested and detained for over 90 days before being arraigned they participated in country-wide protests against the country’s record [cost-of-living](#) crisis. Four of the 29 minors had collapsed in court due to exhaustion before they could enter a plea; after which they were joined by 72 other protesters and charged with 10 felony counts, including treason, destruction of property, public disturbance and mutiny, according to the charge sheet seen by The Associated Press. CNN also reported that “frustration over the cost-of-living crisis has led to several mass protests in recent months including August 2024 during which at least 20 people were shot dead and hundreds more arrested at a protest demanding better opportunities and jobs for young people. Death sentence was introduced in Nigeria the 1970s...”

As if that was not enough, the country’s Inspector General of Police, Kayode Agbetokun, PhD, reacted to public outcries and global condemnations trailing the trial of the minors and hundreds of other protesters for “treason”, by accusing the collapsed children of “dramatizing and deliberately collapsing in Court to draw negative public and international attention and sympathy to give Nigeria Police Force a bad image. He also unrepentantly vowed to go ahead and prosecute the minors on treason charges and insisted that “they must take responsibility for crimes they perpetrated not minding their ages of responsibility”. However, less than 48hours after the IGP’s widely condemned stance, President Ahmed Tinubu ordered for unconditional release, discharge and acquittal of the 29 minors and dozens of other protesters who have spent over 90 days in detention before being arraigned for “treason”.

The above therefore clearly represents “prosecutorial vindictiveness” rampantly and indiscriminately being used by the authorities of the DSS, Police, Military and offices of Federal and State Attorneys-General.



Photo of civilian houses burnt by the military

THANKFUL POSITION OF CHIEF FEMI FALANA, SAN ON GROSS ABUSES OF RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW IN NIGERIA:



Chief Femi Falana, SAN

Titled: "Falana urges Nigerian lawyers to end illegal arrests, detentions".

Human rights lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana, has called on Nigerian lawyers to take decisive action against the illegal arrest and detention of citizens. In a statement issued on Sunday (August 25, 2024), commemorating the 2024 Annual Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Falana urged the association to implement a robust mechanism for enforcing the Administration of Police Establishment Act and the Criminal Justice Act, both of which have been adopted by all 36 states of the Federation. Falana emphasized the need for Nigerian lawyers to

lead the charge in ending the violation of citizens' rights by police and other law enforcement agencies.

He stated, "The NBA should take advantage of the conference to put in place a comprehensive mechanism for the implementation of the Administration of Police Establishment Act and the Criminal Justice Act, which have been adopted by all the 36 states of the Federation. Despite the laws that prohibit the arrest and detention of individuals for civil wrongs and breaches of contract, and mandate legal representation, humane treatment of suspects, and conditional or unconditional bail, Falana lamented that these rights continue to be violated. "Even though both laws have abolished arrest and detention of citizens for civil wrongs and breaches of contract and made provisions for legal representation of suspects in police stations, the police and other law enforcement agencies have continued to breach the fundamental rights of suspects to personal liberty, dignity, and fair hearing," he said.

He urged the NBA to direct its Human Rights Committees across 128 branches to accompany Chief Magistrates during their monthly visits to police stations, which would help curtail the unlawful detention of suspects. "The NBA should direct the members of the Human Rights Committee of the 128 branches to accompany Chief Magistrates during the monthly visits to all police stations in the country," Falana suggested. "Such visits will end the incessant arrest and detention of suspects and others, as the Magistrates are empowered to grant bail to suspects, order their release, or direct their arraignment in appropriate courts." Falana also called on the NBA leadership to pressurize the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court to designate judges for monthly visits to detention facilities operated by the Armed Forces, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Customs, and the State Security Service, as mandated by law. "Let the NBA leadership pressurize the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court to designate judges to conduct monthly visits to the detention facilities of various law enforcement agencies in line with the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the Police Establishment Act," he urged.

Furthermore, he urged NBA leaders, who are official visitors to all correctional centers under the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019, to conduct regular visits to ensure that the rights of inmates are respected. "The NBA leadership should visit the nation's correctional centers regularly and ensure that the rights of convicts and other inmates are respected in line with the provisions of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act and the Constitution," he said. Falana also stressed the importance of applying the Anti-Torture Act, 2017, to eliminate the torture of suspects, reminding law enforcement officers that those who torture suspects to death are liable to be tried for murder, and that victims of torture have the right to seek compensation. "Nigerian lawyers should apply the provisions of the Anti-Torture Act, 2017, to end the torture of suspects and others in Nigeria," Falana stated. "The police and other law enforcement officers must be made aware that the penalty for subjecting suspects to torture is 25 years imprisonment without any option of fine."

He also advocated for state attorneys-general to ensure that only legal practitioners prosecute criminal offences, as seen in Delta and Kano States, which have abolished the practice of police officers without legal qualifications handling criminal cases. Falana urged lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to indigent citizens with genuine complaints.

"State Attorneys-General should ensure that the prosecution of criminal offences in all courts is conducted by legal practitioners," he advised. "Nigerian lawyers are urged to provide pro bono legal services to indigent citizens with genuine complaints."

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CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Military "Domicide" Frightened And Forced 1m Easterners To Flee Their Homes Since August 2015



**300 COMMUNITIES RAIDED, 6000 HOUSES RAZED,
180,000 DISPLACED AND N450B PROPERTIES LOST SINCE 2015:**

Estimated 300 Igbo communities particularly those located in the South-East and Igbo part of Rivers State in the South-South have been raided and attacked by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces drafted to Eastern Nigeria in the past nine years and four months, covering August 2015 to December 2024. The extension of the above to the end of December 2024 arises from the fact that the patterns and trends of the dastardly act are expected not to have any significant shift or change between now and end of 2024. The raids and attacks were militarily perpetrated using aerial bombardments usually in late hours of the night and wee hours of the morning, targeting and wantonly destroying dwelling houses and allied properties and killing or abducting defenseless inhabitants of such dwelling communal homes. Apart from aerial bombardments using military war jets and war-grade helicopters, invasion of such communities by soldiers during ungodly hours of the night and wee hours of the morning are not only a commonplace but also indiscriminate.

By several eyewitnesses' accounts, such invasions are recklessly perpetrated by targeting dwelling houses, household and other properties for destruction or burning. Property lootings are also a commonplace. Our international documentary on military house burnings and property lootings in the South-East particularly in Imo State, released on July 18, 2022, is a clear case in point. Members of defenseless Igbo civilian population are also targeted for open and secret killing after having been shot in the open or abducted on the spot and taken into custody. The Nigerian military officers and personnel, sometimes joined by other law enforcement agents, are also in the reckless and unchecked habits of setting targeted dwelling houses and allied properties on fire just to arrest suspects, rightly or wrongly accused of "being IPOB members" or "being ESN fighters". Such dwelling houses are sometimes set ablaze or razed to the ground after taken suspects into custody or killing them extrajudicially. There are also cases whereby dwelling houses belonging to nuclear and extended family members are summarily set on fire or razed by military personnel using petrol bombs or improvised explosive devices and other explosives without sparing their inhabitants or occupants trapped inside including human beings and domestic animals.

It must clearly be pointed out that apart from military officers and personnel leading the way in the perpetration of such conduct-atrocities (domicide), other security officers and personnel including various police crack and tactical squads and DSS and Paramilitaries are also involved individually or collectively including under "Joint Security Taskforces". It must further be informed that most of the 300 affected Igbo communities are spread across the five South-East States of Anambra, Abia, Imo, Enugu and Ebonyi; and Igbo communities under Eyingbo (Obigbo) Local Government Area in Rivers State and others located in places like Akwa Ibom State. Among those in the South-East that are also the worst affected are in Imo State including several communities under Orsu, Oru East, Oru West, Owerri North, Owerri West, Ehime-Mbano, Ezinihite-Mbaise, Mbaitoli, Oguta, Ohaji-Egbema, Ideato North, Ideato-South, Okigwe, Njaba, Onuimo and Obowo Local Government Areas, etc.

Affected areas in Anambra State include some communities located in Ihiala, Nnewi South, Aguata, Orumba North, Orumba South, Ogbaru, Awka North, Awka South, Oyi and Ayamelum Local Government Areas, etc.

In Enugu State, some of the affected communities include those in Awgu, Nkanu East, Nkanu West, Isi-Uzor, Ezeagu, Udi, Enugu East, Nsukka, Igbo-Eze South and Igbo-North Local Government Areas, etc. Affected Abia communities include those located Umuahia North, Isiala-Ngwa North, Isiala-Ngwa South, Ohafia, Aba South, Aba North, Ukwa West, Ukwa East, Umunneochi and Isiukwuato Local Government Areas, etc. In Ebonyi State, some of the affected communities are those communities in Izzi, Ezza North, Afikpo South, Ishielu, Ezza South, Ohazara, Afikpo North and Ohaukwu Local Government Areas, etc.

...180,000 DEFENSELESS INHABITANTS FORCED OUT OF THEIR 6000 RAZED COMMUNAL DWELLING HOUSES:

During the military raids in Eastern Nigeria in the past nine years and four months (August 2015-December 2024), estimated 6000 dwelling houses belonging to estimated 180,000 defenseless inhabitants have been razed or destroyed beyond repair and properties including the razed 6000 dwelling houses valued at over N450billion attacked and lost. It is further estimated that no fewer than 180,000 defenseless inhabitants occupying the razed 6000 communal dwelling houses have been forced to flee their homes to avoid being trapped and killed or abducted and falsely labeled "IPOB/ESN fighters or combatants" and temporarily or permanently disappeared. Over half of them or nothing less than 100,000 communal occupants of the razed houses have been affected in Imo State alone. The more than 180,000 indigenous inhabitants have also been forced into homelessness and displacement during which thousands were shot and killed or abducted and disappeared till date. Hundreds of the educated and the rich among the 180,000 displaced indigenous inhabitants have been forced to flee outside Nigeria and settled in different countries as "urban refugees".

...GENERATED THREATS AND FEARS FORCED ONE MILLION DEFENSELESS CITIZENS TO FLEE THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMES:

Threats and fears generated by military raids and house burnings have further forced more than one million defenseless indigenes and residents of the affected areas into abandoning their communities to stay alive and avoid being criminally labeled and shot and killed or abducted and permanently disappeared by the military and other security forces without traces by their families or official records. The generated threats and fears are also non-state actor driven as the victims run the high risk of being trapped and killed or attacked by armed non-state actors and armed sub-state actors. Out of the more than one million frightened and threatened Igbo citizens that have fled their rural communities in the East to escape military raids and attacks, 600,000 are estimated to have fled from Imo State alone and the remaining 400,000 others fled and abandoned their rural homes and communities from other parts of the Old Eastern Region.

Many of them are also those that have relocated to places where their relatives and friends and well-wishers live or reside including relatively safer rural areas or urban centers where they squat or end up as flat apartment or self-contained or a room apartment tenant. There are tens of thousands of others that have relocated to other parts of the country or traveled abroad where they settled as "urban refugees". Hundreds of others are part of those being held in different international prisons across African countries and Asia or South Africa. Dozens have also died outside the knowledge of their families while trying to cross international borders through land and sea into countries of Europe or Asia.

As a matter of fact, it has been estimated in Imo State that no fewer than 600,000 defenseless civilians have been forced to flee the State and relocated to different parts of Nigeria where they temporarily or permanently settled. In our Special Report on Imo Military and Other Security Forces' Mass Killings and House Burnings, released on May 21, 2023, it was found that not less than 500,000 citizens and residents of the State were forced to flee the State since January 2021 or in a period of 29 months. It was also found that those that fled no longer hold funeral and marriage rites in their communities of birth.

In other words, the state of insecurity and other unsafe conditions in the State have forced them into organizing funeral and marriage ceremonies outside their ancestral communities. Bodies of their loved ones who died are also smuggled into their ancestral homes at late night using hired undertakers and bribed local security guards or "unknown gunmen" for interment after which their funerals are shifted to urban areas outside the State. Persons of the Wealth who dare to have such funerals in their ancestral communities within the State spend millions of naira to secure the services of security forces particularly the military personnel and their military hardware weaponry during which such funerals are held in a hurry under tight security, panics and fears.

...N450Billion (\$300M) Properties Lost To Military Raids In Nine Years And Four Months In The East:

Nothing less than N450billion worth of defenseless citizens' properties have been lost to the Nigerian military and other security forces' raids in the South-East and the Igbo South-South in the past nine years and four months or August 30, 2015, to December 31, 2024. The lost properties are on average of N60m per razed dwelling house into the 6000 razed houses totaling N360billion. The remaining N90billion was estimated to have represented non-dwelling house properties such as trailers and lorries worth of goods militarily attacked and set ablaze; likewise, trade or market stores stocked with goods and off-dwelling house parked or moving automobiles, motorcycles and tricycles attacked or destroyed.

The destroyed dwelling house properties in calculation and quantification included land spaces housing such dwelling houses, economic trees including herbs and cash crops, electricals and electronics, kitchen utensils, domestic animals, religious symbols such as holy bibles and artifacts associated with lawful antiquities; personal libraries including ancient and modern books, self-defense lawful firearms, farming implements and instruments including hoes, diggers and machetes; in-house automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles and tricycles; food items including tubers of yam, bags of rice and beans, dried meat, fish and crayfish and cooking oil and spices; farm seedlings, sitting room chairs and dining tables, clothes, resting beds, pillows and mattresses; cash sums, domestic water reservoirs including metal and plastic containers, pipes, wells and boreholes, etc.

...Previous Statistics (<https://youtu.be/RehqzLpkjeQ>):

The Intersociety had previously investigated and found that "in 29 months or January 2021 to May 2023, the Nigerian military and other drafted security forces in Imo State destroyed nothing less than 1,200 civilian houses and allied properties valued at over N60b" or today's 100billion during which average of N50m per razed dwelling house and other properties was used. The Intersociety listed other affected properties to include trade or market stalls stocked with goods, heavy-duty vehicles (. i.e. lorries and trailers) loaded with goods, religious sanctuaries and symbols and commercial and private automobiles. It was also found that all the houses and allied properties destroyed had nothing to do with "military necessity". The Intersociety had in 2022 carried out several field trip investigations into the house burnings and associated attacks by the military in Imo State with Orsu (Orsu-Ihiteukwa, Ihitenasaa and Eziawa) and some areas in Orlu Local Government Areas as our study, leading to the release of an international documentary on 18th July 2022. The Intersociety had in the statement accompanying the international documentary found that the Nigerian military-led security forces in the South-East "had in 20 months, covering October 2020 to June 2022 attacked nothing less than 150 Igbo communities and burned down or destroyed 1, 400 dwelling houses during which 51,000 defenseless inhabitants were sacked from their homes and 1,360 killed or abducted and permanently disappeared".

On 26th Jan 2022, for instance, several dwelling houses belonging to defenseless citizens of Akama-Na-Nansa of Ihitenasaa in Orsu Local Government Area of Imo State were militarily attacked, seriously vandalized and destroyed. Among them was the Palace (Obi Ohazulume) of the Traditional Ruler of the Community; vandalized and nearly burned down by soldiers of the 34 Artillery Brigade, Obinze in Imo State who later claimed that the Palace was a "hideout and training camp of IPOB/ESN fighters".

The Palace escaped being burned down following discovery of a professional business card found in one of the rooms belonging to the first son of Traditional Ruler of the Community (Late HRH, Eze Agugoesi) when the leader of the Army squad, a Northern Muslim Captain broke into the room and saw the card. It also happened that the owner of the card is a legal practitioner and a prince-first son of the Traditional Ruler.

On 31st January 2022, the Communities of Orsu-Ihiteukwa and Eziawa were attacked by arsonist soldiers and Ebubeagu militias during which over 70 houses were destroyed; likewise, those belonging to the communities of Amalulu, Umuhu-Okabia, Amiri and Awomama in Oru East and Ahiazu-Mbaise which were targeted and attacked on Monday, February 14, 2022, during which more than 100 civilian houses were targeted and attacked. The intersociety's field trip had earlier commenced on January 31, 2022, at Eziawa during which there were also reports of mass lootings by soldiers and Imo State owned and funded Ebubeagu Government Militias. Lorries, Trailers and commercial buses conveying goods were further reported to have been targeted, attacked and burned to ashes in places like Mgbidi (Imo State), Elele and Port Harcourt (Rivers State) and Nsukka (Enugu State), etc.; with intents to blame such attacks and offenses of arson and vandalism on "Unknown Gunmen" as they were then so-called. Nothing less than 80 Imo communities spreading across 20 of Imo State's 27 LGAs were also found to have been majorly affected, out of which Orlu and Orsu Local Government Areas were the worst hit. Other affected Imo communities then were Ihube-Okigwe, Arondizogu, Akokwa, Izombe, Enyogugu (Mbaise), Ezinifite-Mbaise, Ngor-Okpala, Oguta, Ohaji-Egbema, Owerri Municipal, Owerri North, Owerri West, Onuimo, Njaba, Isu, Nwangele, Nkwere, etc.

Textual And Audio-Visual Statistics: <https://youtu.be/RehqzLpkjeQ>

Video Clips And Photos Obtained From Orsu-Ihiteukwa Community:

- Location: Umugwu Kindred, Udah Village, Orsu-Ihiteukwa
Video 1 (A and B): Family House of Ugwudike burned down to ashes on January 31, 2022, by soldiers of the 34 Brigade, Obinze (near Owerri). An uncle to the owner of the House was also shot at his spinal cord region. Properties Looted: Set of new sitting room chairs (one 3-in-one, two 2-in-one and three singles), six sets of 'Moka Forms', three motorcycles, two standing fans, one big bag of rice, 48 pieces of wrappers of assorted expensive types, four sets of big ironsmith pots, ten sets of big plastic coolers and six medium types, cash sum of N290,000, two sets of sewing machines, three bunches of plantain, one big goat, one set of big power generator, etc. A prominent member of the Family who is an Onitsha based millionaire told the Intersociety that most of the items were procured in readiness for one of their daughters' coming marriage.
Two other houses belonging to the Family were also set ablaze. In the video, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Houses in the video are the same.
- Video 2: Location: Same area as above named. Owner: Mathias Nwobi, with a fresh grave of his newly buried wife. House looted and burned down.
- Video 3: Owner: Widow Christiana Nwokeji: Vandalized and destroyed.
- Video 4: Sunday Omisi Family House. Properties looted and windows and doors smashed and destroyed.
- Video 5: Family House of Obiakonwa. Properties looted and the house destroyed and burned down.
- Video 6: Family House of Joshua Ekwereogu. Wife died and freshly buried. The house had its valuable properties including farm crops looted before being set ablaze and burned to ashes.
- Video 7: Family House of Madam Monica Nwaenyi-built for her as a poor widow by a philanthropist. The house was burned down, and the widow's money and other valuable items stolen.
- Video 8: Family House of Michael Ezeburue. Set ablaze and burned down together with goats and other valuable properties stolen.
- Video 9: House of Madam Evelyn Nwokeji-burned to ashes.
- Video10: House of Chinedu Nwokeji-half burned and destroyed.
- Video 11: Family House of Innocent Ekwereogu- house and properties burned down

- Video 12: House of Ignatius Ohachusim-badly damaged and partly destroyed
- Video 13: House of Donatus Amuzie-badly damaged and partly destroyed
- Video 14: House of Hyacinth Ohachusim: Looted Items: power generator, secondhand iron tools (akpakara), huge cash sums and other valuable properties. House vandalized.
- Video 15: House of Sunday Alaeto-destroyed and partly burned
- Video 16: House of Christian Amuzie-windows smashed, and other properties destroyed
- Video 17: House of Late Hilary Amuzie-damaged and partly destroyed
- Video 18: House of Solomon Ngoka: properties looted, and house destroyed
- Video 19: House of Olivia Ngoka, a widow-money and other valuables stolen, and house ransacked
- Video 20: House of Joseph Amuzie-properties looted, and house destroyed.
- Video 21: House of Late Michael Amuzie-same as above
- Video 22: House of Timothy Onyeneche. The owner spoke to the Intersociety and narrated how soldiers stormed his house around 11.30am and looted his two sets of Android Phones, a set of power generator, a big bunch of plantain, gas cooker and went on to smash his house windows and other fixtures and chattels.
- Video 23: House of unnamed owner-properties looted and house damaged.
- Video 24: House of Chuma Peter Ngoka-lost N50,000 to soldiers who also broke house windows and destroyed his motorcycle
- Video 25: Family House of Benedict Alaeto-looted properties included assorted drinks, huge cash sums, packs of cigarettes and other valuable items, after which the House was set ablaze and burned down together with chairs, ceiling fans, power generators, gas cookers, etc.
- Video 26: House of Elder Simeon Iheanacho-his power generator, sets of bed and other valuables looted and the house vandalized
- Video 27: House of Gregory Anaeto-house badly damaged and items like power generator, refrigerators, other electronics and valuable items looted.

Eziawa Community:

- Video 28 (A and B): Three Houses of Nze Tobias Obi Family; a 67-year-old father and grandfather of children and a respected leader in the Laity Council of the Catholic Church and native of Akama Village in Eziawa Autonomous Community, Orsu LGA, Imo State. Three houses including his own house, that of his father which also housed their sales store and newly built another were all burned to ashes at about 3.30pm and above on 31st January 2022 by soldiers of the 34 Brigade Obinze in Imo State and Ebubeagu militias. Properties worth millions of naira were also looted or burned to ashes. Apart from losing cash of N1.8M to the arsonist soldiers, other valuable items lost included four television sets, 40 pieces of expensive 'abada' clothes, 40 pieces of new plastic chairs, four sets of 4 by 6 foam and two 6 by 6 foam, three bunches of plantain, five big ironsmith pots and four medium sizes, sets of breakable plates, etc. Burned to ashes with a house were three motorcycles, three goats, yam barn, etc. Out of the N1.8M stolen by soldiers and their allied militias, N400, 000 had belonged to Nze Tobias Obi's wife (Juliana) being sales made from their bar while remaining N1.4M was realized from different church and kindred groups which Nze Obi served as either Treasurer or Financial Secretary. The reason for setting civilian homes ablaze at Eziawa was that "a masquerade was sighted in the area by Army's informants as having been partly clothed with Biafra color".
- Video 29: Family House of Mr. CY or Cyprian (videoed here going up in flames). The owner of the House was a successful breeder of pigs and other domestic animals. The arsonist soldiers and Ebubeagu militias opened fire and killed three of the pigs on the spot and took away the biggest among them. They also made away with a cash of N6M realized from selling of pigs during which some civilian houses and properties were also reported to have been set on fire at Amaokpara part of Eziawa including those belonging to Citizen Nath Okwara. At Michael Ihiekwume's house in Akama-Eziawa, five bunches of plantain, large sums of money and other valuable items were looted. In Dede Sunday Obileme's House, his motorcycle was burned to ashes and cash and other valuables looted.

In Late Ruben Kurume's House, it was nearly burned down by soldiers but were forced to stop by his aged wife (Ngozi) who threw herself into the house and asked them to burn her alive together with the house. The houses of Lambert Igwilo and Vincent Obi were also visited by soldiers and their allied Ebubeagu militias where valuable properties were looted and their houses vandalized.

IHITENANSA (AKAMA-NA-NANSA AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY):

- Video 30: House of Umeogonu. The owner of the House was chased after and forced inside one of the houses by soldiers and Ebubeagu militias on Wednesday, 26th January 2022 and burned alive until he died. The three buildings belonging to the Family and their car and other valuable properties were all burned to ashes. The remains of his body were later gathered by his kindred and buried by the corner of one of his houses. His wife had died not too long ago and was buried on 28th Oct 2020.
- Video 31: House of Umeobieri's House. Two buildings were burned and one of the burned to ashes and valuable properties looted
- Video 32: House of unnamed owner burned to ashes by soldiers and allied Ebubeagu militias.
- Video 33: House of Augustine Dara-Anyaeji. Three buildings belonging to the Family were burned to ashes and their valuable properties including domestic animals, electronics, power generators., looted or stolen.
- Video 34: House of Umeaku Family near a market square was completely burned down together with their sales store and valuable items carted away.
- Video 35 (A and B): Palace of the Traditional Ruler (Eze) of Akama-Na-Nansa Autonomous under Ihitenansa in Orsu LGA, Imo State. The Palace (Obi Ohazulume) was desecrated, ransacked, vandalized and its fixtures and removable expensive properties destroyed or looted.
- Video 36: Obi's Family House. Two buildings were burned down together with other properties including motorcycles, electronics, etc.
- Video 37: Three civilian houses of labeled "ESN Members", captured in this video were set ablaze on Sat, 12th Feb 2022 by soldiers and Ebubeagu militias in Umuonyeukalhiteafoukwu in Ahiazu-Mbaise LGA. Other civilian houses were also set ablaze and burned down same day in Akponkume, Ahiazu, Mbaise LGA, Imo State.

HOW SOLDIERS VANDALIZED AND LOOTED THE PALACE OF EZE AGUGOESI IN IHITENASAA:

According to first son of the Traditional Ruler of Akama-NaNansa Autonomous Community under Ihitenansa, Prince Barr Victor Agugoesi who spoke to the Intersociety on phone on Tuesday, 15th Feb 2022 at about 5.55am, the leader of the Army team (from 34 Brigade, Obinze), a northerner, called him while the attack on his Father's Palace was going on, on 26th January 2022 and said they just broke into one of the rooms and saw his professional card and phone number and decided to call him and stop the burning down of the Palace because they discovered that he is a lawyer. The Army team leader further told the Prince that they invaded the Palace because they suspected it to be IPOB camp and by the time they discovered otherwise, the damage had been done and that he should take what happened as he sees it. Prince Barr Agugoesi, an Abuja based legal practitioner told the Intersociety that his Father's Palace was desecrated, ransacked and irreparably vandalized and nearly burned down during which valuable properties in the Palace including eight sets of television, expensive electronics, etc., were either destroyed or looted. The Army team leader also informed the Prince that they noticed that his Father, Eze Agugoesi was freshly interred (having joined his ancestors) and that by the time they discovered all these, the damage was already done.

OUR FOCUS IS ON PROTECTION OF DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS, NOT "BATTLEFIELD COMBATANTS":

In line with the international best practices including International Rules of Engagement under situations of internal armed conflicts and management of democratic assemblies in non-armed conflicts, it must clearly be emphasized that our major advocacy concern is protection and safety of defenseless civilian population in Eastern Nigeria or any of the country. Such protection and safety include safeguarding their fundamental human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitutional provisions and Nigeria's acceded regional and international human rights and humanitarian Treaties. Further clarified in accordance with the three International War Doctrines of 'Jus In Bellum', 'Jus Ad Bellum' and 'Jus Post Bellum' are the fact that losses or deaths of "battlefield combatants" (security forces and members of non-state actor fighting parties). The above is even though loss of any member of Human Family is morally reprehensible, however, the inevitability of armed conflicts or turbulent societies has brought about enactment of code of conduct and regulations on how such armed conflicts or confrontations should be managed or regulated. Sad and unfortunate are the fact that in Nigeria or any part thereof, more attention and publicity is given to death or harm that occurred on the side of security operatives than killing or physical harms inflicted on members of defenseless civilian population. Most shocking of it is the level of media publicity and Government attention given to death of security operatives in the South-East and the Igbo South-South than when such happens in the North where top military and police officers are killed with reckless abandon by armed non-state actors with little or no publicity.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN THE EAST
ZERO SCIENTIFIC, RIGHTS AND INTELLIGENCE-DRIVEN**

It is important to point out that the Intersociety's advocacy activities including monitoring and policing the law enforcement operations of the military, the police and the secret police in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 are strictly geared towards ensuring that such law enforcement operations are scientific, human rights and intelligence driven and generally carried within the ambit of the law. Sadly, reverse is the case! The Intersociety also has zero sympathy for members of the general population lawfully found to be conflict with criminal laws clearly written and defined. Our zero sympathy for non-state actor criminal entities is extended to those that have taken up arms against the State, persons and properties; provided they are not being checkmated and punished outside the law. These we do in accordance with international laws and Nigeria's obligations devoid of permissible derogation under UN System.

Therefore found totally condemnable and unacceptable in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 (worsened since January 2021) are the fact that in the operational eyes of the drafted security forces including officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces and various crack and tactical squads of the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS: (1) "out of every fifteen citizens accused of being "seriously involved in Biafra Matters", fourteen are most likely to be innocent or falsely labeled (note that no law in Nigeria or any part thereof permits security personnel or any of them to kill unarmed citizens under the rule of use of force and proportionality of same); (2) out of every fifteen citizens arbitrarily arrested and detained without trial in connection with "Biafra Matters", fourteen are most likely to have been arbitrarily arrested and detained outside the law without trial; (3) out of every fifteen persons killed in the open by the military or police crack squads in connection with "Biafra Matters", thirteen are most likely to be defenseless and unarmed; (4) out of every fifteen unarmed citizens arrested alive, detained and tortured or starved to death in detention over "Biafra Matters", the same number (fifteen) are most likely to be defenseless, innocent and unarmed.(5) Out of every fifteen unarmed citizens abducted outside their family knowledge and official records by soldiers or military personnel over "Biafra Matters", fourteen are most likely not going to come back alive and; if arrested by DSS and their likes, ten run the high risk of being tortured and killed in custody; (6) out of every fifteen unarmed citizens arrested by police crack squads over "Biafra matters", seven run the high risk of not returning to their families alive; (7) out of every fifteen civilian houses or homes burned down or wantonly destroyed by military personnel or police crack squads, the same number (fifteen) are most likely not linked to 'military necessity';

(8) out of every fifteen criminal allegations such as "involvement in ESN/IPOB terrorism"; leveled against members of indigenous South-East and Igbo South-South civilian population, fourteen most likely do not have anything in connection with the so called "ESN/IPOB-terrorism"; out of which, fourteen are most likely not linked to 'military matters'; nine are most likely to be spuriously accused or linked; three are likely to be street violent crimes-related and two others linked to non-capital punishment offenses. All the above is more so when it has also long been established that 95% of police or military or spy police-issued security intelligence information and law enforcement operations' reports in the South-East and the South-South are highly questionable and most likely to have been concocted or twisted or falsified.

Found to be lacking in the arrest or abduction, custody and shooting and killing of Igbo civilians in the East are availability of their full identities including names, gender, photographs, age-bracket, marital status, occupation, and towns, LGA and State of origin of those arrested and "detained" or abducted, killed or disappeared or seized under circumstances only known to their military captors. Their military captors also hide required lawful information regarding when they were they arrested or killed, where they were they arrested or killed, how they were they arrested or killed, why they were they arrested or killed, locations of the bodies of those killed, present locations of those arrested and still held and why they were not transferred to the police. Others are the circumstances under which the slain were killed (.i.e. whether they were offensively or violently armed when shot and killed or shot and killed when unarmed or nonviolently armed), present condition of those injured or wounded during or after having been arrested or abducted alive, availability or unavailability of credible indictable evidence (if any) gathered from the crime scenes linked to the victims; and legal sources or power of the military personnel to kill civilian citizens arrested or abducted unarmed in Nigeria or any part thereof, etc."

It is therefore our submission that the military authorities deployed in Eastern Nigeria, particularly the South-East and the Igbo South-South have abandoned the following core constitutional duties: "(a) defending Nigeria from external aggression" (see Section 217 (2) (a) of the 1999 Constitution); and (b) "maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land, sea or air" (see Section 217 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution. These, the Nigerian Armed Forces have abandoned and taken refuge in the "supplementary duties" of: "suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the president, but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly" (see Section 217 (2) (c) of the 1999 Constitution; and "performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly" (see Section 217 (2) (d) of the 1999 Constitution. As underlined above, these "supplementary duties" have not only been grossly abused but also performed outside terms and conditions clearly prescribed by the 1999 Constitution as "no conditions and other functions in written law have been prescribed by the National Assembly of Nigeria" to regulate them. The above is more so when the Nigerian Armed Forces Decree of 1994 (now cited as "Armed Forces Act of 2004") is yet to be fully democratized in accordance with Section 315 of the 1999 Constitution as amended.

It must further be internationally noted that by induction and training, members of the Nigerian Armed Forces are strictly trained in the art of war particularly interstate and intrastate armed conflicts upon which their operations are strictly regulated by several international treaties and obligations including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Three Protocols of 1977 and 2005. It is a forbidden and severely punishable act in a situation of international armed conflict including a war crime offense to kill prisoners of war (POWs) and surrendered and wounded combatants taken alive into custody; how much more killing members of the civilian population including infants, children, underage, women, the elderly and men under situations of war-grade or non-war grade insecurity or regulation of democratic assemblies. It must also be pointed out that other social climates have since modified their armed forces and made them humanitarian, science and intelligence based or driven including involving them in disaster rescue and resettlement operations. In matters of policing and management of members of the civilian populations in non-war situations or regulation of democratic assemblies; members of the armed forces are kept off due to their zero professional trainings, technical know-hows and lack of establishment legal provisions in policing members of the civilian population.

Sixteen Major Highlights Of The Nigerian Armed Forces Biased Operations In The East

1. There has been an upsurge since the beginning of 2024 in Fulani Jihadist attacks, killings, abductions and burning down and sacking of Christian communities in the South-East Nigeria such as recent attacks in different parts of Enugu State, leading to death of several defenseless rural Igbo Christians; with no single culprit arrested and brought to justice till date
2. The worst of it all was strongly suspected full backing of such attacks by the drafted security forces loyal to the Central Government of Ahmed Bola Tinubu particularly by soldiers of the Nigerian Army; widely suspected to be perpetrated with intent to Islamize Igbo Land and its dominant Christian neighbors.
3. The present Central Government of Nigeria is found to be evidently coercing the Igbo Land Gobs into seizing and ceding lands belonging to indigenous Igbo Communities and handing them over to Fulani Jihadist Leaders for Jihadist Fulani Colony and Settlements across Mainland Igbo and its dominant Christian neighbors; to the extent that there are documented pieces of evidence showing that the present Government of Enugu State and those of Abia, Anambra, Imo and Ebonyi are partners-in-crime for office tenure and other political selfish interests.
4. The well-coordinated attacks against South-East and South-South Christians and non-Muslim others within and outside the two Regions are widely suspected to be remotely Jihad-funded through hundreds of millions of dollars of funds from international oil sheiks in conspiracy with leading promoters of radical Islamism within Nigeria's political and security establishments.
5. There is an upsurge brazen partisanship and biasness within the Nigerian Security Forces in their law enforcement operations since the beginning of 2024 in the South-East and the South-South Nigeria; to the extent that in the two Regions, the Security Forces particularly soldiers of the Nigerian Army have several resorted and still resort to genocidal methods mass and class criminalization and stigmatization, false labeling, ethnic and religious profiling, hearsay conclusions and Government or political actors funded media hypes in matters of insecurity and other unsafe conditions in the East whereas in the North, reverse is the case.
6. For instance, "it is normal for Bandits and Jihadists to slaughter soldiers and police men on duty including their serving senior officers in the North whereas "it is a high crime capable of wiping out an entire Igbo civilian village" for any police officer or soldier to be attacked or killed in active duty in Igbo parts of Eastern Nigeria.
7. It must also be pointed out that no fewer than 60 security personnel including senior military and police officers were killed by Islamic insurgents in Northern States of Zamfara, Sokoto, Niger and Katsina between June and July 2024 alone; as a matter of fact, three soldiers and five police personnel were killed by Jihadist Bandits on Thursday morning, September 12, 2024, in Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State, ambushed, shot and killed while escorting workers from Setraco Nigerian Limited, a construction operating in the area.
8. Killing of any soldier or police officer in Igbo Land instantly receives widest Government-funded publicity and attracts genocidal State threats including clamping or cracking down on defenseless Igbo civilians, their properties and communities during which dwelling houses go up in flames and hundreds shot and killed in the open or abducted and custodially executed or permanently disappeared from military and other security forces detention facilities.
9. As a matter of fact, and deepest concern, military officers and personnel drafted to the South-East and the South-South have totally abandoned their establishment duties of securing the country's land, sea and air particularly the Eastern Nigerian territories and her defenseless lives and properties.
10. The military has habitually and dangerously become 'a self-protection security establishment' by turning publicly procured arms and ammunitions in their possession into 'instruments for self-protection and destruction of defenseless civilian lives and properties'.
11. The drafted officers and personnel of the military in the East no longer carry out their field operational assignments of going after the perpetrators of 'war-grade or military matters offenses' except only when their personnel are attacked or killed during which defenseless members of the civilian population and their properties bear the brunt or become victims of military reprisal or "revenge attacks".

12. Against the clearly laid down principles of the International Rules of Engagement and the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers and Personnel and the UN Code of Conduct on Use of Force and Proportionality of Force; all in accordance with International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws; the Nigerian military officers and personnel in the East have become reckless and unchecked in targeting defenseless civilians and their dwelling houses and other properties for wanton destruction in areas or communities where their personnel are attacked.
13. The above is to the extent that officers and personnel of the military now habitually turn blind eyes when defenseless civilians in the South-East and the South-South are attacked or gunned down and their properties destroyed, but swiftly organize a 'war-grade' mobilization of its officers and personnel and publicly procured weapons against members of the defenseless civilian population and their dwelling houses who know nothing or have nothing to do with the reported criminal citizens' attack against military personnel.
14. It is also an established fact that in the South-East and the South-South, Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others operate unchecked with impunity under widely suspected remote protection of the drafted Security Forces and their officers and personnel who hardly go after them or tracked them or have them arrested and brought to justice.
15. The insecurity in Igbo Land and her dominant Christian neighbors has worsened since the beginning of 2024 and found to be steadily fueled by State political and security actors. In Imo State, for instance, insecurity has been so worsened that the State has become a haven for Government-linked and non-Government-linked killer entities. The killings outside the law in the State are also found to be both State actor and non-State actor perpetrated and perpetuated with 60% of them being Government-linked and remaining 40% being non-Government linked.
16. The situation has gone so bad in Imo State that under the watch of the drafted security forces average of 8-10 defenseless citizens are killed in the open or abducted and killed or disappeared in custody or captivity of armed State actors or armed non-State actors on daily basis; during which civilian dwelling houses and other properties are burned down or destroyed with reckless abandon and unchecked will. A clear case in point was July 30, 2024 killing by an armed group, of the President General of Umucheke Okwe Autonomous Community in Onuimo Local Government Area of Imo State, Hyginus Ohazurike and six village heads who are all members of the community's traditional ruler's cabinet. In Anambra State, on Sunday, October 20, 2024, sixteen innocent and defenseless youths were gunned down in a broad day light by yet-to-be-identified 4-man armed gang at Nibo Roundabout and Nodu-Okpuno Village in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, located at backyard of the Governor's Lodge, the State Police Command Headquarters, the State Directorate of DSS, the State CID Headquarters and the State Prisons or Correctional Center formation. The State Police Command and the Government of Anambra State hastily, without detailed investigations, blamed the mass killings on "cult-clashes and cult-related killings".



Police shooting unarmed IPOB Members

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CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

IPOB And Pro Biafra Agitations As A Pretext For Military Siege And Terror In The East



The Indigenous People of Biafra or 'IPOB' is the mainstream self-determination group agitating for regional self-governance or autonomy through self-determination for the people of old Eastern and Mid-Western Nigeria, presently categorized as "citizens and territories of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi, Abia, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa States and their Igbo People". Included in the list as "Indigenous Igbo People of Nigeria" are "the indigenous Igbo People of Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, Kwara" and "the migrated Igbo People of Gusau in present Zamfara State who migrated to the area in 1600AD; over 200 years before the Jihadist Fulani incursion into Northern Nigeria in the beginning of AD1800s". IPOB had between 2014, and Early December 2020 advocated for nonviolence till December 20, 2020, when it formed a self-defense armed security outfit called "Eastern Security Network or ESN".

It is our further investigative finding that the 'ESN' was primarily formed by the mainstream IPOB to counter Nigerian Government and its security forces' clandestinely backed and protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others including their incursions into forests, bushes, farmlands and strategic roadway arenas and triangles such as "South-East Triangle" in Igbo parts of the Eastern Nigeria and her dominant Christian neighbors. The most shocking of it all was that out of the estimated 5000 defenseless civilian deaths recorded in the hands of the military between August 2015 and December 2020, estimated 80% were members of defenseless civilian population mostly of Igbo extraction who knew nothing about IPOB and its membership or activities. Only about 20% were strongly believed to be IPOB-linked.

It was also found that the nonviolent activities of IPOB were visited with unspeakable crackdown by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces, joined by those of the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS-leading to unlawful killing of nothing less than 5000; comprising those shot and killed in the open, those shot and wounded and abandoned to die, those arrested or abducted and taken into custody and killed and those arrested or abducted alive and taken into custody unharmed from where they were shot and killed or strangled, tortured, starved and clubbed to death and disappeared from custody. Part of the military, police and secret police crackdown was indiscriminate arrests or abductions and perpetual detention without trial involving defenseless Easterners in their thousands. The above was also partly responsible for formation of 'ESN' in December 2020. Typical cases in point were mass killing of nothing less than 140 defenseless citizens marking "Igbo Heroes Day" on May 29 and 30, 2016 at along Nkpor-Umuoji Road, Onitsha and Asaba. Another major mass killing was the September 12-14, 2017, massacre of nothing less than 180 defenseless and unarmed citizens at Ogwe, Aba, Isiala-Ngwa and Afara-Ukwu parts of Abia State.

To cover up and erase traces of legal responsibility over the September 2017 massacre, the Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces hurriedly designated IPOB as "a terrorist group" in the late evening of September 15, 2017; followed days after by then President Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari who presidentially decreed and proscribed the group as "a terrorist organization". Apart from the unjust proscription, the Nigerian Army solely invaded Obigbo (Oyingbo) and environs with war-grade weapons and attacks on October 21, 2020, during which nothing less than 130 defenseless residents were massacred and over 600 others abducted and 152 permanently disappeared. The unjust proscription of the group was to retroactively justify and legitimize the Government security forces' violent crackdowns particularly the September 12-14, 2017 massacre of no fewer than 180 defenseless citizens in more than four different locations in Abia State.

The clearly retroactive and discriminatory action of the then Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari was also found to have grossly breached Sections 36 (8) and (12) and 42 of the 1999 Constitution as amended.

The 1999 Constitution has in its Section 36 (8) and (12) prohibited retroactive criminal legislations and punishments. It was in accordance with the above that an Enugu State High Court presided over by Justice A.O. Onovo in Suit No: E/20/2023 on Tuesday, Oct 24, 2023, declared as unconstitutional and grave violation of Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution as amended, the 2017 proscription of IPOB by Federal Government of Nigeria and South-East Governors Forum as “a terrorist organization”.

As if that was not enough, no fewer than 10,000 members of unarmed and defenseless civilian population mostly belonging to Igbo Easterners were also killed outside the law by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces. The additional 10,000 unlawful deaths recorded in the hands of the drafted officers and personnel of the Armed Forces was calculated to have occurred between October 2020 and December 2024 and did not include thousands of others recorded in the hands of officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS, separately or under “Joint Security Taskforces”. It must further be clarified that out of no fewer than 5000 defenseless citizens killed outside the law between August 30, 2015, and September 2020 and additional 10,000 calculated to have been killed between December 2020 and December 2024, nothing less than 70% constituted those killed after having been shot and wounded and taken into custody or after having been arrested unarmed and unharmed and taken into custody. They included those shot and wounded and arrested or abducted and abandoned to die or those arrested or abducted and starved or tortured to death in custody or those arrested or abducted and detained and killed and permanently disappeared. The remaining 30% represented those shot and killed in the open and outside the law.

...80% OF THE SLAIN AND 90% OF THE ARRESTED OR ABDUCTED VICTIMS NOT 'IPOB MEMBERS':

No fewer than 80% of the 5000 defenseless citizens killed between August 2015 and September 2020; and the 10,000 others militarily killed between October 2020 and December 2024 are estimated to have belonged to defenseless citizens who never took up arms or advocated for violence against Government, Persons and Properties. Those under the 80% category are also found not to have nothing to do with 'IPOB' and its membership or 'ESN' security wing of the IPOB. Only 20% of the two respective killings are believed to be linked to 'IPOB' membership or 'ESN' security wing or membership of the criminal class, out of which, 80% are strongly believed to be unarmed members of IPOB who should not have been killed. The rest (20%) constituted those linked to armed 'ESN', Counterfeit Agitation and criminal non-State actor membership; out of which majority belonged to those shot and killed while unarmed. No fewer than 90% of those militarily arrested alive in the South-East and the Igbo South-South and taken into perpetual detention or captivity without being transferred to police authorities and facilities are also found to be those who knew nothing about offenses they were falsely labeled to have been committed including “IPOB/ESN terrorism”.

...12 Major Military Open Killing Scenes In The East (August 2015–May 2023: Using “IPOB” As A Pretext:

Officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces had evidentially perpetrated and perpetuated in Eastern Nigeria since August 30, 2015 the following open killings outside the law: (1) 30th August 2015 massacre of 40 defenseless citizens during peaceful protests in Onitsha, Enugu, Yenagoa, Uyo, Port Harcourt and Asaba; (2) 2nd and 17th Dec 2015 massacre of 30 defenseless citizens in Onitsha; (3) 18th and 29th Jan 2016 massacre of 20 defenseless citizens during peaceful protests in Aba; (4) 9th Feb 2016 massacre of 30 unarmed protesters in Aba; (5) 29th and 30th May 2016 massacre of 140 defenseless citizens during the Igbo Heroes Day in Onitsha and Nkpor (110 deaths) and Asaba (30 deaths).

(6) 20th Jan 2017 massacre of 20 unarmed citizens during pro-Trump rally in Port Harcourt; (7) 12th to 14th Sept 2017 massacre of over 180 unarmed and defenseless citizens in Ogwe, Aba, Isiala-Ngwa and Afara-Ukwu and Umuahia in Abia State; (8) 23rd August 2020 Army massacre of 30 Judeo-Christian worshippers and sports activists in Emene, Enugu State; (9) Oct 2020 massacre by Army and Police of no fewer than 60 unarmed citizens in the Southeast; (10) Oct/Nov 2020 massacre by Nigerian Army of more than 105 defenseless Igbo residents of Obigbo (excluding 25 killed in military captivity), Rivers State; (11) abduction between Oct 21 and Nov 10, 2020 of 620 defenseless Obigbo residents in Rivers State and their perpetual detention in different military and DSS dungeons in the North during which more than 25 were custodially killed and 152 others disappeared till date; and (12) Jan 2021–Oct 2023 abductions, disappearances, torture, maiming, killings and burnings by Nigerian Army and Police Crack Squads in Imo State leading to unlawful death of no fewer than 1,500 and burning down or wanton destruction of nothing less than 1,400 (as of May 21, 2023) civilian houses and allied properties including thousands of automobiles, electronics, market stores, truck-loads of goods, etc.

...3000 Sanctuaries Of African Instituted Churches And Traditionalists Lost To Military False Labeling:

No fewer than 3000 sacred and lawful sanctuaries belonging to the Organization of the African Instituted Churches ('White Garment Churches') and the Traditional Religionists across the South-East and the Igbo South-East are estimated to have been lost to military false labeling and class criminalization in the ongoing military terror operations particularly since January 2021. False labeling and class criminalization are also used by other members of the Nigerian Security Forces (NSFs) particularly officers and personnel of the various crack and tactical squads of the Nigeria Police Force and the Department of the State Security Services and others under "Joint Security Taskforces". Defenseless members of the two lawful religious institutions and their sacred sanctuaries have been targeted for attack by the drafted security officers and personnel because of false belief or false or concocted intelligence that "IPOB and its security wing (ESN) are religiously linked to the two groups (religious and magical purposes)". The above dastardly act of the drafted security officers and personnel is like 'targeting Mosques and other Islamic worship and learning centers for military and other security forces attacks on the false ground that members of Boko Haram and allied jihadist others are linked to Islam or Islamism'.

Further investigations by the Intersociety showed that some leading IPOB agitators had between 2017 and 2019 resorted to use of local anti-bullet proof charms to protect themselves against close-range fired military and other security forces live bullets during street protests and processions. The traditional measures were believed to have been adopted as personal life protection and self-defensive measures to ward off raining of military and other security forces' live bullets on unarmed and defenseless protesters and others engaging in other democratic assemblies. It was based on the above the authorities of the Nigerian Security Forces (NSFs) despicably, condemnably and indiscriminately resolved to designate and tag native doctors and their sanctuaries and other members of the Traditional Religions as "IPOB/ESN charms providers". The Intersociety had also found that it was in a bid to contain the high number of deaths and injuries among the IPOB-led street protesters in the hands of the military and other security agencies that gave rise to 'ghost street protest or 'sit-at-home' till date in the East. The Igbo native doctors and their sanctuaries and other Traditional Religionists as well as IPOB and its security wing were also remotely seen by the security forces and State political actors linked to funding and promotion of State Jihadism as a major threat to overrunning of Igbo Land by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others.

It was further investigated and found that Member-Churches of the Organization of the African Instituted Churches (OAIC) in Eastern Nigeria have been targeted for military and other security forces' attacks because of the IPOB leader and his followers' identification with one of the Member-Churches (Jewish Sabbath Church) as their religion of worship. The OIAC Member-Churches in Nigeria are presently about 33 in number.

They are also one of the five major blocks of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) registered on December 19, 1986. Others are the Catholic Mission in Nigeria, the Anglican Communion in Nigeria, the Christian Council of Nigeria and the Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (CPFN)/Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN). The Nigerian Armed Forces' heightened attacks against the OAIC Church-Members and their leaders have been traced to February 2021 in Orlu, Imo State during which no fewer than 33 leaders of the OAIC were indiscriminately arrested by "the Joint Security Taskforce" and accused by then Attorney General of Imo State, Barr Cyprian Akolisa as "churches with links to IPOB/ESN terror" and "being pastors in the day and turning to armed robbers in the night". The Imo State AG had in a statement issued on February 21, 2021, added "if you investigate the activities of some of these churches, you will understand that over time, hoodlums establish and use such churches as front for their nefarious activities" (including providing charms and training grounds for IPOB/ESN). Before the January 2021 Orlu attack, there had been pockets of such attacks dated back to 2016 by the Nigerian Army against some Member-Churches of the OAIC and their leaders and religious symbols. After the January 2021 Orlu security forces attack, more attacks have spiraled and spread like wildfire to other parts of Imo and Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi and Anambra States.

Major targets of the military and other security forces attacks include facilities of the Member-Churches of OAIC and residents of their Prophets and Pastors and their religious symbols including sacred sanctuaries, holy bibles, etc., leading to wanton destruction or burning down of their church buildings and allied properties. Hundreds of their members have been shot and killed in the open or arrested or abducted alive and taken into custody from where they remained unaccounted for till date. False labeling and indiscriminate arrest of leaders and parishioners of the OAIC Member-Churches by the trio of the military, the police and the DSS have also remained a commonplace and intensified till date. It is likely correct to conclude, in the end, that nothing less than 3000 sanctuaries and religious symbols belonging to OAIC Member-Churches have been wantonly destroyed or burned down including estimated 1400 of such linked to the OAIC Member-Churches and 1600 others linked to Traditional Religious institutions in the South-East and the Igbo South-South.

A typical case in point was the case of the Egole Family of 14 in Orlu, Imo State. It is recalled that Cletus Nwachukwu Egole, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Sabbath Church, Orlu Imo State; his wife-Ifeyinwa Egole (a midwife); Michael Uba- a Prophet of Jewish faith; Ugochukwu Samuel; and Raphael Idang were all arrested and subsequently paraded by the Imo State Command of the Nigeria Police Force, on the 28th March, 2021; followed by a corroborative and collaborative statement issued by the Force Headquarters via then Force Public Relations Officer, DCP Frank Mba(now DIG). They were specifically arrested by a combined team of police and military personnel on February 13, 2021 in their family house close to their church (the Holy Trinity Sabbath Church) and taken to the 'Tiger Base' of the Nigeria Police IRT (intelligence response team) in Owerri where they were briefly detained and subsequently transferred to the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team (FIB) detention facility in "Abattoir" Abuja. Mrs. Ifeyinwa Egole was running a successful maternity clinic before her arrest. She was arrested alongside her husband, Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole on suspicion that "their first son was a member of IPOB". The entire members were later labeled by the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force as "IPOB/ESN family members and sponsors".

After taken them to Police IRT Owerri Tiger Base, the arsonist police and military officers and personnel went back and threw petrol bombs on her maternity, her husband church and their family house and burned them to ashes. Not done, they went after her husband's immediate younger brother, Eugene, forcing him to flee and disappear voluntarily or forcefully disappeared. Their Synagogue Church (Holy Trinity Sabbath Church) was also dubbed "IPOB training camp". As if that was not enough, the Police IRT of the Force Bureau of Intelligence went ahead and killed her husband (Pastor Cletus Nwachukwu Egole) in custody at Abattoir in Abuja in June 2021. The Imo State Police Command had earlier in April 2021 tricked her husband's youngest brother, Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole, who was based in Port Harcourt, to "come and bail his innocent eldest brother in Abuja"; only for him to be abducted and dumped at Imo Police IRT Tiger Base, Owerri where he was among about eight others taken away from custody at late night and extrajudicially killed or executed in May 2021 after having been arrested in April 2021.

NIGERIA: "OCEAN OF INNOCENT BLOOD FLOWING IN THE EAST"

Madam Ifeyinwa Egole remained in Police IRT custody in Abuja till June 2022; a period of a year and four months, during which she was never taken to court for trial or granted administrative bail. Family and public outcries led to her being granted court bail in June 2022. She was also tortured mercilessly and presently traumatized and seriously ill. Apart from extrajudicially killing the first son of Pastor Cletus and Midwife Ifeyinwa Egole and disappearing his corpse till date, their nine children, many of them under-age, were also gone after and tormented by police authorities, forcing them to flee and go into perpetual hiding during which many of them were forced to abandon their schools.

The Organization of the African Instituted Churches are made up of about 33 Member-Churches in Nigeria including: Christ Holy International, Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, Cherubim and Seraphim Movement Church AYO NIO, Celestial Church of Christ, Motailatu Church-Cherubim and Seraphim Worldwide, Gospel Baptist Church Conference of Nigeria/Overseas, Sacred Cherubim and Seraphim Church of Nigeria, Divine Order of C&S Church of Nigeria and Overseas, Salvation Church of Zion of Nigeria and Overseas, Jehovah the King Holy Sabbat Mission, Living Christ Gospel Church, St. Priscilla Adventist Church of Nigeria Inc., Spiritual Healing Temple of God, Restoration Church of Christ International Inc., Salvation of Life Evangelical (SOLEC) C&S Redeemed, the True Covenant of God Sabbat Mission, St. Lazarus Christ Church Inc., Cystal Light of Church, Cherubim and Seraphim Agbo Jesu Conference, Universal Christ Ministry of All Nations, the Resolution Church of Christ, Spiritual Faith of Christ Church International, Tree of Life Gospel Ministry International, Christ Healing Sabbat, Soul Rescue Apostolic Church Inc., Nigeria, Christ Free Methodist Church, Nigeria, the Wilderness Voice Ministry, the Lord of Abraham Sabbat Mission International, Remnant Mission International, Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God, Divine Dove Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, Good Shephard Spiritual Church of Christ and the Holy Trinity Sabbat Church.

IPOB/ESN AS A MAJOR THREAT TO BUHARI GOVERNMENT PROMOTED 'STATE JIHADISM PROJECT' IN EASTERN NIGERIA:

Clearly pointed out is the fact that the Buhari-led former Nigerian Government's clandestine moves to Islamize Nigeria particularly Eastern part of the country (home to Nigeria's largest Christians) using 'State Jihadism Project' has been remotely responsible for the spiraling insecurity and other unsafe conditions in the two Regions (South-East and South-South) and rest of Nigeria. The "politico-Islamic uprising in Nigeria", accompanied by 'Fulani political uprising' had secured emergence following the inauguration of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari on May 29, 2015, as Nigeria's sixth civilian president since 1979 when the country's adopted presidential system of Government. The emergence of Buhari, a Fulani Daji and strong advocate of radical Islamism came with embryos of 'State Jihadism'. By 2016, the Nigerian Armed Forces and intelligence and regular policing establishments had undergone transformation from secularism to 'security forces of Islamic inspiration'. The 'Islamic inspiration' of the country's security forces came with near-total elimination of secularism and neutrality their command and control and field security and law enforcement operations, with over 90% of their leaderships in Muslim hands. Added to the above was conscription and enlistment of "strange faces" and 'students of radical Islamism' into the security forces and their saturation of the security forces' promotions and postings. Fulani Jihadism also cropped up and allowed access to State power and resources including being promoted as a national policy till date.

Back in late 2015 under Buratai as COAS, there was an alleged deceitful and camouflaged national forest mappings said to have been carried out by the Army in the form of "national counterinsurgency forest mappings". By 2016, members of the country's "Radical Islamic Political School" and promoters of "Fulani Jihadism" reportedly became privy to the officially compiled statistics of "the national counterinsurgency forest mappings". By the same time in 2016, there was resuscitation (for jihadism purpose) of southward and middle-belt ward rural grazing routes and networks, seasonally used by Fulani Herdsmen of the old. By ember month of 2016, southward and middle-belt-ward 'Fulani jihadist conquest movement' began and planned to coincide with Army's "Operation Python Dance" and allied another in the South-South. The 'Fulani jihadist conquest movement' southward and middle-belt-ward was strongly suspected to have been clandestinely or remotely protected by the country's Armed Forces and other security agencies.

By end of 2020, over half of major forests, bushes and farmlands in Eastern Nigeria and the Middle-Belt Regions became seized and occupied by the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others, with most of them located close to major military and police formations. Those not close to such major military and police formations or facilities had military or police checkpoints or roadblocks erected and located close to them. The clandestinely Government and security forces' protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen were later (since 2021 till date) joined by other Jihadists including those recruited from Alhaji Asari Dokubo's ex Niger Delta Militants, now 'Jihadist Niger Delta Mercenaries'. Others included Jihadist Bandits, Jihadist Fulanis of West and Central African stock, Baggara and Maghreb Jihadist mercenaries, Jihadist MACABAN Vigilantes and Igbo Land born and bred Hausa-Fulani Jihadist recruits, etc. The above is to the extent that, as of the end of 2020, for instance, and according to a retired Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG Celestine Okoye), "no fewer than 336 major forest locations were occupied by Fulani Herdsmen armed with AK-47 Rifles in the South-East". As of the end of 2021, the Intersociety found further that the number had risen to no fewer than 700.

The Rise Of Ebubeagu Killer Militias And Counterfeit Biafra Agitators In South-East:

It has been found by the Intersociety that the Ebube Security arrangement in the South-East was never programmed to checkmate the influx and genocidal activities of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others. Ebubeagu Militias, formed by under Buhari Government of Nigeria (May 29, 2015-May 29, 2023) through then Gov Dave Umahi of Ebonyi State and his leadership of the South-East Governors' Forum and Gov Hope Uzodinma of Imo State were found to have originally formed to clandestinely back the Fulani Jihadists and their genocidal activities by checkmating and counterfeiting the statutorily unlawful activities of the Eastern Security Network of IPOB. The above marked the beginning or rise of 'armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' in the South-East. It is still held by many that 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitation and accompanied criminal activities in the South-East and the Igbo South-South were remotely sponsored by Government of Nigeria under former President Buhari and continued under the current Ahmed Tinubu's Presidency.

Despite formative claims by key promoters of "Ebubeagu Security Arrangements" particularly then Gov Dave Umahi, of formation of the outfit to "checkmate the rising insecurity in the South-East including the activities of Fulani Herders", the reverse later became the case, to the extent that till date, there are no records anywhere showing the arrest of any gang of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen by "Ebubeagu Vigilante Group and their handover to conventional security agencies for proper investigation and prosecution since April 2021 till date. It was also observed that out of sixteen top commanders of Police, DSS and Military formations in the South-East, present in the meeting where the formation of "Ebubeagu Vigilante Group"; a supposedly indigenous and community security outfit was discussed and finalized, most of them were drawn from senior security officers of Northern Muslim extraction and not even one out of the remaining others hailed from the South-East.

The strongly suspected previous and present Nigerian Government remote link to Counterfeit Biafra Agitation is also believed to have been achieved using conformist political actors (dregs of Igbo Society) particularly those of Imo and Ebonyi extractions. As a matter of fact, the formation of 'Ebubeagu Militias' in April 2021 was a camouflage and a pretext hidden under to unleash Igbo Land with pro State Jihadism killer agents and Government linked sundry criminalities so as to massively criminalize defenseless citizens of Igbo Nation and turn their region into war zone with intent to conquer and Islamize them. It is also striking to note that since its formation and launch in April 2021, 'the Ebubeagu Militias' have never caught or arrested any of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen wreaking havoc in the South-East and the South-South till date. Careful study of the activities of 'the Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' has also clearly indicated total absence of modern elements of agitation for regionalism and its autonomy including statehood or loose sovereign entity under UN System.

Contrarily, further study of the activities of "Counterfeit Biafra Agitators" has outrightly showed that they have been commissioned by the powers that to counterfeit, doctor, criminalize and re-criminalize activities of the mainstream Biafra Agitators. While the 'Ebubeagu Militias' was formed in April 2021 and launched months later, the 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitation groups' including the "Autopilots" were secretly unveiled in December-January 2021-2022. Our field monitors had in January-February 2022 tracked forest and bush deployment of their armed killer-squads; with takeoff ground being Ebonyi State. Earliest armed killer-squads of the 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' were also secretly traced to Ukpok and Umuchu-Umunze forests around January-February 2022 in Anambra State. It is also important to remind that brief rift between then Gov Ugwuanyi of Enugu State and then Gov Umahi of Ebonyi followed the former's bitter complaint to the latter arising from his security aides' intelligence briefing that "most of the armed persons found in Enugu forests and bushes parading themselves as Biafra agitators are traced to Ebonyi State with Ebonyi dialects as their spoken languages".

Further investigated and found was the fact that 'Ebubeagu counter security arrangements including 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitation' have brought about multiplicity of Government-linked armed entities and allied sundry criminalities in Eastern Nigeria particularly in the South-East since January 2021, which are clandestinely linked to the Governments of Imo, Ebonyi and Anambra States through their Ministries of the 'Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters'. The above is to the extent that today in the East, it is most likely safe to conclude that greater number of criminal entities and their criminal activities including those of 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' and kidnap-for-ransom entities are Government-linked. There are also Government-linked, and Nongovernment-linked 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitators in the South-East' and the former include the "Autopilots" and "Counterfeit Biafra Agitators" linked to Igbo Land born and bred Hausa-Fulani jihadist recruits whose attires and activities are camouflaged and costumed by subversive State security agents to counterfeit and criminalize those of the mainstream Biafra Agitators. The operational modus operandi of the Igbo Land born and bred jihadist recruits involved in 'Counterfeit Biafra Agitators' had included acts of savagery (slicing of throats and private parts and beheadings, etc.).

It must also be boldly stated that the mainstream Biafra Agitators such as IPOB and its security wing, ESN, have independently been investigated and found to have engaged in unlawful activities of targeting and attacking some security personnel and their facilities across the South-East. The above was the case between 2021 and before the end of 2022 and had arisen from 'revenge' over grisly and egregious crackdowns against defenseless and unarmed South-East and Igbo South-South citizens during which hundreds of defenseless street protesters and thousands of uninvolved others were gunned down and many others abducted and still held alive or permanently disappeared from August 2015 to December 2020. Scores of innocent citizens were also collaterally gunned down during such attacks launched against security operatives and their facilities. According to verified available information, the violent revenge method of IPOB and its ESN was rescinded before the end of 2022 following a warning/threat of discontinuation of legal representation by IPOB defense lawyers.

ARREST OF EKPA IN FINLAND: INTERSOCIETY VINDICATED OVER GOVERNMENT-LINKED COUNTERFEIT BIAFRA AGITATORS

According to a detailed report by the Premium Times of Thursday, November 21, 2024, "Pro-Biafra agitator Simon Ekpa has been arrested in Finland (by Finnish Central Criminal Police)", which says that Mr. Ekpa "has contributed to violence and crimes against civilians in South-Eastern Nigeria." "The controversial pro-Biafra agitator, Simon Ekpa was arrested by the Finnish Central Criminal Police", the Premium Times added. Mr. Ekpa is the leader of Autopilot, a faction of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). The Biafra agitator was arrested alongside four others on Thursday (November 21, 2024) on suspicion of terrorist activities, a Finnish newspaper reported. The report said discussion for possible imprisonment of the pro-Biafra agitator would be discussed on Thursday (today), in the District Court of Pääjät-Häme. "The police suspect that the man (Ekpa) has promoted his efforts from Finland with means that have led to violence against civilians and authorities as well as other crimes in the region of South-Eastern Nigeria."

"The man has carried out this activity, among other things, on his social media channels," the Head of the investigation, Crime Commissioner, Otto Hiltunen of the Central Criminal Police, was quoted as saying. The police suspect that the Biafra agitator committed the crime of collecting money in violation of the Finnish Money Collection Act. The Finnish police said he allegedly committed the crimes between 23 August 2021 and 18 November 2024 in Lahti, a town in Finland.

...We Are Vindicated

According to findings made by this Special International Report, the internationally arrested Simon Ekpa and his group (Autopilot) are one of the earliest Government-linked "Counterfeit Biafra Agitators" created and armed to counterfeit the activities of the mainstream Biafra Agitators (IPOB). Simon Ekpa and his group were further found to have been raised towards the end of 2021, about seven months after the "Ebubeagu Security arrangements of April 2021". As a matter of fact, and finding by this Special International Report, the emergence of Simon Ekpa and his group were State actor-powered using the "Ebubeagu Security arrangements" as a cover. It must further be reminded that the "Ebubeagu Security arrangements" were clandestinely promoted by former central Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari (May 29, 2015-May 29, 2023) through the then 'South-East Governors' Forum', chaired by Engineer Dave Umahi in his capacity as then Chairman of the South-East Governors' Forum and Gov of Ebonyi State; during which the Imo State Seat of Power played a key role and then top security chiefs in the South-East, comprising over 90% of non-South-Easterners got actively and conspiratorially involved.

Apart from the internationally arrested Simon Ekpa and his group being found and indicted by this Special International Report to have been largely responsible for violent attacks (kidnappings, kidnap-for-ransom, abductions and killings) against defenseless citizens and public institutions and security personnel across the South-East and parts of the South-South; falsely blamed on Nnamdi Kanu-led mainstream Biafra Agitators, the Finland-based leading Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitator and his group are further found in this International Special Report to be in possession of the second largest number of illicit Small Arms (SALWs) in the South-East and third largest in the entire Eastern Nigeria after Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others and the former Niger Delta Militant leaders and their followers.

It is also the statistical finding of this Special International Report that estimated 8,000 defenseless civilian deaths have been recorded in the hands of non-State actor "Criminal Entities" in the East particularly in South-East including Simon Ekpa and his Counterfeit Biafra Agitators; out of which greater number or 4,500 were killed by non-Government linked Criminal Entities and 3,500 others killed by Government-linked armed groups including Simon Ekpa's armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators (Autopilot, responsible for no fewer than 1,500 defenseless civilian deaths in the South-East since end of 2021. Not forgotten is the fact that greater number or about 70% of insecurity and other unsafe conditions in Eastern Nigeria (South-East and South-South) are found to be Government-linked and fueled by external enemy forces for purpose of plunging the entire South-East into politico-jihadist conquest, enslavement, structural, physical and cultural violence; and international mass criminalization and stigmatization of defenseless members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality including their sedentary and pastoral segments of their law abiding and defenseless population.



Small Arms and Light Weapons

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Over 2.7m Illicit SALWs Flooded Eastern Nigeria In Ten Years, 9m Proliferated Across Nigeria



Estimated 9m Illicit SALWs In Nigeria On: "One Illegal Firearm In 25 Citizens" And 2.7m In The East:

Going by several checks carried out by the Intersociety since 2015 regarding the number of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in Nigeria including the South-East and the South-South Regions, there is likely to be estimated 9m SALWs across the country's six geopolitical zones of the North-East, the North-West, the North-Central, the South-East, the South-South and the South-South. Using the United Nations ("Worldometer") projected population of Nigeria, estimated to be 234million citizens as of October 2024, out of every 25 citizens, there is 1 illicit SALW (1-25). It is further projected that the number of illicit SALWs in Nigeria is likely to have risen to estimated 9million in 2024 from estimated 5m illicit SALWs as of 2018; an additional increase of 4m. The South-West has been checked and found to likely to have the least number of illicit SALWs in Nigeria with 500,000 illicit small arms and light weapons in wrong hands, followed by North-Central with estimated 1m, South-South 1.2m, South-East 1.5m, North-West 2m and North-East 2.5m. Excluded are 'licit' Small Arms and Light Weapons in Government possession across Nigeria and properly licensed others in individual hands. Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria are classified under the Firearms Act of 2004 as "Prohibited" and "Unprohibited Firearms".

For clarity, "Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)" are "non-armament weapons" in possession of wrong hands who also use them offensively and unlawfully. "Licit Small Arms and Light Weapons" are those in "the right hands" or in possession of the country's security, defense, intelligence, policing and paramilitary establishments. It must, however, be stated that many of the small arms and light weapons in the hands of the State actors and sub-State actors in Nigeria are abusively and offensively used or deployed. SALWs are further divided into 'War-Grade' or "Light Weapons" and non-War-Grade or "Small Arms". To the extent of them being possessed by wrong hands distinguished them as 'illicit SALWs'. When possessed and lawfully used or deployed by military and other security forces, they are distinguished as 'licit SALWs'.

It must further be explained that "War-Grade SALWs" or "Light Weapons" are weapons that are man-portable or transportable by light vehicles which do not require much in terms of service or logistical backup training and they include small caliber cannons, improvised explosive devices, light support weapons, combat grenades, anti-personnel landmines, mortars, anti-tank weapons, anti-tank mines, machine guns, grenade launchers, submachine guns, anti-tank rifles, underwater firearms, etc. "Non-War-Grade SALWs" or "Small Arms" include assault rifles, multiple-barrel firearms, revolvers, pistols, AK-47s, AK-49s, Pump Action Guns, Single Barreled Guns, Double Barreled Guns, Dane Guns and allied others and their ammunitions.

...Available International Statistics:

According to the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS Commission) in a statement issued on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, "there are estimated 100m illicit small arms and light weapons in circulation in wrong hands in Africa, out of which the West African subregion accounts for 10m (with estimated 4.5m-5m in Nigeria)". The ECOWAS Commission's position was made known on Tuesday, 18th September 2018 in the meeting of the organizations in the Sahel region held at the ECOWAS parliament in Abuja. The statistics was given by then ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Francis Behanzin while fielding questions to journalists during which he stood in for then President of the ECOWAS Commission, Jean-Claude Brou. The ECOWAS Commission further disclosed that out of the estimated 100million illegal small arms and light weapons in Africa, over 800million were in circulation around the world.

Several seminal criminological and security studies' accounts have shown that the radical Islamic Republic of Afghanistan leads the world with estimated 13million illicit SALWs while the Arab Republic of Egypt leads others with highest number of anti-personnel landmines estimated at 6million, dating back to 1948 during the Israeli war of independence with her Arab neighbors including Egypt. Alarmingly, with shocking and whopping 9million illicit SALWs in circulation and in wrong hands, Nigeria has become the second largest 'illicit SALWs' dumping site' in the world after Afghanistan. It must also be informed that illicit and licit small arms and light weapons in their hundreds of million are mainly manufactured by Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council including USA (majority), Russia, China, France and UK; followed by other non-permanent UNSC Member-States such as Germany, Italy, Brazil, Ukraine, Japan, North Korea and some defunct Member-States of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and Eastern European countries. As a matter of fact, as of 2017, there were not less than 1000 small arms and light weapons manufacturing companies in 98 countries with majority belonging to the United States and four other Permanent Members of the United Security Council (UNSC). Shockingly noted is that SALWs have been responsible for 500,000-700,000 civilian and other non-combatant deaths every year around the world, with 80% of the victims being women and children.

According to the United Nations' Small Arms Survey, published on June 19, 2018, "over 500,000 civilians and other noncombatants are killed every year by small arms and light weapons involving revolvers, pistols, assault rifles, machine guns and other similar weapons". This was disclosed by UN Chief de Cabinet, Maria Viotti, who added that "there are over one billion legal and illicit firearms in the world as of December 2017 including 857million illicit SALWs in wrong hands. Out of the over one billion SALWs, 133million are held by government militaries around the world and 22.7million in the hands of law enforcement agencies while 857million are in the hands of civilians including over 390million held legally in civilian hands in USA.

Similarly, Small Arms are weapons that can be carried by a single person either for military or civilian use and are relatively cheap, available in abundance, highly portable, long lasting and easy to carry or operate, such as anti-armored car explosives, improvised explosive devices, revolvers, submachine guns, battle rifles, assault rifles, machine guns, carbines, multiple-barrel firearms, grenade launchers, underwater firearms, anti-tank rifles, etc. Light Weapons, on their part, are weapons that are man-portable or transportable by light vehicles and do not require much in terms of service or logistical backup training; and they include small caliber cannons, light support weapons, combat grenades, anti-personnel landmines, mortars, anti-tank weapons, anti-tank mines, etc. Small Arms and Light Weapons when wrongfully deployed or used against a mass of defenseless people, especially targeting and killing them on the grounds of their ethnicity and religion can snowball into 'Complex Humanitarian Emergencies', resulting in large number of defenseless civilian deaths or generated and systematic hunger, diseases and displacement or homelessness arising from wanton domicile or genocidal property destructions including dwelling house burnings.

Relatedly, it must be added that Disarmament is the collection, documentation, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and those in the hands of violent civilian population. Demobilization, on its part, is the formal and controlled discharge of active combatants from armed forces or members of the armed opposition groups for purpose of ending violent armed conflict and accompanied rehabilitation and reintegration. Arms Control are efforts through interstate or sub regional or regional or international agreements or arrangements to limit or reduce the war weapons' making capabilities by restricting the influx and quantity of such weapons (arms and armaments) in the areas of their deployment to avoid arm race or conflict escalation.

...Military, Police And Paramilitary Channels, Arms Traffickers And Border Porosity As Major Sources Of Illicit SALWs In Nigeria:

“We must find a way of putting a stop to this (proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons). We must, if we want to recover our country and live in peace and stability. The worst human being is a policeman or a soldier who will take arms from his own formations and sell it or hide it out for the bad people to come and kill his own colleagues. We must fight these people, but also there are merchants of death and evil from outside the world.

The proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons remains a major threat to our national security, exacerbating issues such as insurgency, banditry and other violent crimes. All illicit arms, unserviceable, all illicit. Any weapon that is taken is out there that is through an illegal process.”
Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, Nigeria's National Security Adviser, October 17, 2024

“MANY ARMS USED BY TERRORISTS BELONGED TO FG”

– NSA, Nuhu Ribadu

According to Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, a retired Assistant Inspector General of Police, former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Nigeria's current National Security Adviser (NSA), “many of the illicit weapons currently used by terrorists and bandits originally belonged to the Federal Government”. Ribadu spoke at the Arms Destruction Exercise organized by the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) in the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), on Thursday (October 17, 2024) in Abuja. The NSA said, “these weapons fell into the wrong hands due to corrupt elements within the security agencies”. He, however, said the country can handle its security concerns. Ribadu said: “We must find a way of putting a stop to this. We must, if we want to recover our country and live in peace and stability” and added that. “The worst human being is a policeman or a soldier who will take arms from his own formations and sell it or hide it out for the bad people to come and kill his own colleagues”. “We must fight these people, but also there are merchants of death and evil from outside the world. The proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons remains a major threat to our national security, exacerbating issues such as insurgency, banditry and other violent crimes.” The NSA said the Federal Government remains committed to providing support to the center to ensure the safety of every Nigerian. According to him, by destroying unserviceable, obsolete and recovered arms, we are demonstrating our commitment to a secure future for all Nigerians. “All illicit arms, unserviceable, all illicit. Any weapon that is taken is out there that is through an illegal process. “We have laws that govern ownership of small arms. If you do not follow it, it is an illegal arm and it is supposed to be destroyed completely,” he added.

It must therefore be clearly stated that illicit small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are those sourced or procured or purchased through sources not approved and processed by the country's Ministries of Defense, Interior, Police Affairs and Office of the National Security Adviser empowered by law to approve, process, purchase and distribute 'licit' weapons or legally purchased small arms and light weapons to Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force), DSS, NIA, Police and the Paramilitaries. Small Arms and Light Weapons that are procured outside the confines of the above are technically referred to as “illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)”. They are “illicit” because they are illegally procured or purchased through illegal or ‘black market’ channels. ‘Licit’ or legally procured small arms and light weapons for right hands and legitimate use can also be proliferated into wrong hands if porously warehoused or managed and offensively used by their custodians.

Consequently, further investigations by the Intersociety have identified military channels, traffickers of small arms and light weapons as well as border and boundary porosities as major sources of the influx and proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in Nigeria particularly in the South-East and the South-South. The South-South Region has become prone to illicit small arms and light weapons’ proliferation through “arms-for-oil” deals of the Niger Delta criminal politicians and oil warlords from 2000s till date. Despite ‘the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program’ or ‘Niger Delta Amnesty Program’ of the President Late President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua in 2009, large quantities of ‘War-Grade’ and ‘Non-War-Grade’ illicit arms and light weapons are strongly believed to still be in large circulation and in wrong hands in the Region.

The above is to the extent that such illicit SALWs have been dangerously deployed for sundry violent criminalities including cross boundary organized economic and political crimes perpetrated by the Niger Delta criminal persons in places like Abia and Ogbaru part of Anambra State. They have also been deployed for pro-jihadist attacks including killings, sexual offenses, abductions and burnings targeted at defenseless Eastern Christians and their properties.

Not forgotten is the fact that such Niger Delta-bound illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons are often deployed for 'Government coordinated subversive and other State terror activities across the country including in the South-East and the Middle-Belt Regions. Many of the Niger Delta-bound illicit SALWs are also strongly believed to have been smuggled into Nigeria from the Republic of South Africa, a country with largest private military firms and services including influx and proliferation of illicit small arms and mercenaries in black Africa. Some of such illicit arms are also produced and transited from South Africa while others manufactured in Europe and North America found their way into Nigeria via the same South Africa and others.

The Nigerian military operations (terror) in the Niger Delta and the South-East Regions have further become a breeding ground for the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in Eastern Nigeria. Rabid corruption and absence of accountability in the military and its brutal and discriminatory soldiering have made it possible for "returned war or violence" and aided increase in the influx and proliferation of illicit and licit small arms in Eastern Nigeria including porosity of the military arms control channels. For instance, there is little or no verifiable data showing the whereabouts of illicit SALWs "recovered" by the military in the Niger Delta and the South-East Regions since August 2015. There are also big question marks regarding the safety and accountability of all the Government-procured "licit Small Arms and Light Weapons" in the hands of the military and other security forces deployed for the ongoing military operations (siege and terror) in the East since August 2015; to the extent that it is feared that hundreds of thousands of them have escaped from the possession of the military and other security forces and ended up in criminal hands in the East where they have become "illicit Small Arms in wrong hands and in wrong use".

'State Jihadism Project', initiated and promoted under the former Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari, has also been identified as another source of influx and proliferation of illicit and licit small arms and light weapons in the South-East and the South-South. The then Nigerian Government's secretly backed and protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen's movement towards the South, coupled with seizure and occupation of the Eastern forests, bushes and farmlands which started since 2016 also came with hundreds of thousands of illicit small arms in their possession till date. The above is to the extent that it is independently and conservatively estimated that there are 20,000 Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others secretly deployed and protected in Eastern Nigeria (South-East and South-South) forests, bushes, farmlands and South-East and South-South Triangles since 2016 during which they were allowed till date by Government of Nigeria and the country's military and other security forces to be in possession of AK-47s, numbering about 400,000, translating to average of 20 AK-47s per Jihadist Fulani Herdsman or his like". Tens of thousands of illicit small arms and their ammunitions are also in the hands of Counterfeit Biafra Agitators and Eastern Security Network operating in the East.

The about 400,000 illicit Small Arms in possession of the drafted Jihadists in Eastern Nigeria are part of millions of such illegally proliferated weapons by the regionally assembled Islamic Jihadists from different parts of Africa including former "licit" Small Arms in Libya and other Maghreb countries, now in wrong hands, from where they are illicitly couriered into Nigeria for purposes of spreading and consolidation of Islamic Jihadism. Such illicit SALWs of Islamic Jihadism stock were first allowed into Nigeria by former Government of Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari and his security chiefs between 2016 and 2022 and spread and amassed by Government-protected Fulani Jihadists and allied others in areas dominated by Igbo and non-Igbo Christians and indigenous Hausa Muslims and Christians.

Niger Delta Region is also a breeding ground for illicit procurement of illicit Small Arms such as AK-47s, AK-49s and other offensive weapons presently in use by criminal civilians and sub-state actors in the perpetration of sundry violent criminal activities against persons and properties in South-East. Such offensive weapons are assembled and distributed from Niger Delta Region after having been illicitly couriered from nearby African criminal sources including South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and nearby roadways and waterways from their original countries of manufacturing in Europe, North America and Asia.

Sub-State actor security arrangements or centralized State Government and decentralized Community vigilantism arrangements have further been identified as another major source of proliferation of illicit Small Arms in Nigeria particularly in the East. Not forgotten is the fact that, today, there are 1,940 Communities in the five Mainland Igbo States of Abia, 771; Anambra 183; Enugu 190; Ebonyi 96; and Imo 700 and in each of them, there is at least one community vigilante group with unspecified number of unprohibited firearms, procured through unofficial sources which have been swelling the proliferation of small arms under reference. Presently in the South-East and some parts of the South-South, there are hundreds of thousands of illicitly procured Pump Action Guns and some quantities of offensive or prohibited weapons like AK-47s, found to have been procured by various State Governments through “black markets” and unlawful others. Such Pump Action Guns and allied others, though, classified as “unprohibited firearms” are found not to have followed due processes of procurement. Illicit Small Arms in the South-East are further proliferated by leading arms traffickers and transporters through roadway sources from the likes of Republics of Togo, Ghana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Benin, Angola, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Liberia, etc. Others are illicitly couriered through inter-state channels including the Cross River-Cameroon regional border, the Ebonyi-Benue boundary, the Enugu-Kogi boundary, the Anambra-Imo boundary, the Anambra-Rivers boundary, the Anambra-Delta boundary and the Anambra-Kogi boundary, etc.

Generally, most of the illicit Small Arms in Nigeria are proliferated and moved to their final destinations through roadways at night, with about 85% of them “successfully” transited under the watchful eyes or conspiracy of the country's military and other security forces including the 'marine and border police', the military and the customs and the immigration services. Lagos-Seme and Lagos-Cotonou borders are major illicit Small Arms trafficking routes in the South-West. In the North, Yobe, Borno and Taraba States are major border areas where illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons are proliferated owing to their closeness to the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Cameroon. They are also proliferated using Nigeria's Four Transnational Highways and 4000 navigable waterways. It has been observed that the Government of Nigeria and the country's security forces have been swelling the number of illicit Small Arms in circulation and in wrong hands by way of arms custody and control porosity. The above is aided by corruption and State actor subversive activities remotely aimed at undermining the country's general or collective security and safety. This, the Nigerian criminal State actors do by secretly arming the sobriquet “Janjaweed” to unleash unspeakable physical violence or wanton destruction of lives and properties targeted at defenseless and vulnerable citizens of Nigeria. Weak regulations by statutory agencies responsible for arms control and safety have also been identified as one of the triggers of the influx and proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria or any part thereof particularly in Eastern Nigeria.

Nigeria's proneness to rising influx and proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in wrong hands and use is further fueled by the fact that the following seventeen of the country's 36 States and the FCT (Abuja) share borders with four West and Central African countries of Benin Republic, Republic of Niger, Republic of Cameroon and Republic of Chad: Adamawa State - is in the North-East and shares a border with Cameroon. Akwa Ibom State - is a South-South State and shares a border with Cameroon. Benue State - is in the North-Central and shares a border with Cameroon. Borno State - is another North-East State but shares a border with 3 countries - Cameroon, Niger Republic and Chad. Cross River State - is a South-South State and shares a border with Cameroon. Jigawa State - is a North-West State and shares a border with Niger Republic. Katsina State - is another North-West State that shares a border with Niger Republic. Kebbi State - is also a North-West State and shares a border with Niger Republic and Benin Republic. Kwara State - is in the North-Central and shares a border with Benin Republic. Lagos State - is a South-West State and shares a border with Benin Republic. Niger State - is a north-central state and shares a border with Benin Republic Ogun state - is in the south-west and shares a border with Benin Republic. Oyo State - another South-West State that shares a border with the Benin Republic. Sokoto State - is in the North-West and shares a border with Niger Republic and Benin Republic. Taraba State - is a North-Central State and shares a border with Cameroon. Yobe State - is a North-Eastern State and shares a border with the Republic of Niger. Zamfara State - is in the North-East Region and shares with Niger Republic.

Possessors Of 'War-Grade' And 'Non-War-Grade' Illicit SALWs In Eastern Nigeria:

Greater number of those bearing illicit arms in Eastern Nigeria are from bearers of 'non-War-Grade' illicit arms such as the likes of AK-47s, AK-49s, revolvers, assault rifles, multiple-barrel firearms, pistols, Pump Action Guns, Single Barreled Guns, Double Barreled Guns, Dane Guns and allied others and their ammunitions. Unlawful possessors of the above particularly in the South-East include Government-linked killer squads, Counterfeit Biafra Agitators, Eastern Security Network of IPOB, MACBAN Vigilante Group, Igbo Land born and bred Hausa-Fulani Jihadist Muslim recruits and subversive elements within the deployed security forces in the East and sub-State actor security vigilantes. Others are non-State actor violent criminal entities such as kidnapers, hijackers, highway and other roadway armed robbers and violent cybercriminals. In the list, too, are murderers (offenders of civil homicides and manslaughters), arsonists, communal warlords, criminal vigilantes, anti-communal crude oil and other solid mineral mining armed agitators, etc.

Possessors of "War-Grade Small Arms" and "War-Grade Light Weapons" in Eastern Nigeria, on the other hand, are majorly drawn from members and leaders of the pseudo-demobilized and disarmed Niger Delta Militants including remnants of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force of Alhaji Asari Dokubo, now "private security and pro jihadism mercenaries" secretly operating in places like Anambra, Imo and Ebonyi in the South-East and different parts of Niger Delta Region including Rivers State. Also in this list are remnants of the former Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta loyal to one of their former commanders, named "Boyloaf"; as well as remnants of the former Niger Delta Vigilante Group, a former Ijaw militia in Niger Delta; loyal to Tom Ateke, their former leader. Others are those loyal to "Tompson", another former top commander of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta and chief priest of Egbesu deity.

Not forgotten in the list are leading sea pirates in major waterways in the South-East and the South-South. There is also a possibility that Counterfeit Biafra Agitators and 'crossed-over' ex Niger Delta Militants have access to pockets of these "War-Grade" illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in their possession in the South-East. For further clarity, "War-Grade illicit Small Arms" in possession of the unlawful bearers above mentioned include anti-armored car explosives, improvised explosive devices, submachine guns, machine guns, carbines, multiple-barrel firearms, grenade launchers, underwater firearms, anti-tank rifles, RPGs, etc.; while "War-Grade Light Weapons" in their hands and use include small caliber cannons, light support weapons, combat grenades, anti-personnel landmines, mortars, anti-tank weapons, anti-tank mines and allied others manufactured in more than 98 countries across the world.

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CHAPTER NINETEEN

Armed Forces' Formations Perpetrating Military Siege And Terror In The East



NAMES OF MILITARY AND POLICE FORMATIONS PERPETRATING MILITARY TERROR IN EASTERN NIGERIA:

They include 82 and 6 Divisions of the Nigerian Army located in Enugu and Port Court in Rivers State and their following sub-formations: 34 Brigade in Obinze (Imo State), 13 Brigade in Calabar (Cross River State), 14 Brigade in Ohafia (Abia State), 2 Brigade in Uyo (Akwa Ibom State), 63 Brigade in Asaba (Delta State), 16 Brigade in Yenagoa (Bayelsa State), 4 Brigade in Benin, Edo State (under 2 Division, Ibadan), 44 Engineering Brigade of the 82 Division and the 82 and the 6 Divisions' Army Signals, Garrison, Military Police and Transport Brigades and others located at their Headquarters in Enugu and Port Harcourt. Other culpable formations of the Nigerian Armed Forces are Nigerian Navy Training Command in Port Harcourt (Rivers State), 302 Artillery Regiment in Onitsha (Anambra State), 24 Engineering Regiment in Nkwagu/Abakiliki (Ebonyi State), 103 Battalion in Awkunanaw (Enugu State) and 144 Battalion in Aba and Asa (Abia State).

The rest are Elele 5 Battalion (Rivers State), 130 Battalion and 311 Artillery in Ogoja (Cross Rivers State), 90 Amphibious Battalion in Koko (Delta State), 181 Amphibious Battalion in Agbor (Delta State), Nigerian Air Force Ground Training Command in Enugu, Central Naval Command in Yenagoa (Bayelsa State), Eastern Naval Command in Calabar (Cross River State), Naval Logistics Command Headquarters in Oghara (Delta State), 115 Special Operations Group of Nigerian Air Force in Port Harcourt (Rivers State), Air Force Tactical Command, Port Harcourt, 211 Air Force Regiment in Owerri (Imo State), Nigerian Air Force Base in Calabar (Cross River State), Ogbaru Naval Base in Anambra State, Nigerian Navy College of Accounting and Finance in Owerre-Nta (Abia State), Nigerian Naval Base in Oguta (Imo State) and other Forward Operational Bases (FOBs) of Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air Force and Nigerian Navy located in different areas of the South-South and the South-East Regions.

The above named culpable military formations were joined in perpetrating the "military terror" in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015 by officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters' Bureau of Intelligence and its IRT (Intelligence Response Teams) and STS (Special Tactical Squads), the Force Criminal Investigations Department and the Force Operations Department and their following tactical and crack squads: Counter-Terrorism, Anti Bunkering, Anti Kidnapping, Anti Cultism, RRS (Rapid Response Squad), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Team) and Special Anti-Robbery Squads, etc. Each of the three top NPF Departments is headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG). Culpable others at decentralized levels of the Nigeria Police Force are various State Police Commands of the eleven Eastern Nigerian States and their SCIDs, headed by CPs, DCPs and ACPs. Culpable Police Zonal Commands included 'Police Zone 13 in Ukpo (Anambra State), Zone 9 in Umuahia (Abia State), Zone 5 in Benin (Edo State) and Zone 6 in Calabar (Cross Rivers State). Each of the Police Zonal Command is headed by an Assistant Inspector General of Police. Officers and personnel of the Department of the State Security Services (DSS) were also culpable particularly in the areas of generating biased intelligence and participating in joint unlawful law enforcement operations under "Joint Security Taskforces" or organizing their own separating criminal and sometimes "Gestapo-like operations" and "false flagged operations".

MILITARY TERROR HEIGHTENED BY FLOODING OF MILITARY FORMATIONS IN THE EAST WITH MUSLIM OFFICERS, OTHERS:

The 10 Years of Military Terror in Eastern Nigeria, under review, has been heightened by deliberate policy of the previous and the present Government of Nigeria and High Commands of the country's Armed Forces and other security forces to continuously flood the security forces' formations in the South-East and the South-South with senior military officers and other senior security officers of Hausa-Fulani Northern Muslim extraction as well as Muslim and non-Muslim others from outside the two Regions. The above is worsened by the fact that Nigeria is deeply divided along ethno-religious lines, with anti-Igbo and Christian sentiments risen to an apogee or maddening proportion. Out of the senior military and other senior security officers posted to the two Regions since July 2015, a period of approximately ten years, more than 80% have been drawn from Hausa-Fulani Northern Muslim officers or military and other security forces population. Non-senior military personnel posted to the two Regions since July 2015 have also perpetually been dominated by Muslim citizens of northern stock who barely stick to the rules of professional soldiering including human rights compliance, humane conducts and neutrality particularly non-discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity and religion.

The above explains why the military operations in Eastern Nigeria have become a terror, in addition to turning the two Regions into 'a Police State', 'killing fields' and 'dens of military and other security forces' corruption'. The Intersociety had carefully and factually followed the patterns and trends of deployment of senior military and other senior security officers in the South-East and the South-South since July 2015. It must quickly be reminded that July 2015 was the month the first set of Nigeria's Military and Other Security Service Chiefs were appointed by Nigeria's newly sworn-in President, Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari, during which one of the country's most brutal and atrocious Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai, emerged as Army Chief of Staff. July 2015 also marked the beginning of some say, "radical Islamic indoctrination of officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces" and their codes of conscription, conduct, promotion, posting and operations which was a serious breach of Section 217 (3) of the 1999 Constitution.

NO SOUTH-EAST AND SOUTH-SOUTH SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS MADE GOCs OF 82 AND 6 ARMY DIVISIONS SINCE JULY 2015.

Investigative reviews of the military and other security forces' formations in the South-East and the South-South since July 2015 included those of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 have irrefutably shown that the Enugu 82 Division of the Nigerian Army had never been headed by a Southern Christian as General Officer Commanding (GOC) since July 2015. Most, if not all the past 82 Division GOCs since then have been drawn from senior military officers of Hausa-Fulani Muslim extraction and a handful of South-West Muslims including the immediate past Chief of Army Staff, Late Lt General Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja, who was its GOC from March 2021 to August 2022. In the South-South, most, if not all the past GOCs of the 6 Army Division in Port Harcourt, Rivers State have been drawn from senior army officers of Hausa-Fulani Muslim extraction. Similar practices are also found to have enveloped the appointment and posting of senior Police and DSS Officers as "Police Zonal AIGs", "State CPs", "DCPs", "ACPs", "CSPs" and positions of DCs/ACs-SCIDs, DCs/ACs-OPS, Area Commanders, DPOs and Squadron Commanders of Police Mobile Force and Police Crack and Tactical Squads as well as State Directors of SSS (DSS) and their LGAs' Officers-in-Charge.

Flooding of the South-East and the South-South with such ethnically and religiously biased senior military and other senior security officers has further robbed the military operations in the East of neutrality, professionalism and unbiased soldiering. For instance, current GOCs (as of September 2024) of the 82 and the 6 Army Divisions in Enugu and Port Harcourt are Major General Hassan Dada (82 Division) and Major General Jamal Abdulsalam; both Northern Muslims. Rear Admiral Istifanius Albara (non-Easterner) is the Flag Officer Commanding the Nigerian Navy Training Command in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Air Vice Marshal Usman Abdullahi (Northern Muslim) is the Commanding Officer of the Air Force Ground Training, Enugu as of September 9, 2024.

In Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Air Vice Marshal Tajudeen Yusuf (non-Eastern Muslim) is the Commanding Officer of Nigerian Air Force Mobility Command.

The Maritime Component of the so called "Operation UDOKA" in the South-East is headed by Navy Commodore Mohammed Salisu (Northern Muslim). The 63 Brigade of the Nigerian Army in Asaba, Delta State is headed as of January 2024 by Brig Gen Sanusi Aliyu (Northern Muslim). Air Commodore Aliyu Idris (Northern Muslim) is the Commanding Officer of 115 Special Operations Group of the Nigerian Air Force in Port Harcourt. The 54 Signals Brigade in Enugu is commanded by Brig Gen AK Kubianga (non-Easterner).

The 82 Division Garrison Brigade in Enugu is commanded by Brig Gen Murtala Abu (non-Eastern Muslim). Brig Gen Usman Lawal (Northern Muslim) is the Brigade Commander of the 34 Brigade in Obinze, Imo State. In Abia State, the Brigade Commander of 14 Brigade in Ohafia is Brig Gen Olusola Diya (non-Eastern Christian). The 13 Brigade of the Nigerian Army in Calabar, Cross River State is commanded by Brig Gen MO Ibrahim (Northern Muslim). The Commanding Officer of the 24 Army Engineering Cantonment, Nkwagu in Ebonyi State is Lt Col Audu Bako (Northern Muslim). Navy Commodore O.E. Eytayo (non-Easterner) is the Commandant of the Navy College of Accounting and Finance in Owerre-Nta, Abia State. The Commanding Officer of the Nigerian Naval Base in Oguta, Imo State is Navy Captain S.I. Ibrahim (Northern Muslim). The Cantonment Commandant of the Onitsha Army 302 Artillery Regiment/General Support is Col Muhammed Abubakar (Northern Muslim). It is quickly recalled that it was his killer order that led to shutting down and violent disruption of sacred Sunday Church Services of three Catholic Parishes (St Joseph, Saints Peter and Paul and Holy Rosary Parishes), one Anglican Church (St Peter's Anglican Parish) and uncountable number of Pentecostal churches on August 15, 2024, at Umunze in Anambra State during which church services were disrupted and parishioners violently dispersed. These are just to mention but a few.

NAMES OF PRINCIPAL SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS COORDINATING ONGOING MILITARY SIEGE AND TERROR IN EASTERN NIGERIA:

Findings arising from this Special International Report ('Ocean Of Innocent Bloods Flowing In Eastern Nigeria') have identified the following serving senior military officers as those coordinating the ongoing Military Siege and Terror in the South-East and the South-South (formerly Eastern and Mid-Western Nigeria). They include: 1. Late Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja, immediate past Army Chief of Staff (and his successor, Lieutenant General Olufemi Olatubosun Oluyede), 2. General Chris Gwabin Musa, Chief of Defense Staff, 3. Air Marshal Hasan Bala Abubakar, 4. Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral E. Ogalla, 5. Defense Headquarters Spokesman, Major General Edward Buba and 6. Army Headquarters Spokesman, Major General Onyema Nwachukwu, 7. Nigerian Army Chief of Policy and Plans, Major General Abdulsalam Bagudu Ibrahim, 8. Nigerian Army Chief of Training and Doctrine Command, Major General K. Aligbe, 9. Chief of Defense Operations, Major General E. Onumajuru, 10. Commander, Army Ordinance Corps, Major General EL Ugwuoke, 11. Commander, Army Corps of Artillery, Major General MG Kangye, 12. Commander, Army Infantry Corps, Major General OO Oluyede (now Chief of Army Staff since October 30, 2024). Critics have alleged that the immediate Army Chief, Late Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja had died of unnatural causes since October 17, 2024, but the Nigerian Government denied and later, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, announced him as having "died on Monday night, November 4, 2024".

Other Principal Senior Military Officers Coordinating Ongoing Military Siege and Terror in Eastern Nigeria are: 13. Major General KA Isoni, Commander, Army Headquarters Garrison, 14. Major General GO Adesina, Commander, Army Signals Corps, 15. Major General HG Tafida, Commander, Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, 16. Major General OJ Akpor, Army Chief of Administration, 17. Major General ND Shagaya, Commandant, Army School of Supply and Transport, 18. Major General SI Musa, Director, Army Legal Services, 19. Major General N. Ugbo, Army Chief of Civil-Military Affairs, 19. Major General Farouk Mijinyawa, 20. Major General BR Sinjen, former GOC, 6 Division and present Army Chief of Operations, 21. Major General OR Aiyenigba, Army Chief of Standards and Evaluation, 22. Major General E. Akerejola, Army Chief of Logistics, 23. Major General EAP Udiandeye, Chief of Defense Intelligence, 24. Major General AA Adeyinka, Commander, Army Supply and Transport, Major General TB Ugiagba, Army Chief of Intelligence, 25. Major General Mohammed Ahmed, Commander, Army Corps of Amour, 26. Director of Defense Information, Brigadier General Tukur Gusau, 27. Minister of Defense, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, 28. Current Commander, Army Corps of Military Police and 29. National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Center, Major General Adamu Garba Laka (appointed since April 2024).

CHAPTER TWENTY

46,800 Unarmed Citizens Killed By Security Forces And Criminal Entities In The East



**...MILITARY 15,300, POLICE 10,000, CRIMINAL ENTITIES 14,500,
VIGILANTES 6,000, SPY POLICE 1000 (SINCE 2015-DATE):**

The combined forces of officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, the Spy Police, the Nigeria Police Force and the supposedly police-regulated State and Community Vigilantes drafted to the South-East and the South-South since August 2015 to December 2024 (a period of ten years) are strongly suspected to have killed no fewer than 32,300 unarmed and defenseless citizens. The extension of the killing period to December 2024 follows our research discovery and conclusion that no significant changes are expected to occur in their patterns and trends in the remaining part of 2024. Further breakdown clearly indicated that officers and personnel of the Armed Forces accounted for more than 15,300 defenseless civilian deaths, Nigeria Police Force 10,000, sub-State actor vigilantes 6000 and Spy Police or DSS 1000: totaling no fewer than 32,300 unarmed and defenseless civilian deaths recorded in the hands of the drafted armed State actors and armed sub-State actors since Military Terror in Eastern Nigeria kicked off in August 2015.

It is also important to mention that nothing less than 90% of the slain victims belonged to defenseless Igbo citizens of Eastern Nigeria, out of which the South-East was the worst hit. Further observed was the fact that more than 95% of the victims were males in their productive age brackets particularly those between 20 and 45 years of age, with victims under 50 to 60 years of age constituting about 20%; dominated by those in 50-55 years age bracket. It was further found that the targeted unlawful killings were militarily perpetrated with intent to depopulate and deny many of the victims their fundamental human right to familyhood as about 40% are estimated to be those about to marry and form a family before their unlawful killing. The remaining 60% are estimated to have been married and formed a family before being openly shot and killed or arrested or abducted and killed in custody or captivity. Estimated 70% are those strongly believed to have started bearing and rearing children, out of which many of their children have been forced to drop out of school or face hunger and starvation leading to death of dozens or hundreds of them.

The targeted killing of mostly members of the defenseless Igbo civilian population was further swollen by indiscriminate "transfer of criminal responsibility" (contrary to Section 7 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015) through indiscriminate false labeling and zero evidential accusation of "belonging to IPOB/ESN family" or "being involved in Biafran Matters" or "being associates or love partners or parents or siblings or supporters or pastors or herbalists of the arrested or wanted IPOB/ESN terrorists". Biased and concocted intelligence derived from "hearsay conclusions" also played a key role in the unlawful killings, totality of which has brought about indiscriminate and unchecked armed State actor killings and abductions outside the law during which tens of thousands have fallen victims in the past ten years in Eastern Nigeria.

On the other hand, the atrocities of armed non-State actors have led to the death of no fewer than 13,000 defenseless civilians including 7000 unlawful deaths arising from attacks on defenseless civilian targets by non-Jihadist criminal entities and 6000 unlawful deaths arising from attacks by Jihadist criminal entities. The above also clearly indicated that the drafted Nigerian Security Forces (**NSFs**) killed more than twice and a half than those killed by criminal entities. In other words, the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force, the Spy Police (SSS) and the sub-State actor vigilantes atrociously killed defenseless and unarmed civilians they are paid and equipped to protect and safeguard, over twice and a half than the number unlawfully killed by criminal entities the security forces are paid and equipped to go after, track down and prevent from attacking and harming defenseless members of the public including the victims under reference.

It further shows that the drafted security forces in the East are almost three times more atrocious than criminal entities, out of which, there is likelihood of "dark figures", or number of unlawful deaths not captured or recorded.

The studied patterns and trends of the killings clearly showed that estimated 95% victims of the spy police unlawful killings are those killed in secret detention facilities manned by DSS while the remaining 5% belong to those killed in the open. In other words, most of the victims of the spy police unlawful killings are those arrested alive and taken into its detention facilities spread across the 36 State Directorates of the Agency and designated others in Abuja, etc. Victims of DSS secret killings are detainees that have never been traced or located alive or returned to their families alive after several years of their secret arrest. Our recent investigations have also shown that the Spy Police has earned notoriety in secret arrest or abduction of defenseless citizens on suspicion of their involvement in "Serious Biafra Matters" or "IPOB/ESN Terrorism" after which they are held in perpetuity leading to unaccountability of the whereabouts of between 70 and 80 of such detainees on yearly basis.

Victims of the spy police killings included those arrested and held for years before being secretly transferred to undisclosed military facilities in Northern Nigeria from where they are never traced or located alive. The trio of Citizens Ikenna Chibuike, Felix Okonkwo and Okafor Lawrence, wards to Barr Ifeanyi Ejiofor, IPOB Lawyer, were abducted sometime in June 2021, during the second bloody invasion of the IPOB Lawyer's ancestral home in Oraifite, Ekwusigo part of Anambra State when combined team of the Force Intelligence Bureau, the military and the DSS personnel raided his house and abducted the trio after killing his personal aide in an inferno. Legal search for the whereabouts of the trio later revealed that they were secretly transferred to the 'dreaded WAWA Military Cantonment in Kainji part of faraway Niger State.

It is our further investigated and found that no fewer than 70% of the victims of the Nigerian military's unlawful killings in Eastern Nigeria belonged to those killed in secret military detention facilities mostly located in faraway Northern Nigeria. The remaining 30% are believed to be those openly shot and killed across the East. Apart from being the most atrocious and driving force of the terror operations in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015, the culpable officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces are also found to have grisly and egregiously engaged in wanton destruction of defenseless civilian properties particularly their dwelling houses and allied properties. Culpable military officers and personnel are also engrossed in widespread human rights abuses including indiscriminate invasion or raiding of communal homes and their communities at night or wee hours of the morning during which hundreds of defenseless citizens are openly shot and killed or shot and abducted alive or abducted alive and smuggled at night into unlawful custody from where they are subjected to severe mental and physical torture and starvation resulting to their unlawful death and disposal of their dead bodies outside official records and procedures. The above is conclusively to the extent that 'out of every ten unarmed and defenseless citizens abducted alive and held in unlawful custody by the military, at least six are likely not capable of coming back alive'.

In the case of victims of the police unlawful killings, about 60% are estimated to have been drawn from secret killings and the remaining 40% being victims of police open killings. It is also regrettably shocking that despite enormous powers and numerical strength of the Nigeria Police Force, the Force has remained chronically incompetent, corrupt and human rights and rule of law non-compliant. By law, the Nigeria Police Force is established as "the gateway into criminal justice administration and democratic policing in Nigeria or any part thereof including Eastern part of the country". The above explains why the Force is the most departmentalized, specialized, knowledgeable and largest law enforcement agency in the country. The Force is specifically expertly equipped with several departments such as the Force Bureau of Intelligence (FIB) and its IRT (Intelligence Response Team) and STS (Special Tactical Squad). The NPF also has the Force Criminal Investigations Department (FCID) and its Anti-Terrorism, Anti Bunkering, Anti Kidnapping, Anti Cultism, SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Team), Anti Robbery and Anti-Corruption (X-Squad) Squad, etc. There is also 'the Department of Operations' or "F-OPS and its RRS (Rapid Response Squad), etc.

The above three most important Nigeria Police Force Departments are domiciled at the Force Headquarters, Abuja, with each headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) and further decentralized and domiciled at various State Police Commands including those spreading across the eleven Eastern Nigerian States of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Ebonyi, Imo, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Rivers and Bayelsa, with each headed by DCPs/ACPs-SCIDs, DCPs/ACPs-OPS and DCPs/ACPs-SIBs (as case may be). Attached to the Office of Nigeria's Inspector General of Police (IGP) are six "Special Squads" including "the Special Intervention Squad (SIS)".

Regrettably, despite all the above, the Nigeria Police Force has incurably wobbled and failed woefully by allowing "democracy meddlesome interlopers" and "outsiders in democratic policing"; specifically, by letting the Nigerian Armed Forces to lead the way and dangerously militarize the polity and shrink the democratic civic space. The above is also shocking and alarming, to the extent that there is no remarkable difference between atrocities perpetrated by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces under the watch of their High Commands manning the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Very shocking, alarming and unheard of is the fact that officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force under the watch of its High Command now arrest suspected criminal persons outside the law and illiterately transfer them to the authorities and facilities of the Armed Forces where many of them are tortured to death using clubbing or strangulation or beating or squeezing or gunning down in custody, after which their dead bodies are disposed like dead fowls outside the official records. The above is even when the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force are fully aware, as a matter of law and convention, that the Armed Forces fundamentally lack power, legal basis, skills and techniques to handle cases involving members of unarmed civilian population.

By law (Laws of State Houses of Assembly assented to by each of the five South-East State Govs), members of State and Community Vigilante Groups (VGs) are only allowed to operate with "unprohibited firearms (such as Pump Action Guns) in accordance with civilian citizens' power of arrest (Sections 20 of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act of 2015 and 39 of the Nigeria Police Act of 2020 as amended) and rights to self-defense and personal defense unprohibited firearms under the Firearms Act of 2004, the Criminal Code Act of 2004 and the Penal Code Act of 2004, etc. Relying on relevant safeguards provided in the Firearms Act of 2004 and mounting challenges posed by present-day insecurity and other unsafe conditions, VGs are presently allowed to bear "unprohibited firearms", particularly 'Pump Action Guns', requiring clearance and authorization from State or Zonal or National authorities of the Nigeria Police Force. VGs are also barred from detaining their arrested citizens or maintaining detention facilities for detention of such victims. Citizens arrested by VGs under "citizens' power of arrest" in the ACJA Act of 2015 and Police Act of 2020 (as amended) are required to be transferred to the supervising police authorities nearest to such VGs and their leaders. VGs are also barred from killing citizens except in a strictest situation of self-defense and legitimate use of force which they share with civilians, with terms and conditions clearly laid down in Sections 286-293 of the Criminal Code Act of 2004 for Southern Nigeria and Sections 59-67 of the Penal Code Act of 2004 for Northern Nigeria.

Contrary to the above and in practice Nigeria including the East, VGs and their leaders have become an outlaw by arresting, detaining, killing and disappearing their suspects at will and unchecked. The VGs and their leaders also indiscriminately arrest persons in place of others (prohibited act of transfer of criminal responsibility), contrary to Section 7 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) of 2015. Section 7 of the ACJA Act of 2015 and Section 36 of the Police Act of 2020 clearly provide that "a person cannot be arrested in place of a suspect". Where such vigilante unlawful killings become exposed, the culpable VGs and their leaders run to police authorities for coverups. Other than estimated 30% of unarmed citizens constituting "victims of vigilante unlawful open killings" particularly in places like Imo and Ebonyi States; the remaining 70% victims are those arrested alive and unarmed and taken unlawful custody where they are killed outside the law and their dead bodies disposed like dead fowls.

The Intersociety had during one of its recent investigations sighted several lifeless dead bodies dumped inside gutters or by roadsides or inside bushes and their bush-parts, with strong accusing fingers pointed in the direction of VGs and their leaders particularly in Anambra State.

Unlawful open killings Ebubeagu Vigilante militias in Imo State have almost become a daily occurrence, to the extent of being sobriquet "OTA and Bakassi Boys" of late 90s to 2002 in Anambra State. Some communal worst areas affected by "Imo Ebubeagu Vigilante militias" include Umuhu-okabia, Eziawa, Ihitenansa, Orsu-Ihiteukwa, Amalulu, Njaba, Mbaitoli, Attalikeduru; just to mention but a few. Members of those communities and others living in Onitsha and environs as "urban refugees" have consistently flooded the Intersociety with reports of such unlawful killings occurring almost on daily basis in which their relatives and associates have fallen victim.

The VGs and their leaders are also emboldened to recklessly adopt their culpable homicidal methods by officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force who recklessly and indiscriminately kill above the law and outside the law with impunity and zero accountability; all done under circumstances of 'extra jus', 'extralegal' and 'extrajudicial' and condoned and perpetuated by NPF National, Zonal and National High Commands. As a matter of fact, all the atrocities of the VGs and their leaders in the East particularly South-East, are copied from officers and personnel and the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force. For instance, in July 2024, six lifeless bodies were sighted along Nnewi-Amichi-Uga-Okigwe Old Federal Road by Unubi-Ezinifite axis of Nnewi South and Aguata of Anambra State. At closer examination, it was found that the dead bodies bore holes of Pump Action shot bullets or cartridges. To erase traces, their dead bodies were half-burnt and dumped by roadside flood channel to be swept off by flood. Some locals interviewed blamed the dreaded 'Amichi Vigilante Group' for the killing. Some State Governments and their Governors in the South-East have also dangerously gone to the extent of secretly procuring illicit small arms and arming their VGs with tens of thousands of them including AK-47s and other assault rifles, leading to more deaths, maiming, abductions and disappearances outside the law.

Added to the above is the recklessness with which Governments and Governors of Anambra, Imo and Ebonyi hired Niger Delta mercenaries and armed them with AK-47s and their likes under the pretext of "fighting violent crimes". The worse of it all is that the named three Sub-National authorities have totally lost control of most of those mercenaries and members of their dreaded vigilantes who are also likely to have been assigned other dirty jobs (subversive) to execute. As if all the above were not enough, "a dangerous security face-cover (hood)" has also been dangerously introduced in the named three states. Such 'face-cover (hooding)' has worsened the state of insecurity and other unsafe conditions across their States and licensed the dreaded vigilantes and mercenaries to kill, abduct and disappear unarmed and defenseless citizens at will and undetected as well as aiding and escalating the violent crime of abduction-for-ransom that has risen to an apogee particularly in Anambra and Imo States, with crossover effects in places like Enugu and Abia (other than those perpetrated unchecked and untracked by the drafted and Government-protected Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others) in recent times.

In summation, VGs and their leaders mainly of South-East extraction have culpably been responsible for unlawful death of no fewer than 6000 unarmed and defenseless citizens since August 2015, which had risen to an apogee or maddening proportion since April 2021 following formation of the murderous "Ebubeagu Vigilante militias"; representing yearly death average of 500, monthly death average of 42 and daily death average of two unarmed and defenseless citizens. It is important to be reminded that "casualties arising from exchange of gunfire between armed State actors and armed non-State actors or fighting parties" do not technically count in our reports.

...INTERROGATED OFFICIAL REPORTS AND INDEPENDENT OTHERS AS OUR ANALYTICAL BACKBONE:

It is also reminded that the combined statistics of the military, police and spy police unlawful killings above highlighted were arrived at based on our several investigations and research reports across the East and beyond since August 2015. We also carried interrogative analyses into reports released by the authorities of the military, the spy police and the regular police on South-East and South-South.

Such independent interrogations included querying the official statistics such as the authenticity or credibility of number of those killed by the military and those arrested and detained outside the law or without proper trial for years and circumstances and procedures surrounding such "trials" (if any). Also critically interrogated were circumstances and legal basis surrounding such publicly disclosed killings, arrests and incarcerations as militarily announced and the unavailability of the official records regarding such arrests, incarcerations and killings and their victims including failure to make them available to the victims' families and in the unrestricted public records, etc. These details and more are already elaborately explained above in this Special Report.

The failure of the legally instituted coercive institutions or culpable security forces of Nigeria to follow due process in handling the arrested victims resulting to their unlawful killing or maiming or enforced disappearance was also critically examined. For instance, killing unarmed citizens under pre-arrest or post-arrest and pretrial circumstances is offensively a clear case of non-permissible homicide attracting heavy punishment including capital sentences, just like arresting unarmed citizens alive, irrespective of the offense gravity, and taking them into custody where they are tortured to death, attracts 25 years imprisonment or capital punishment in a situation where such torture leads to the death of the tortured (see Section 8 of the Anti-Torture Act of the Federation of Nigeria, 2017). It must also be reminded that citizens arrested alive and unarmed and taken into detention are safeguarded by Section 36 (5) of the 1999 Constitution which pronounces them innocent until they are found guilty and punished accordingly by the court.

Relatedly, according to Section 36 (8) and (12) of the 1999 Constitution, no arrested citizen shall be punished extrajudicially including being shot and killed unarmed in the open or in custody under false labeling or hearsay conclusions founded on unwritten pronouncement of guilt on such victims without such offenses clearly defined and penalties duly prescribed in written law. It is also legally forbidden in Nigeria or any part thereof for the arrested or un-arrested citizens to be killed in the open or in custody in connection with retrogressively written criminal law in Nigeria or any part thereof. Use of 'short-cuts' such as 'passing random or extrajudicial death sentence' during the procession (investigation) of unarmed citizens alleged to have offended the criminal law has critically been investigated and found to be expressly capable of messing up any credibility attached to the offense or offenses under allegation or investigation. It further follows that 'there is no difference between an armed law enforcement officer at roadblock forcing passengers under gunpoint to pay bribe and a highway or roadway armed robber robbing his or her victims of their money and other valuables at gunpoint'.

STATISTICAL REPRESENTATION OF UNLAWFUL KILLINGS BY POLICE, VGS AND ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS:

Killings By Nigeria Police Force (NPF): The police unlawful killings in the East had covered August 2015 to December 2020 (first era of military terror) and January 2021 to December 2024 (second era of military terror), out of which the drafted police officers and personnel extrajudicially killed no fewer than 3000 unarmed and defenseless citizens including about 1800 (70%) who represented victims of "secret killings" and 1200 (30%) being victims of "open killings". In the ongoing second military terror in the East since January 2021, no fewer than 7000 unarmed and defenseless citizens are most likely to have been killed, out of which estimated 4,500 (70%) represent victims of secret killings and 2,500 (30%) represent victims of open killings. Greater number of those unlawfully killed between August 2015 and December 2020 are found to have come from the States of Anambra, Abia and Rivers while Imo State accounts for highest number of such unlawful killings since January 2021 till date.

It must also be pointed out that the above highlighted armed State actor unlawful killings are heightened by three major factors: anguish and angers trailing the widely condemned January 2020 Supreme Court Judgment on the April 2019 Imo State Governorship Election, the Oct-Nov 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and consequent formation of the Eastern Security Network by IPOB on December 20, 2020. It is important to clarify further that victims of police secret killings are those arrested unarmed alive or those shot and wounded before being arrested alive who were taken alive into police detention facilities from where they were killed through torture or starvation or gunshots or other unlawful means.

In other words, they can best be referred to as “victims of police secret killings” or “enforced disappearances”. Victims of police open unlawful killings, on the other hand, are those unarmed and defenseless citizens shot and killed in the open after which their dead bodies are abandoned or violently taken away to undisclosed locations and disposed like dead fowls.

80% OF POLICE OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL STILL NOT ICT-LITERATE AND COMPLIANT IN NIGERIA:

Apart from seeming intractable corruption, nepotism and favoritism and Buhari era introduced “Fula-Islamic policing”, it has further been observed that the present Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has remained a “a paper-tiger” following little or zero impartation of ICT literacy sub-culture of “Man-Mental-Machine Policing” in its serving officers and personnel; to the extent that estimated 80% of the personnel of the Force and greater number of the serving senior officers (CSPs to DIGs) are still ICT illiterates, “typewriters” and “computer phobia”. Although the Force is dotted with a litany of departmental headships dominated by ICT-linked structures, but they are found to have been created and headed for purposes of formality, commercialization and attainment of service promotions and positions. ‘Service competence’ has also brutally eluded the Force and in its stead are incompetence and promotion of radical ethnicity, tribalism and religion.

Organizationally, the Nigeria Police Forensic Department (inclusive of ballistic unit) and its crime libraries and laboratories including “Police Central Crime Database or Registry” are nothing to write home about as they are in total mess. Apart from publicly available ‘electronic tracking devices’ (in wrong use), the formations and officers and personnel of the Force still starkly lack modern tools or techniques and skills capable of ensuring ICT-driven preventive, proactive, protective, detective, investigative, prosecutorial and human rights and rule of law compliant policing. Premising the recently amended “Nigeria Police Act of 2020” on human rights and theoretical ICT-driven, is noted with deep appreciation but the NPF still has a long way to go.

Totality of the above explains the rising and unchecked cases of conduct-atrocities of the NPF officers and personnel particularly in the areas of use of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatments or punishments to extract confessional statements from the accused, arrested and detained citizens. Lack of ICT-driven tools and techniques for modern crime detection, prevention and criminal investigation and prosecution are also found to have been responsible for incessancy of false labeling, class criminalization, hearsay conclusions, ethnoreligious profiling, hate policing, mass stigmatization, commercialization or monetization of arrest, detention and criminal investigation; indiscriminate arrest and false labeling of innocent citizens in place of others (outlawed by Section 7 of the ACJA Act of 2015 and Section 36 of the Nigeria Police Act of 2020), seizure, confiscation and unlawful possession of properties belonging to private citizens, wanton destruction of defenseless citizens’ properties including burning down of their dwelling houses; and criminalization of civil wrongs, etc.

Criminal intelligence, crime detection and investigation are facing total collapse in the hands of the NPF and have been a major reason behind mass murders and widespread property violence by the officers and personnel of the Force. There is also unchecked crossing of ‘inter-agency lines of responsibility’-whereby the Army and other branches of the Nigerian Military and the DSS have abandoned their core establishment mandates and ethical codes to usurp the duties of the Nigeria Police Force; to the extent of the drafted officers and personnel of the military becoming “a jungle justice investigator; a jungle justice prosecutor, a jungle justice trial Judge and a jungle justice executioner”.

Killings By Vigilante Groups (VGs): Vigilante Groups, categorized in this Special International Report as “sub-State actor armed groups”, are strongly believed to have been responsible for the death of no fewer than 6000 defenseless and unarmed citizens in the East since August 2015, out of which estimated 4,200 (70%) were secretly killed and 1,800 (30%) openly shot and killed. It must be noted that the spike in vigilante unlawful killings had taken place in April 2021 following the formation of ‘murderous Ebubeagu Vigilante militias’ under former Gov Dave Umahi of Ebonyi State as then Chairman of the South-East Governors’ Forum.

It is further pointed out that out of the estimated 6000 unlawful deaths in the hands of VGs and their leaders in Eastern Nigeria, estimated 90% or about 5,400 were recorded in the South-East alone. Nothing less than 50% or 900 of the 1,800 openly killed victims were independently traced to have come from Imo and Ebonyi States. Of all the vigilante unlawful killings, "Ebubeagu Vigilante militias" in Imo State are also found to be the most atrocious with no fewer than 2000 deaths, followed by Ebonyi State with 1,500 unlawful deaths.

The atrocities of "Imo Ebubeagu Vigilante militias" and their highest casualty figures (2000 unlawful deaths) are closely followed by "Ebonyi Ebubeagu Vigilante militias" with no fewer than 1,500 unlawful deaths mainly recorded between April 2021 and May 2023 under Dave Umahi as Governor. "Ebubeagu Vigilante militias" killings in the State also included politically motivated and murderous open shootings and killings, "IPOB/ESN pretext" killings, inter-communal and solid mineral mining subversive violence, etc. Found also was the fact that the atrocities of "Ebonyi Ebubeagu Vigilante militias" were supervised and coordinated by the Ebonyi State Ministry of Internal Security, Border Peace and Conflict Resolution, created in 2007 and first headed by Etta Uka Ude as a Commissioner. The Ministry is presently headed by Hon Stanley Okoro Emegha as a commissioner. Same patterns and trends (litany of atrocities) are also applicable or replicated in Imo State, supervised and coordinated by the Imo State Ministry of Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters which was created in 2021 and first headed by Dr. Ugorji Ugochukwu Ugorji (2021-May 2024) as a commissioner. The Imo Ministry of Homeland Security and Vigilante Matters is presently headed since May 2, 2024, by Hon Osakwe Abiaeze Modestus as a commissioner.

Anambra State: Recently discovered (Sept 2024) during this Special International Report was the existence of secret torture chambers and unlawful detention centers cutting across the State including Awka, Onitsha, Nnewi, Ihiala, Nnewi South, Ekwulobia, etc. The secret torture chambers and detention centers are found to be manned and maintained by the dreaded "Anambra Vigilante Service" and its "Strike Force" detachments attached to the State's second and third deadliest outfits, "the Anambra Special Anti-Touting Squad (SASA)" and "Operations Clean and Healthy Anambra (OCHA-Brigade)". Some of the secret torture chambers are located inside the Old Asaba Park (1 and 2), the Old Lagos Park (1&2) and "the Onitsha GRA Annex of the Anambra Vigilante Service", located near Onitsha Government House Annex and Onitsha Shoprite. Others are "Onitsha Main Market White House" and Awka Headquarters of the "Anambra Vigilante Service". Citizens in their hundreds are rounded up weekly at night, blindfolded and dumped in such places for days or weeks without transferring them to nearby police stations. Search party enquiries from the victims' families are usually rebuffed with denial of not holding them or having them in their custody. The "SASA" is headed by Mr. Solomon Chukwuebuka while "the OCHA-BRIGADE" is headed by Mr. Celestine Anere.

It is from such secret detention places that their victims are taken to "Upper Iweka Torture Chambers" and their likes and inflicted with severe bodily injuries using different instruments of torture including mortar pestles, planks, metals, machetes, etc., leading to occasional, if not constant deaths, from where bodies of the dead victims are secretly disposed in the hours of the blue law and sometimes drowned inside Omambala and Niger Rivers, etc., depending on location and time. Other torture chambers are those manned by another dreaded outfit, called "ATMA" (Anambra Traffic Maintenance Agency), operating between Upper Iweka and Onitsha Niger Bridgehead, with one of their deadliest torture chambers located near APAMS Casket Limited, Onitsha. Found, too, was the fact that the Anambra Special Anti-Touting Squad is called "Aka-Odo (Mortar Pestle) Boys" or "Nwokoye Boys", mostly peopled by the outlaws and retreatists and dangerously armed including with PUMP Action and prohibited assault rifles (usually during late night raids) and operationally coordinated by armed detachments drawn from the Anambra Vigilante Service. They are also "embryonic kidnappers" or "potential kidnappers", if not some already substantive. All these violent sub-State actors in Anambra State are also found to under the supervision and coordination of "the Anambra State Ministry of Homeland Security", with Chikaodili Anara as commissioner since April 2022.

Vigilante Groups in Abia State, manned under “the Abia Vigilante Service”, are the third most atrocious, accounting for estimated nothing less than 1,100 estimated unlawful deaths; likewise in Anambra State where no fewer than 1000 unlawful deaths had been recorded since August 2015 in the hands of “the Anambra Vigilante Service”; with a spike since May 2022. The “AVG” is coordinated and supervised since April 2022 by the Anambra State Ministry of Homeland Security headed since April 2022 by Hon Chikaodili Anara as a commissioner; a former security adviser to former Gov Willie Obiano. The remaining unlawful deaths of 800 are shared among the three States of Enugu, Cross River and Rivers. “Abia Central Vigilante Group” and “Anambra Central Vigilante Group” are also strongly believed to be responsible for about 85% of the killings as against various Community Vigilante Groups spreading across the two State which accounted for the remaining 15%. It is also unforgettably reminded that the two States have continued to go down in dark history including earning an incurable notoriety in ‘vigilante extrajudicial killings and disappearances’; to the extent that between 1998 and 2011, no fewer than 5,500 unarmed and defenseless citizens were slaughtered or hacked to death using “hearsay conclusions, fake supernatural powers or magics and false labeling”. In August 2005, under Orji Uzo Kalu as Abia Gov, for instance, 35 unarmed civilians were squeezed inside a small cell unlawfully maintained by Abia State Vigilante Service (“Abia Bakassi Boys”) at Orié Ohabiam Electronics Market in Aba, out of which 32 were suffocated to death in one day and only five managed to survive under terminal circumstances.

Killings By Non-Jihadist Criminal Entities (CEs): Various Criminal Entities (CEs) operating in different parts of the South-East and the South-South, with more attention on Igbo Land part of Eastern Nigeria, have been responsible for estimated 8,000 unarmed and defenseless civilian deaths since August 2015 with a spike since the beginning of January 2021. Further noted is the fact that out of this number, 6,250 (75%) are independently estimated to be victims of secret killings and 1,750 victims of open shootings and killings. The greater number of the victims of secret and open killings are also derived from Imo State when divided among the five South-East and Rivers State, etc. The estimated 8,000 unlawful killings by “CEs” did not include estimated 6,500 others carried out by radical Islamic groups and allied others including Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, Jihadist Fulani Bandits, MACABAN Vigilante Group, Alhaji Asari Dokubo’s (Jihadist) Mercenaries, etc.

“Criminal Entities” in the context of this Special International Report, represent unlawfully armed non-State actor entities whose members have taken up arms against defenseless persons and properties outside the law and international norms. They are further divided into seven categories of: “Islamic Jihadist Groups”, “Government-linked Counterfeit Agitators and subversive others”, “non-Government-linked or former Government-linked Counterfeit Biafra Agitators (renegades)”, “Niger Delta Jihadist and non-Jihadist Mercenaries”, “Criminal Elements” within the mainstream Biafra Agitators such as those using “IPOB” as a cover to perpetrate crimes against defenseless citizens and properties”, “Government-linked Killer Squads” and “non-Government linked Violent Criminal Entities” such as kidnappers-for-ransom, etc. There are other “Street Criminal Entities” not represented or captured.

It is further clarified that “Criminal Entities” under evaluation did not include unarmed members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) but may include criminal elements (renegades) within its security wing (ESN) involved in levying violence against defenseless citizens and their properties for no just cause. The breakdown of the estimated 8,000 unarmed and defenseless civilian deaths perpetrated by non-Jihadist “Criminal Entities” in the East particularly in South-East clearly indicated that greater number (4,500) were killed by non-Government linked Criminal Entities against about 3,500 others killed by Government-created subversive armed groups and armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators. The remainder of estimated 300 unlawful deaths are believed to have arisen from activities associated with ‘Biafra Agitation’ including victims of “collateral killings” and those arising from IPOB’s highhandedness during its enforcement of ‘sit-at-home’ across the South-East and the South-South particularly between 2021 and 2022. Included are victims of “hate attacks” drawn from non-South-East indigenes other than armed Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others. Excluded from the list are casualties from State actor and non-State actor “fighting parties” (officers and personnel of the military and other security forces and armed members of the non-State actor fighting parties who lost their lives during exchanges of gunfire or armed confrontations).

Killings By Jihadist Criminal Entities: It is also estimated that no fewer than 6,500 unarmed and defenseless citizens have been killed by Islamic Jihadists in Eastern Nigeria since the Nimbo (Uzo Uwani-Enugu) Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen massacre of April 2016, killing no fewer than 48 rural Igbo Christian natives. The no fewer than 6,500 deaths on religious grounds represented yearly average of about 650 unlawful deaths, monthly average of 55 unlawful deaths and daily average of two deaths. The estimated 6,500 unlawful deaths also specifically represented those hacked to death by Jihadist Criminal Entities such as Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, Jihadist Fulani Bandits, MACABAN Vigilante Group, Alhaji Asari Dokubo's (Jihadist) Mercenaries, Igbo Land born and bred Hausa-Fulani Jihadist recruits and other locally and regionally assembled Jihadists under "Nigerian Islamic Jihad Alliance" formed in Niger State in June 2020-with their jihadist genocidal elements included those drawn from terrorist members of ISWAP, Ansaru, Boko Haram and hired foreign others from Baggara Arabs and Maghreb Mercenaries. The Fulani-led assembled Jihadists are presently using ancient southward Fulani Cattle Grazing routes and networks to launch jihadist attacks across the South-East and the South-South.

The greater number (estimated 4000) of the estimated 6,500 unlawful deaths are believed to have come from Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen attacks and the remaining 2,500 shared by other jihadists including hired Niger Delta jihadist mercenaries under 'Mujahadeen Asari Dokubo'. It is also noted that whopping 85% of the estimated 6,500 unlawful deaths are victims of "secret attacks and killings" usually perpetrated at night as against the remaining 15% belonging to the victims of "open attacks and killings" scarcely perpetrated in the day. Such attacks have been reported in rural or hinterland or remote parts of the two Regions including forests, bushes, farmlands and allied other locations in several parts of Edo, Delta, Anambra, Enugu, Imo, Abia, Ebonyi, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa States. The Jihadist Criminal Entities are strongly believed to be occupying over 1000 secret locations in Eastern Nigeria with estimated 20,000 jihadists in possession of about 400,000 illicit and prohibited Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunitions.

In the South-East where they operate unchecked and untracked particularly since 2016, with a spike since January-April 2021, estimated unlawful and defenseless deaths of no fewer than 2000 were found to have been recorded around "the Communities of the South-East Triangle" including Abia part of it such as Isuochi and other parts of Umunneochi LGA, Lokpanta, Leru, Uturu and Isiukwuato; Imo part including Ihube, Aku and Umulolo forest parts of Okigwe, Ikpa-Ora forest area of Arondizogu, etc.; Anambra part including Umuchukwu (formerly Nkerehi) and Owerre-Ezukala, etc.; and Enugu and Ebonyi forest parts of the Triangle, etc. At Lokpanta Fulani Cattle Market and its environs, alone, not less than 80 dead bodies mainly women and children of Igbo stock were announced in October 2023 by Gov Alex Otti of Abia State of having been discovered through Close Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) and other detective devices monitors. Several survivors of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen abduction in the area have also severally disclosed publicly that the Triangle's bushes and their foot-parts and surrounding forests have been dotted with heaps (hundreds) of dead victims covered by swans of flies at their various stages of decomposition.

The genocidal jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied other activities in the area were heightened between 2021 and 2023, despite the area playing host to highest number and concentration of military and police special squads' roadblocks or checkpoints. The Jihadists have also wreaked havocs in places like Four-Corner and Eke-Udi areas; Ugwu-ogo-Nike-Opi-Nsukka, Uzo-Uwani, Eha-Amufu, Isi-Uzo, Oji River and Ekpawfu (Nkanu East) parts of Enugu State and Obinze-Iheagwa-FUTO Road axis (a stone throw from 34 Army Brigade, Obinze) of Imo State, Amakohia-Ubi, Mbano, Enyigugu (Mbaise), Abor-Mbaise, Ezinihite-Mbaise, Afikpo, Igbo-Eze North, Igbo-Eze South, Asa and Ogwe (Ukwa West), Isiala-Ngwa, Nkanu East, Nkanu West, Ohaozara, Ohaukwu, Etche, Omuma, Enugu-Ezike, etc.; to the extent that, today, over 220 South-East Igbo communities are affected and have been forced into defenselessness following deliberate policy of the Armed Forces and other security forces to disarm their communal natives and strip them of their licensed personal safety firearms, resulting to them being exposed to vulnerability of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen attacks at slightest opportunity.

Defining Victims Of “Secret And Open Killings” Outside The Law In The East:

“Victims of secret killings” are those unarmed citizens shot and killed or strangled or clubbed or smashed or axed or macheted or beaten or tortured or starved to death after having been arrested or abducted alive and taken into detention facilities or criminal captivity by their arresters or abductors including armed State actors, armed sub-State actors and armed non-State actors through excessive or crude use of force. Included in this category are those shot and injured or wounded before being arrested or abducted alive by security officers and personnel or sub-State actor vigilantes or criminal entities, after which they are abandoned or left to die in detention or unlawful custody without being adequately treated. On the other hand, victims of open shootings and killings are unarmed citizens shot and killed on the spot by armed State actors, armed sub-State actors and armed non-State actors through excessive or crude use of force.

As a matter of fact, the following Eastern Nigerian Igbo Communities and areas are of the over 220 communities previously or currently under Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen-led jihadist attacks as recently as between 2020 and 2023: Awgu, Oguta, Communities of Ohiafa Land, Abiriba, Isiukwuato, Lopanta, Leru, Uturu, Owerre-Ezukala, Umuchukwu, Okigwe, Orlu, Nneochi, Umunneochi, Communities of Agwa Land, Communities of Umezekaoha in Ebonyi and Benue States and other ancestral Igbo areas of Benue, Kogi and Nasarawa States; Awka South, Awka North, Nnewi South, Oyi, Anambra East, Anambra West, Anaocha, Umunze, Nando, Aguleri, Ayamelum, Ogbaru, Ekwusigo, Idemmili South, Ugwuoba, Oji River, Eke, Eha-Amufu, Udi, Ezeagu, Nike-Opi-Nsukka area, Uzo-Uwani, Isiuzo, Udenue, Orumba North, Orumba South, Oshimili North, Oshimili South, Aniocha South, Aniocha North, Ikaa South, Ikaa North, Ndokwa East, Ndokwa West, Ukwuani, Igboakiri, Obiaruku and other ancestral Igbo areas of Edo State; Elele, Obinze, Iheagwa, Ohaji-Egbema, Mbaitoli, Okporo-Orlu, Izombe, Obosa, Assa, Ndegwu, Orogwe, Amakohia-Ubi, Mbano, Enyigogu (Mbaise), Abor-Mbaise, Ezinihite-Mbaise, Afikpo, Igbo-Eze North, Igbo-Eze South, Asa and Ogwe (Ukwa West), Isiala-Ngwa, Nkanu East, Nkanu West, Ohaozara, Ohaukwu, Etche, Omuma, Enugu-Ezike, etc.

2022 TAKEOVER OF IGBO TRIANGLE BY FULANI JIHADISTS AND COUNTERFEIT AGITATORS AND OUR IGNORED WARNINGS:

The violent movements into “the Igbo or South-East Triangle Forests and allied arenas” were detected and uncovered by our undercover comrades around November-December 2021, about seven months or eight months after the launch of “Ebubeagu Security Arrangements” in April 2021; a pro Jihad/Jihadist Fulani and anti-Biafra agitation countermeasures, believed to have been secretly championed and bankrolled by then Retired Major General Muhammad Buhari-led Government of Nigeria using South-East key political leaders. The suspected Nigerian Government-bankrolled genocidal jihadist project is also strongly believed to have been aided and protected by leading security chiefs of Northern Muslim and non-Eastern background drafted to the South-East. By January-February 2022, the combined forces of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others including Counterfeit Biafra Agitators have moved in many forests, bushes and vast farmlands across the South-East spreading across Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Abia and Ebonyi States.

Our undercover comrades had specifically sometime in February 2022, at about 7:30pm of a particular date spotted convoys of “specially arranged” brand new Coaster Buses bearing “Izi Youth Vanguard, Ebonyi State” and loaded with strange faces. The convoys were particularly spotted along Obeledu-Igboukwu State Road in Anambra State prompting one of the observing undercover comrades who hails from Ebonyi State to enquire from someone (a retreatist) known to him back home in Ebonyi State who told him that “they have just entered Anambra bush with groundnuts (assault rifles), hoping to be millionaires very soon”. The “Comrade-Undercover” and his colleagues later confirmed that the boys headed towards “Igbo Triangle” and “Anambra-Imo boundary” involving boundary communities in Nnewi South and Ihiala part of Anambra State and Orsu, Oru West, Orlu and a part of Ideato North in Imo State.

The above prompted the Intersociety to issue a statement about seven days later in the same February 2022, drawing the attention of the security agencies and then Government of Anambra State. Regrettably, our strong worded early warning statement was gravely ignored till date. The placement of the above-named Igbo Triangle (South-East Triangle) and Igbo communities around it under seeming perpetual siege by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others including Counterfeit Biafra Agitators is shockingly, alarmingly and worryingly even though the area has the highest number and concentration of military and tactical and crack police squads' roadblocks or checkpoints in the entire South-East Region.

Presently, the following key parts of the Igbo Triangle and their environs and arenas have been under perpetual siege by the combined terror forces of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others including Counterfeit Biafra Agitators specializing in heinous offenses of abductions-for-ransom, disappearances, cannibalism, sexual offenses and property looting and violence: Umunze-Ogbunka-Umuchukwu-Owerre-Ezukala-Ogboji-Anambra State axis, Umunze-Ihite-Ndiokoli-Orji-Aroikpa-Imo State axis; Umunze-Orie-Ogbunka-Ajali-Enugu-Abo-Ufuma-Inyi-Anambra-Enugu axis; Umunze-Umunneochi-Nneochi-Anambra-Abia axis; Umunze-Olor-Anambra-Enugu axis; Akokwa-Okigwe-Ikpaora-Arondizogu-Imo State axis; Ihube-Aku-Umulolo-Okigwe-Uturu-Imo-Abia-Ebonyi axis; and Isiukwuato-Leru-Lokpanta-Abia State axis, etc. There is also Umuchu-Umunze Forest Swamp Anambra State axis and Mmanwu River-Anambra-Enugu axis. From the other side of Anambra-Imo Boundary axis, communities of Ebenator, Unubi, Ukpör, Amichi, Utuh, Azigbo and Osumenyi in Nnewi South LGA of Anambra State; Ihiala, Azia, Orsumoghu, Ubuluzor, Isieke, Okija, Uli and Lilu in Ihiala LGA of Anambra State; and Ihitenansa, Amaruru, Awo Idemmili, Asaa Ubirielelem, Eziawa, Umuhu Okabia, Orsu Ihiteukwa and Okwu clans in Orsu LGA of Imo State; and several others under Orlu and Oru West Local Government Areas of Imo State are the worst hit.

RISING SECURITY FORCES' SUBVERSIVE CRIMINALITIES: FROM "KNOWN GUNMEN" TO "UNKNOWN GUNMEN" IN THE SOUTH-EAST:

Several "Known Gunmen" have joined the rank of "Unknown Gunmen" in the South-East particularly since January 2021 till date. Swelling the rank of "Unknown Gunmen" in the Region are members of the criminal elements within the Nigeria Police and the sub-State actor vigilantes. "Criminal members" of the Armed Forces are also not exempted. They are involved by direct involvement or conspiracy including aiding and abetting sundry violent criminal activities including kidnap-for-ransom or being 'parties to offense' of abduction-for-money and related others attracting serious punishments including 25 years imprisonment or capital punishment. Traditionally or by Convention, "Known Gunmen" are members of the State armed conventional (police, military and paramilitary) and unconventional (vigilantes) security forces publicly equipped and catered for to checkmate rising crimes and other social deviances through processes and procedures clearly laid down in written laws and standardized international conventions. Such "Known Gunmen" also have their conducts regularly checkmated by laid down codes of ethics and conducts and forbidden from engaging in conducts outlawed in written laws for which they are established or created to tackle through due processes and procedures and knowledge of the law.

It has therefore been observed that thousands of "criminal security agents" have joined the rank of "Unknown Gunmen" in the South-East since January 2021 and engaged unchecked and untracked in sundry violent criminal activities. Such members of "criminal security agents" are also found to have majorly been drawn from members of the police crack and tactical squads and sub-State actor vigilantes and severally been fingered in the rising state of violent crimes particularly kidnap-for-ransom and related "violent cybercrimes". As a matter of fact, there have been reports of such involvement by members of "the special vigilante strike forces" operating under the "Anambra State Vigilante Service", the "Imo State Vigilante Service (Ebubeagu vigilante militias)" and the "Ebonyi State Vigilante Service (Ebubeagu vigilante militias)", etc.

Such sundry violent and homicidal criminal activities include abductions, highway and roadway armed robberies, captivity extortions (body seizure and ransom payments), property seizure and looting, extrajudicial killings, frameups, enforced disappearances, indiscriminate transfer of criminal responsibility such as unlawful arrest and detention of persons in place of others and accompanied captivity torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, etc.

Generally, vigilante security arrangements” in the four South-East States of Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra and Abia have reportedly been flooded with “buccaneers”, recruited from Abiriba, Ohafia, Arochukwu, Ngwa, Aguleri and “Abakiliki subset” of Ebonyi State. There have also been several reports of the above-named criminal and murderous elements constituting “cannibal sub-group” within “the special strike forces” of the central vigilante groups of the four States; to the extent that some say, “they can kill, bury and eat human fresh” during their operations and detention of their arrested victims in unlawful detention facilities unlawfully manned by them. Included in the list of “criminal security agents” (from “Known Gunmen” to “Unknown Gunmen”) troubling the defenseless South-East population since January 2021 are criminal elements within the country’s spy police and military particularly those deployed for subversive criminal activities with intent to falsely label and frameup “State enemies” and adversary others (groups or targeted persons). They are also behind the coordination and execution of “false flagged operations” in the South-East and Igbo part of the South-South. Some elements within them have further gone beyond subversive activities to directly or indirectly participate in “street violent criminalities” either by intelligence supply or field execution or by aiding and abetting.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

N550B Lost In The East To 55,000 Abductors-For-Ransom Since August 2015



Estimated N550billion had been seized from estimated 55,000 defenseless citizens of Eastern Nigeria by armed members of the abduction-for-random "criminal entities" operating across the South-East and the South-South Regions of Nigeria. The abduction-for-ransom and ransom payments covered August 2015 to December 2024, with a spike since January 2021 till date, during which estimated 6,500 defenseless citizens were shot and killed in captivity for failing to pay ransoms demanded. The estimated 6,500 dead victims are part of the estimated 14,500 defenseless citizens killed by members of criminal entities since August 2015 in Eastern Nigeria. The total unlawful deaths of estimated 14,500 had arisen from those openly shot and killed (about 25%) or those seized at gunpoint and taken into their abductors' dungeons where they were secretly killed (about 75%). Further reminded is the fact that the attack, abduction and killing involving the 6,5000 dead victims of abduction-for-ransom are strictly in connection with ransom demands and payments which they were unable to fulfil leading to their unlawful death.

Out of the estimated 55,000 abductees that were seized and forced to pay ransoms demanded at gunpoint, about 10,000 "millennium automobiles" belonging to them, valued at estimated N50billion (average of N5m each) was also lost and sold to various "stolen car dealers' syndicates" cutting across South-East, South-South and far places like neighboring North-Central or Republic of Cameroon, etc. Further breakdown of the estimated N550billion indicated that Anambra was the worst hit with N120billion, followed by Imo with N110billion, Abia N80billion, Enugu N70billion, Ebonyi N40billion as well as the entire Niger Delta Region with estimated N130billion. The kid-for-ransom in Niger Delta, captured in this International Special Report, was strictly "blue-collar related" and did not include "oil wealth related kidnap-for-ransom". "Blue-collar related kidnap-for-ransoms" are those involving members of occupational or transactional communities as victims.

The criminal entities involved in abduction-for-ransom in the East in which the South-East is the worst hit, are the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and allied others; the Counterfeit Biafra Agitators (both Government-linked and former Government-linked or "renegades"), the Niger Delta hired Jihadist mercenaries and allied politico-economic others; the "conventional and unconventional criminal security agents" including criminal elements within police, military and sub-State actor vigilantes. Included are "unknown gunmen" linked to troublesome billionaires, politicians and vigilante proprietors; other Government-linked criminal entities such as political hit squads; and non-Government or members of the "street criminal entities". Further breakdown of the estimated 6,500 unlawful deaths arising from abduction-for-ransom showed that Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen with AK-47s and AK-49s took responsibility for no fewer than 2000 deaths involving most of the unlawful deaths recorded in the communities of "South-East Triangle" including "Lokpanta Fulani Cattle Market" in Abia State (from 2021 to 2023). The remaining 4,500 unlawful deaths are divided into: Niger Delta Jihadist mercenaries and politico-economic others 1000, Counterfeit Biafra Agitators (Government-linked and former Government-linked)1,800 and others 1,700.

Estimated total of 65,000 defenseless citizens with little or middle or higher means of livelihood or income are believed to have been seized at gunpoint by members of the "abduction-for-ransom" criminal entities who abducted them with intent to seize their living body persons and properties or personal belongings until they are able or unable to pay the ransoms demanded; out of which, 55,000 are estimated to have paid such ransoms in about 35,000 kidnap incidents or attacks on average of N8M paid at gunpoint; translating to N425billion paid in Eastern Nigeria in the past nine years and four months or August 30, 2015, to December 31, 2024.

There are also estimated 10,000 “urban street abduction-for-ransom victims” forced to pay average of N5m per victim, translating to additional N50billion after being targeted and attacked in about 7000 attacks; likewise, estimated 10,000 seized, stolen and sold millennium automobiles, seized together with their abducted owners valued at estimated N50billion, in addition to “dark figures” of N25billion, all translating to not less than N550billion. Each of the above categorized “roadway abduction-for-ransom squads” or “urban street abduction-for-ransom squads” can strike in about five different locations in day during which five persons can be abducted in one private vehicle or location.

Most victims of “urban street abductions” are also found to have been drawn urban residents of Anambra, Imo and Abia, the three worst hit States in Eastern Nigeria; with about 95% of such incidents or attacks recorded in the South-East which rose to a maddening proportion since 2021 till date. It is therefore generally estimated that out of 65,000 defenseless Easterners seized at gunpoint for ransom demands and payments, about 55,000 paid, 6,500 were unable to pay resulting to their death in captivity, during which estimated 3,500 others were unable to pay but freed or allowed to go on “ill-health, sex-for-freedom and humanitarian grounds”. A typical case in point of the latter was the Jan-Feb 2024 rape case involving some Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen against a man and his wife, raped for three days inside the Ukwulu Forest part of Anambra State. The raped husband and wife were returning for their daughter’s marriage when they were abducted by a gang of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen.

Ransom demands and payments in Eastern Nigeria have led to “quick money making or affluence” sub-culture, fueling “criminal opulence” and “repeat-criminalities of violent and seeming intractable nature”. The above have also become a major source of organized crimes and a channel for jihadist conquest and expansion in Eastern Nigeria; through which, too, the activities of counterfeit Biafra Agitators and allied others are partly sustained. They are so “lucrative” to the extent of attracting “huge capital investments from troublesome billionaires” and are subsuming and replacing the “advance fee fraud” or 419 from cybercrimes to “cyber-violent crimes”, a combination of armed robbery and cybercrimes. Billions of naira accruing from ransom demands and payments in the East have substantially been responsible for fueling the influx and proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons and have also turned thousands of lawful persons including graduates with brilliant grades into violent criminal persons.

The most shocking of it all is that security forces and personnel drafted to tackle and drastically curb them have become complicit and, in many cases, directly involved. Ransom demands and payments have also become “lucrative” that every member of the sub-State actor vigilantes and police tactical and crack squads as well as military personnel is being seen by many as a potential kidnapper in the South-East; to the extent that no amount of monthly service remunerations can resist their temptations of involvement or conspiracy. The above is more so when a “successful criminal entity kidnap operation” can attract as much as N30m to N50m per victim in Anambra, Imo and Abia (blue-collar States) and lower amount of N3m to N10m per victim in places like Enugu and Ebonyi (white-collar States). In places like Delta and Rivers States (oil wealth States), kidnap-for-ransom can attract N50m-N100m per victim particularly when Government appointees and staffers of multinational companies are involved. It must be noted that our research concentration is on “blue-collar” kidnap-for-ransom, likewise restriction of our investigation and research to ethnic, religious, political and personal security and safety related killings arising from violent attacks on members of the unarmed and defenseless civilian population by armed State actors and armed non-State actors and their collaborators, aiders and abettors.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

Names Of The Abducted, The Slain, The Wounded And The Disappeared Victims Of Military Terror



PROFILE OF THE "WAWA MILITARY (ARMY) CANTONMENT IN NIGER STATE:

The "WAWA Military Cantonment", located in Kainji/New Bussa hinterland part of Niger State in North-Central Nigeria is notoriously Jihadist Boko Haram, Jihadist ISWAP and Jihadist Fulani Bandits' prone. The Cantonment's location has one of the most inaccessible road networks in the area and longest distances in Nigeria; coupled with the fact that Niger State where it is located has the largest landmass in Nigeria, measuring 76,000km² (approximately three times the total landmass of the entire South-East (29,525km²). The WAWA Military (Army) Cantonment is further reported to be gravely Islamic insurgency prone or under its siege. Apart from reported high presence of Islamic Jihadists drawn from Boko Haram, ISWAP, Ansaru and Jihadist Fulani Bandits in the area; high influx of ISIS-linked Fulani Jihadists from West Africa and sub-African regions has also been recently reported. They are said to have arrived en-masse and assembled in Kainji part of Niger State and environs including New Bussa in possession of forbidden war-grade weapons through the neighboring Benin Republic.

The WAWA Military Cantonment was specifically used between 2017 and 2018 as 'a court to try' about 2,500 Boko Haram and ISWAP suspects. As of then, not less than 1,700 Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists were kept inhumanly in the Cantonment. WAWA Military Cantonment is Nigeria's most dreaded Military Cantonment and deadliest "Torture Chamber" after the "Abattoir Torture Detention Facility" of the Nigeria Police's Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB), presently by DIG Habu Sani. The FIB's Abattoir is also manned by officers and personnel of the NPF's Intelligence Response Team (IRT) where hundreds of unarmed Igbo detainees have been singled out and tortured to death under the pretext of "involvement in serious Biafra matters and IPOB/ESN terrorism" since February 2021 till date. The Cantonment, located in faraway Niger State, is presently detaining unlawfully largest number of the estimated over 6000 unarmed and defenseless South-East and South-South citizens who are mostly of Igbo extraction.

The estimated 6000 defenseless Igbo citizens belong to those abducted by officers and personnel of the military particularly the Nigerian Army from different parts of the South-East and the South-South and indiscriminately labeled falsely using class criminalization and mass stigmatization. It was from the point or scene of their abduction usually during hours of the blue law or after having been abducted and detained for months in nearby military barracks that they are secretly transported at late night to their present secret detention locations in faraway Northern Nigeria outside the knowledge of their families and lawyers or publicly available official records regarding their arrest and location of the detention facilities holding them. Among the 6000 "missing Igbo civilian citizens" are estimated 1000 belonging to those abducted between August 2015 and Oct-Dec 2020 including 152 Obigbo residents still missing since the Oct-Nov 2020 Obigbo Army Massacre and Abductions.

In other words, nothing less than 6000 defenseless and unarmed Igbo civilian citizens have never been located by their families since they were abducted by the military between August 2015 and October-November 2020 (1000 Igbo civilian citizens); and January 2021 and December 31, 2024 (5000 Igbo civilians); out of which, hundreds must have been killed in secret military detention facilities across the South-East, the South-South, the North-Central and the North-West.

Apart from several survivors' accounts, the reports by the Nigerian Defense Headquarters and those of the Army Headquarters were interrogated by the Intersociety, from which more findings were made regarding the patterns and trends of such military abductions, custodial killings and enforced disappearances. Pieces of evidence also abound showing how Igbo civilian detainees in the hands of the military are being killed, starved or tortured to death secret detention facilities manned by the military after having been abducted and held inhumanly without trial for several years.

Others who manage to survive are those being subjected to kangaroo trials, summary convictions and sentences from where they will remain detained in such military dungeons with maximum possibility of never to return or come back alive. We have, as a matter of fact, stumbled into "restricted military-spy police written and documented evidence" showing how the authorities of the DSS and the NPF are being ordered by the military authorities to transfer the names of Igbo civilian detainees in their detention facilities to military facilities including the dreaded "WAWA Military Cantonment in Niger State". It was on account of the above that thousands of innocent Igbo citizens arrested and detained in police and spy police detention facilities for years are profiled and tagged "IPOB terrorists" and secretly transferred to the military facilities using late night movements. Thousands of others freshly arrested and detained by the police and DSS are also receiving threats of being labeled "IPOB/ESN terrorists or sponsors or parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism" and transferred to military facilities from where they will never come back alive.

It must also be reminded that greater number of the estimated 6000 "missing" unarmed and defenseless Igbo civilian citizens are those arrested or abducted alive during late night and wee hours of morning invasion and raiding of rural Igbo homes and communities. Others are those arrested or abducted at military and police roadblocks across the East particularly night and late evening travelers and road users. It has further been observed that several Igbo civilians residing in Northern Nigeria and a number of others in the South-West including Lagos State; other than those forced or induced to discard Christian names and religion and adopt Islamic names and religion; are at risk of being arrested or abducted and falsely labeled "IPOB members" or "ESN sponsors"; or "suppliers of goods to Boko Haram", if in the far North.

A clear case in point was an innocent Igbo businessman in Maiduguri, Borno State who was abducted by DSS and accused of "supplying goods to Boko Haram". He was detained for over eight months inside the underground cell of the DSS Headquarters in Abuja, from where he was bundled at late night to "WAWA Military Cantonment in Niger State and held for more than two years. His family was forced to liquidate his multimillion-naira business to get him freed through a lawyer that knows his way around the military circles and top Northern Muslim military and DSS officers. The "WAWA Military (Army) Cantonment has severally been described as a dead zone or "no go area" for members of civilian population of non-Islamic faith including associates and family members of those looking for their missing loved ones; other than members of the Hausa-Fulani civilian Muslim population.

KANGAROO TRIAL OF ABDUCTED EASTERNERS CONFIRMED BY COORDINATOR, COUNTER TERRORISM CENTER, MAJOR GEN AG LAKA:

Major General Adamu Garba Laka, is Coordinator of Nigeria's Counter Terrorism Center, Abuja. He was appointed in April 2024. Major General Garba Laka had recently granted interview to This Day Newspaper, on the sidelines of the recently concluded 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, in New York, USA, which was published on October 15, 2024, during which he disclosed: "With 505 Convictions, We're Almost Getting to End of Insurgency, Violent Extremism, and Terrorism". The National Counter Terrorism Center also added: "additionally, we have the Department of Legal, which oversees the prosecution of terrorism financiers and terrorists. There are a lot of terrorists from the North-east and North-west (and South-East and South-South) detained at the Kainji detention facility (WAWA Military Cantonment)".

Major General Adamu Garba Laka further added as follows: "Nigeria firmly upholds "the rule of law, and as such, individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty". So, the Department of Legal liaises with the Ministry of Justice, and Director of Public Prosecution. We have conducted six phases of this trial with about 505 convictions of these terrorists, while those who are acquitted are moved to Operation Safe Corridor for rehabilitation and subsequent reintegration into the society. Since the acquitted detainees have been kept with high level risk terrorists, we rehabilitate them at the Operation Safe Corridor first. For those who are found not to have been involved, we have a reintegration process in place. This includes psychological counselling, vocational training, and providing them with starter packs to help them reintegrate into their communities and rebuild their lives. Right, we are about to start a new phase of the trials". The above quoted extract of the interview is grossly self-indicting and corroboration of the Intersociety's recent findings above highlighted.

1000 UNINVESTIGATED AND UNTRIED IGBO CIVILIANS FRESHLY DISCOVERED IN PRISONS IN FIVE NORTHERN STATES:

Our undercover contacts in security circles in Northern, South-East and South-South parts of Nigeria have discovered defenseless Igbo civilian citizens in their hundreds (per culpable State) languishing in several prisons and lock centers spread across at least five Northern States of Kogi (Lokoja), Nasarawa (Keffi and Lafia), Zamfara (Gusau), Kaduna and Benue (Makurdi and Gboko). Not less than 90% of them are found to be those controversially or falsely labeled "IPOB members or relatives or associates of IPOB members"; or "ESN terrorists and relatives and associates of ESN terrorists or parties to ESN terrorism". Further discovered is that these over 1000 defenseless Igbo civilians are uninvestigated and untried and did not include estimated 5000 others presently languishing in secret military detention facilities, majority of whom are in different parts of the North-Central Nigeria particularly in Niger State (Army Alpha Commando Base and others in Jebba, Kontangora, Bida, Zungeru, and the Army Training Center at Suleja, etc.) and FCT (Mogadishu Barracks, etc.), etc.

Clarified is the fact that the total number above did not include thousands of uninvestigated and untried others presently languishing in several detention facilities maintained by the authorities of the Nigeria Police (FIB, FCID, F-OPS and their State subordinates), DSS and National Security Adviser across the country's 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It was further discovered that the most notorious and dreaded of the above are the "WAWA Military (Army) Cantonment in Kainji-New Bussa part of Niger State; more than eight hours drive from Abuja, the FCT. The number of such uninvestigated and untried Igbo civilians languishing inside the Nigeria's deadliest military facility (WAWA Cantonment) are estimated to be in thousands in addition to the fact that they are kept and detained together with dreaded Boko Haram, ISWAP, Ansaru and other dreaded Jihadist insurgents. The most alarming and shocking of it all is that estimated five of the estimated thousands of uninvestigated and untried Igbo civilians are weekly killed in the WAWA Cantonment's custody following severe torture, starvation, hunger, diseases, untreated gunshot wounds, deliberate killings or extrajudicial executions. For instance, the following ten defenseless Igbo civilians were killed inside the dreaded WAWA Military Cantonment in Niger State in the first two weeks of September 2024: Philip Uchenna, Chidiebere Dennis, Ekene Williams, Uchenna Gideon, Ekene Peter, Chinemezue, Zebrom, Chukwuemeka, Obioma and Ogechi.

The over 1000 uninvestigated and untried Igbo civilians languishing in the five Northern prisons and lock centers are also found to be those abducted or bundled from the South-East and the Igbo South-South at late night and dumped in such correctional facilities uninvestigated and untried. They are also victims of false labeling, ethnic and religious profiling, class criminalization, prosecutorial vindictiveness, hearsay conclusions and endless criminal investigations. It was further found that they were bundled at late night from various detention facilities manned by DSS and police tactical and crack squads across the South-East and South-South where they have spent weeks or months in untried detention facilities from where they were bundled at late night and presently dumped to rot away in such Northern prisons and lock centers without trial and access to their families, legal representatives and representations and adequate medical facilities and treatments.

Most of the uninvestigated and untried Igbo civilians under reference are also languishing under expired and unrenewed remand/detention orders while others are those dumped to languish in their present dungeons without any remand or detention orders, having been illegally and unlawfully arrested and detained briefly by their principal arresters in their first detention facilities in the East from where they were bundled at late night and blindfolded and dumped in their present dungeons in the North. A typical case in point is the Old Keffi Prisons (Correctional Center) in Nasarawa State, located near the Emir Palace, where no fewer than least 56 Igbo uninvestigated and untried civilians were in July-August 2024 by our undercover comrades who also located over 60 others languishing inside the New Keffi Prisons, also located in same Nasarawa State in faraway North-Central Nigeria. Out of the over 116 untried and uninvestigated Igbo civilians, 90% are found to be controversially labeled or accused of being involved in "Biafra Matters" or "ESN Terrorism and allied matters".

...NINE NAMES AMONG OVER 56 IGBO CIVILIANS ABDUCTED FROM THE EAST AND DUMPED IN OLD KEFFI PRISONS (NASARAWA):

Among over 56 unarmed and defenseless Easterners languishing in Old Keffi Prisons (Correctional Center) as of November 30, 2024 are Ugochukwu Eze from Enugu State, Emmanuel Chukwu from Imo State, Ojo James from Akwa Ibom State, Emmanuel John, arrested in Imo and hails from Edo State, John Ezeh, arrested in Imo and hails from Abia State, Victor Kamike, arrested in Imo and hails from Imo State, John Udo, arrested in Imo and hails from Anambra State, Friday Chukwu, arrested in Imo and hails from Ebonyi State and Eke-Mutalu Ndubuisi, arrested in Imo State. Efforts made to get names of dozens of others from the East languishing in the Old Keffi Prisons in faraway Nasarawa State in North-Central Nigeria, failed woefully.

...ELEVEN NAMES AMONG OVER 60 IGBO CIVILIANS ABDUCTED FROM THE EAST AND DUMPED IN NEW KEFFI PRISONS (NASARAWA):

Among over 60 unarmed and defenseless Easterners languishing in New Keffi Prisons (Correctional Center) as of November 30, 2024 are Ndubuisi Nweke from Anambra State, Joseph Ekeh from Enugu State, Emeka Okafor from Anambra State, Sabastine Ndukwe from Imo State, Ikenna Enemuoh from Ebonyi State, Emeka Sunday from Ebonyi State, Nwogu Ifesinashi from Abia State, Chidera Ojukwu from Anambra State, Miss Justina Chukwudi from Enugu State, Timothy Ogbogu from Anambra State and Okwuchukwu Muoka from Imo State. Efforts made to get names of dozens of others from the East languishing in the New Keffi Prisons in faraway Nasarawa State in North-Central Nigeria, failed woefully.

Estimated 200-300 of such unarmed and defenseless Easterners are strongly believed to be languishing in Old and New Keffi Prisons and others located in Lafia in Nasarawa State and Lokoja and others in Kogi State. They belong to those originally arrested or abducted by police and secret police or "Joint Security Taskforces" in the East and held for months in different locations in the Region, from where they were face-bagged or blindfolded at late night and bundled using unmarked security vehicles or hired and disguised commercial transport buses from the East and dumped untried and uninvestigated in the above-named prisons and lock centers where they have been held for additional several months or more than one year. The worst of it all is that search parties involving lawyers and families of missing persons in the East who found their way to such correction centers are blocked from seeing the list of the inmates therein and told that "the ones we have here with us are Federal Government properties and out of bound for enquiries". Case files involving most of them have been lost on transit or deliberately destroyed by their originally arresting and detaining authorities to avoid traces and accountability.

TEN IGBO CIVILIANS RECENTLY KILLED IN CUSTODY BY SOLDIERS AT "WAWA MILITARY CANTONMENT" IN NIGER STATE:

The above names obtained at a high risk of threat to life and personal liberty represent defenseless Igbo civilian detainees who died or were killed inside the WAWA Military (Army) Cantonment in Niger State within the first two weeks of September 2024: (1) Philip Uchenna,

(2) Chidiebere Dennis, (3) Ekene Williams, (4) Uchenna Gideon, (5) Ekene Peter, (6) Chinemezue, (7) Zebrom, (8) Chukwuemeka, (9) Obioma and (10) Ogechi.

Names Of Eight Disappeared Igbo Civilians Arrested With Pius Awoke Esquire Disappeared Inside WAWA Cantonment:

Barr Awoke Pius, an Abakiliki based legal practitioner who was abducted by DSS in July 2021 along Murtala Muhammed Bridge, Lokoja on his way back to the East after attending a Court session before an Abuja Federal High Court and later transferred secretly to WAWA Military Cantonment where he was detained inhumanly for three years, had after his release in June 2024, disclosed publicly that "many Igbo civilian detainees have died inside the Cantonment". He also disclosed that "eight persons who he was arrested with and later taken together to the Cantonment through a secret night journey conducted by DSS with their faces covered and blindfolded, "were never located inside the Cantonment". Their names were given as "Fortune Okezie, Chinedu Nwoba, Eze Joseph, David Ogbonnaya, Ajah Joseph, Igwe Johnson, Kenneth Ojima and Wisdom Ezika Nwambana. Only Citizen Chinonso Onyeibe, A Final Year Engineering Student of the Ebonyi State University, came out alive with the Lawyer amidst skeletal look and marks of mental and physical torture.

NAMES OF 34 IGBO CIVILIANS AMONG THOUSANDS OF OTHERS LANGUISHING IN WAWA MILITARY CANTONMENT:

They are: (1) Enyinna Edom, (2) Chidiebere Roland, (3) Joseph Obeniyi, (4) Okezie Fortune, (5) Ojuma Kenneth, (6) Ezike Wisdom, (7) Okafor Joseph, (8) Ajah Joseph Ogbonnaya, (9) David Ogbonnaya, (10) Ugochukwu Okafor, (11) Igwe Joseph, (12) Baba Mufu, (13) Nathaniel Odumbe, (14) Chidi Victor Obi, (15) Dominic Wave, (16) Kufer Sandy, (17) Nduka Idika, (18) Chinedu Nwoba, (19) Ozoemena Nwokoye, (20) Napoleon Bassey Ikpi, (21) Chimezie Nwogu, (22) Chimezie Ayama, (23) Uchenna Ogaraba, (24) Uchenna Mbete, (25) God's Power Amen, (26) Asukwo Emmanuel, (27) Chinonso Obinali, (28) Raphael, (29) Ikechukwu, (30) Philip, (31) Sixstus, (32) Basil, (33) Success and (34) Chigbo-Ogu.

NAMES OF 30 IGBO CIVILIANS SECRETLY TRANSFERRED TO WAWA CANTONMENT BY DSS IN MARCH 2022:

Sighted was a letter from the Nigerian Army to the authorities of DSS in Abuja, dated March 23, 2022, titled: "Transfer of Boko Haram and IPOB Terrorist Suspects to the Nigerian Army". Below are names of the 20 defenseless Igbo civilians, labeled "IPOB Terrorist Suspects" who were swiftly transferred from DSS to the Nigerian Army: (1) Igwe Johnson Dike, (2) Odo John Adoga, (3) Sunday Chizoba Cornelius, (4) Ndubusi Emmanuel Nweke, (5) Arinze Ifeanyi Thomas, (6) Ikechukwu Chukwu Nwaite, (7) Calista Ogochukwu Ifedi (female) and (8) Sunday Ifedi (husband and wife), (9) Joy Godwin (Idara Gold), (10) Paul Okechukwu, (11) Chuchukwu Dim, (12) Ifesinashi Raphael Chinaka, (13) Chidiebere Luke Echefu, (14) Malachy Nwokwu, (15) Henry Ikechukwu, (16) Sunday Ifedi, (17) Gift Nwali (18) Uchechukwu Francis, (19) Ebuka Obinna Okpara and (20) Chibuike Chinonye. In another document, sighted which was dated February 21, 2023, and titled: "List of Terrorist Suspects Forwarded for Trial in WAWA Military Holding Facility", Part B of the document contained the following "IPOB Terrorist Suspects": (1) I. Ubah, (2) U. Okoronkwo, (3) I. M. Nduka, (4) N.A. Okenna, (5) Ike Basiya, (6) Frank Okpo, (7) N.D. Okorie, (8) Emelie U. Ibe, (9) Success Johnson, (10) Conference Ludlaw and (11) John O. Orji.

A CASE OF BARR SIR IFEANYI EJIOFOR, IPOB LEAD-LAWYER:

On the 2nd day of December, 2019, after the funeral ceremony of his elder brother- Late Rev. Chukwukpelum Louis Ejiofor; the ancestral home of Sir Ifeanyi Ejiofor, Esq., the Lead Counsel to the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Oraifite, Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State, was invaded by a team of Security agents comprising of the Nigerian Police,

Army, State Security Service (DSS) and others. The invasion led to the killing of 4 innocent and unarmed civilians who were in the residence of the lawyer, to condole with him over the death of his elder brother; and the burning down of over 12 dwelling houses including those belonging to Sir Ifeanyi Ejiofor, his siblings and neighbors. Sir Ifeanyi Ejiofor sued the various security agencies involved in the dastardly act, for the gross violation of his rights and the court found in his favor in a judgment delivered on December 2, 2021. As if that was not enough, on June 6, 2021, the ancestral home of Sir Ifeanyi Ejiofor, Esq., was for the umpteenth time invaded by a combined team of Nigerian Security Agents in a desperate effort to kill him at all costs and by any means. The murderous invasion took place at about 2:00 in the morning and during the said bloody invasion, Sir Ejiofor's Personal Assistant- Mr. Samuel Okoro was hacked to death right in the house and three of his domestic staff namely- Mr. Felix Okonkwo, Mr. Chibuike Okafor and Lawrence Ugochukwu were abducted by the invading Security Agents. The lifeless body of the late Personal Assistant was dumped inside the boot of Sir Ejiofor's Toyota Camry car and taken to a location in Neni town and consequently set ablaze along with the vehicle.

Till date, all formations of Nigerian Security Agencies have denied involvement in this dastardly act, notwithstanding successive judgments of the Federal High Court Awka Anambra State, delivered in Suit No: FHC/AWK/CS/56/2021 between Mr. Ifeanyi Ejiofor, Esq. V. Nigeria Police Force and 7 Others; and Suit No: FHC/AWK/CS/57/ between Mrs. Felicia Samuel Okoro V. Nigeria Police Force and 7 Others, which found the Nigeria Police, Nigerian Military and the State Security Service, all culpable of the heinous crime in a civilian home; the court equally proceeded to sanction the above named security agencies heavily and with heavy cost for damages. The abducted domestic staff have been in the custody of the State Security Service and that of the dreaded WAWA Military Cantonment in faraway Niger State since June 6, 2021, a period of over three years, without any access to their lawyers or relatives, neither have they been charged before any court of law. It is trite that under the Nigerian Legal Practice for legal practitioners, any Legal Practitioner called to the Nigerian Bar has the right and indeed a duty to represent all manner of person(s) accused of any offence(s), the nature of the offence notwithstanding. This is commonly referred to as the "**CAB RANK RULE**", which is covered by Rule 24(1) of the Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners, 2007.

A CASE OF SIX TEENAGE GIRLS IN OWERRI DSS CUSTODY AND CONTROVERSIAL PREGNANCY OF AMAKA OKORO:

On March 14, 2022, officers and personnel of the DSS in Owerri, Imo State, carried out a raid at an Njaba Market Plaza and arrested six teenage girls of between 16 and 18 years of age. They were clamped into detention in the DSS Owerri detention facility and controversially labeled "girlfriends of ESN commander". The arrested teenage girls; namely: Chiamaka Okoro, Oluebube Uzoma, Chidinma Oba, Favor Azubuike, Chibueze Ezike and Mmesoma Ezike were serving as "salesgirls" at an Njaba Market Plaza when they were arrested and taken into detention under false labeling and false criminalization. The Intersociety had in August 2024 spoken to one of them who confirmed themselves of being salesgirls. Sometime in July 2022, news disturbingly broke out that one of them, then 16-Year-Old Chiamaka Okoro (from Atta in Njaba LGA) had been impregnated in DSS custody. The news further added that "the little girls have also become sex slaves in DSS custody".

Worried by the news, the authorities of the DSS and the Government of Imo State hurriedly arranged a private medical laboratory outfit in Owerri for pregnancy test. Critics later criticized the pregnancy test as "lacking independence, objectivity and professional neutrality". In the end, the Government officials and allied others that organized the pregnancy test acknowledged that "Chiamaka Okoro was pregnant but did not become pregnant after her arrest or in DSS custody" and that "she became pregnant around January 2022, two months before she was arrested, with October 14, 2022, as her delivery due date". Widespread doubts raised by the above further raised serious suspicions of the pregnancy test being manipulated. As if that was not enough, the authorities of the DSS continued to hold the six little salesgirls without trial for extra one month until their release on August 18, 2022, after more than five months of arrest and detention without trial.

They also turned out to be victims of "prosecutorial vindictiveness" as they have never been charged to court with any evidence till date.

Igbo Victims Of Torture, Wrong Detention And Disappearance Awarded Millions Of Naira Judgments:

1. It is recalled that the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has pursuant to an application, in CHARGE NO: FHC/ABJ/CR/475/2021, BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA V EZEDIARO MARIA, discharged Mrs. Maria Ezediario of all frivolous criminal allegations and charges brought against her before the court. It may recall that Mrs. Maria Ezediario, was arrested on the 26th February, 2021 when she visited the State CID, Owerri, Imo State Command to give food and medication to her friend who was detained there, and was subsequently transferred to the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team detention facility in "Abattoir" Abuja, where she was subjected to all forms of inhuman treatment, severe torture and degradation; also in a journey, she vividly recall being the only survivor among many innocent Igbo citizens (about 18 others) that were brought along with her.

However, Following the refusal of the Police to release her or charge her to court, her lawyers filed a fundamental rights enforcement suit on her behalf before the Federal High Court Abuja. Upon the service of the court process on them, the police swiftly filed a four-count frivolous charge on December 23, 2021, against her, in the above captioned charge Number. Still on her lawyer's application she was granted bail by the court on the 21st Day of April 2022 and consequently released to her lawyers upon perfection of the bail conditions. On the 10th day of October 2023, following our application and submissions before the court, the Federal High Court, Abuja per Hon. Justice M.O. Olajuwon struck out the four-count terrorism charge filed against Mrs. Maria Ezediario and consequently discharged her.

2. CLETUS NWACHUKWU EGOLE And 4ORS V NIGERIA POLICE FORCE SUIT NO: CV/1917/2021: It is further recalled that Cletus Nwachukwu Egole the pastor of the Holy Trinity Sabbath Church, Orlu Imo State; his wife- Ifeyinwa Egole; Michael Uba- a Prophet of Jewish faith; Ugochukwu Samuel; and Raphael Idang, were all arrested and subsequently paraded by the Imo State Command of the Nigeria Police, on the 28th of March 2021. They were subsequently transferred to the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team detention facility in "Abattoir" Abuja. Following the refusal of the Police to release them, on the 10th of August 2021, their lawyers filed a fundamental rights enforcement suit on their behalf before the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, in Suit No: CV/1917/2021. On the 23rd day of August 2021, the Vacation Court per His Lordship- Hon. Justice H. Mu'azu, after hearing our exparte application, ordered the Nigeria Police Force to charge Cletus Nwachukwu Egole; Ifeyinwa Egole; Michael Uba; Ugochukwu Samuel; and Raphael Idang, to court on or before the 2nd day of September, 2021, or produce them before the court and show cause why they should not be admitted to bail.

Upon the service of the aforesaid order on the Inspector General of Police, they proceeded to file charges against Raphael Idang and Ifeyinwa Egole in Charge No: FHC/CR/333/2021 between Federal Republic of Nigeria V Raphael Anwakang Idang; and Charge No: FHC/CR/334/2021 between Federal Republic of Nigeria V Egole Ifeyinwa. The duo was arraigned before the Federal High Court and were eventually admitted to bail. No charge(s) was filed against the trio of Cletus Nwachukwu Egole, Michael Uba and Ugochukwu Samuel, neither were they released. On the 19th day of September 2023, after several adjournments, the FCT High Court per Hon. Justice V.S. Gaba, delivered judgment in the said suit. The court granted all the reliefs sought and consequently declared amongst others, that the arrest and detention of the Applicants particularly Cletus Nwachukwu Egole, Michael Uba and Ugochukwu Samuel, since the 28th day of March 2021 till date, is illegal and unconstitutional; the court consequently directed that they be released unconditionally within three days of delivery of the judgment.

The court further awarded compensatory damages in the sum of N100,000,000.00 (One Hundred Million Naira Only) in favour of the Applicants. Their lawyers have applied for and obtained a certified true copy of the said judgment of the court and same has been served on the Inspector General of Police. We expect that the Nigeria Police Force will fully comply with the positive orders of court contained in the said judgment, by releasing Cletus Nwachukwu Egole, Michael Uba and Ugochukwu Samuel, forthwith. Note that the trio have remained unlocated till date.

3. NGOZICHUKWU ADA-DAV Versus NIGERIA POLICE FORCE And ANOR SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/1546/2022: Ngozichukwu Ada-Dav was on the 28th day of June 2021, arrested by a team of fully armed operatives of the Nigeria Police Force. She was thereafter taken to the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team (IGP/IRT) located in Ikeja GRA where she was detained in unlawful custody till the 3rd day of July 2021, when she was transferred to the Garki Command, of the Nigeria Police, notoriously known as the Abattoir. Following the refusal of the Police to release Ngozichukwu Ada-Dav, on the 24th of August 2021, we filed a fundamental rights enforcement suit on her behalf before the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, in Suit No: CV/2089/2021. On the 26th day of August 2021, the Vacation Court per His Lordship-Hon. Justice S.C. Oriji, after hearing our exparte application, ordered the Nigeria Police Force and the State Security Services to charge her to court on or before 31st August 2021, or admit her to bail.

Upon the service of the aforesaid order on the Inspector General of Police, on the 10th day of September 2021, the Applicant was surreptitiously and/or clandestinely taken to the Suleja Prison, Niger State, where she was illegally detained before she was taken before a Mpape Magistrate Court, Abuja, on the 15th day of September 2021, without the benefit of any legal representation, and was consequently released. Following the release of Ngozichukwu Ada-Dav and in view of the horrendous torture she experienced in the hands of the operatives of the Nigeria Police, on the 30th day of August 2022, we commenced another fundamental rights enforcement suit, seeking for damages on account of the gross violation of her fundamental rights, before the Federal High Court in Suit No: FHC/ABJ/1546/2022. On the 6th day of October 2023, the Federal High Court Abuja, per Hon. Justice Z.B. Abubakar, delivered judgment in the said suit. The court granted all the reliefs sought, and consequently declared, that the arrest and detention of Ngozi Ada-Dav from the 28th day of June 2021 till the 15th day of September 2021, is illegal and unconstitutional. The court also made an order of perpetual injunction restraining the Nigeria Police, the Inspector General of Police and their agents, from further harassing, intimidating or threatening to arrest her. The court further awarded compensatory damages in the sum of N30,000,000.00 (Thirty Million Naira Only) in favor of Ngozi Ada-Dav. Source: Sir Ifeanyi Ejiofor Esquire, KSC, October 11, 2023.

CUSTODIAL KILLING OF PASTORS CLETUS AND CHINEDU EGOLE AND DISAPPEARANCE OF EUGENE EGOLE:

Cletus Nwachukwu Egole, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Sabbath Church, Orlu Imo State; his wife- Ifeyinwa Egole (a midwife) and three others were all arrested and subsequently paraded by the Imo State Command of the Nigeria Police Force, on the 28th of March, 2021; followed by a corroborative and collaborative statement issued by the Force Headquarters via then Force Public Relations Officer, DCP Frank Mba (now DIG). They were specifically arrested by a combined team of police and military personnel on February 13, 2021 in their family house close to their church (the Holy Trinity Sabbath Church) and taken to the 'Tiger Base' of the Nigeria Police IRT (intelligence response team) in Owerri where they were briefly detained and subsequently transferred to the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team (FIB) detention facility in "Abattoir" Abuja. Mrs. Ifeyinwa Egole was running a successful maternity clinic before her arrest and was arrested alongside her husband, Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole on suspicion that "their first son was a member of IPOB". The entire Egole nuclear and extended Family members, numbering fourteen were later labeled by the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Armed Forces as "IPOB/ESN family members and sponsors".

After taken them to Police IRT Owerri Tiger Base, the arsonist police and military officers and personnel went back and threw petrol bombs on Midwife Ifeyinwa Egole's maternity, her husband church and their family house and burned them to ashes. Not done, they went after her husband's immediate younger brother, Eugene, forcing him to flee and disappear or be disappeared. Their Synagogue Church (Holy Trinity Sabbat Church) was also dubbed "IPOB training camp". As if that was not enough, the Police IRT of the Force Bureau of Intelligence went ahead and killed her husband (Pastor Cletus Nwachukwu Egole) in custody alongside estimated 57 others including Kingsley Chimman (arrested in Feb 2021) at late night of a particular date in June 2021 at Abattoir in Abuja. The Tiger Base's IRT unit of the Imo State Police Command had earlier in April 2021 tricked her husband's youngest brother, Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole, who was based in Port Harcourt, to "come and bail his innocent eldest brother in Abuja"; only for him to be abducted and dumped at Imo Police IRT Tiger Base, Owerri where he was among about eight others taken away from the custody at late night and extrajudicially killed or executed in May 2021 after having been arrested in April 2021. Madam Ifeyinwa Egole remained in Police IRT custody in Abuja till June 2022; a period of a year and four months, during which she was never taken to court for trial or granted administrative bail. Family and public outcries led to her being granted court bail in June 2022. She was also tortured mercilessly and presently traumatized and seriously ill. Apart from extrajudicially killing the first son of Pastor Cletus and Midwife Ifeyinwa Egole and disappearing his corpse till date, their nine children, many of them under-age, were also gone after and tormented by police authorities, forcing them to flee and go into perpetual hiding, with many of them forced to abandon their schools.

Mr. Sunday And Mrs. Calista Ifedi Dumped By DSS At WAWA Military Cantonment Since Nov 2021:

The Enugu residence of the couple was raided after midnight of November 21, 2021, by Enugu Directorate of DSS during which they were abducted and later taken at late night to Abuja DSS Headquarters from where they were detained and later discovered to have been located at WAWA Military (Army) Cantonment in Niger State. They were also accused of "being IPOB members" and have inhumanly been held without civil trial till date. Mr. Sunday and Mrs. Calista Ifedi, left their three underage children: two girls and a boy.

CHIDIEBERE LUKE ECHEFU AND SAMUEL CHIMEREZE NWAFOR ABDUCTED BY DSS SINCE 2021 AND 2022:

Chidiebere Luke Echefu was born on March 13, 1976, or 48 years ago; a native of Umucheke in Onuimo, Imo State, he was abducted by DSS in Imo State at his Ikenegbu residence in Owerri on November 7, 2021, from where he was detained for four months inside the underground cell of DSS in Abuja. It was from there that he was secretly bundled to the WAWA Military (Army) Cantonment in Niger State in March 2022 till date. Chidiebere Luke Echefu, accused of "being IPOB leader in Imo State", was arrested in the presence of his five underage children who have clocked the following years of age: first daughter, 11 years; second daughter, 9 years; first son, 6 years; third daughter, 4 years and last daughter, 2 years.

Samuel Chimereze Ogomuegbunam Nwafor, on the other hand, is a native of Umuapuagu Village in Amaorie, Nkanu East, Enugu State. He resided in Ubahumonum-Umuezeawa part of Okija in Ihiala, Anambra State and was a tiller-artisan who resided with his wife (Ukamaka) and their three underage children (two boys and a girl). Their apartment was broken into by the operatives of DSS, Anambra State Directorate at late night of March 24, 2021, at about 1am during which he was abducted. His wife told the Intersociety that she saw about four special security vehicles parked outside the gate of their compound and that some of them wore bullet proof vests marked "DSS". Samuel Okafor was later traced to Awka DSS headquarters from where he was taken to the Abuja Headquarters of the spy police and remained unlocated till date. She also told the Intersociety that Samuel left her with three little kids: Chijindu Innocent (first son now eleven years of age), Chibuikem Emmanuel (second son now eight years of age) and Chimbuchi (only daughter now three years of age who was only three months old when her father was abducted). Mrs. Ukamaka Nwafor further disclosed that her husband was falsely accused of "being an armed IPOB member" and that their first son (Chijindu Innocent) was recently offered a scholarship into Secondary School by a Foundation in partnership with a local Catholic Church Parish.

2021 IMO VICTIMS OF POLICE AND MILITARY FALSE LABELING, ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION:

The 106 names below represented victims of false labeling and arbitrary arrest and detention in Imo State between January 2021 and 2023. Among them were 106 unarmed and defenseless citizens whose names are given below, indiscriminately arrested or abducted by various Police, Army and DSS operation squads in different parts of Owerri between January and May 2021. Public outcries trailing the circumstances of their mass arrest forced then Catholic Archbishop of Owerri Ecclesiastical Province, His Lordship, Archbishop Anthony Obinna to pay a solidarity visit to them at Owerri Prisons on 26th May 2021.

Their names and ages are: (1)Chidi Udechukwu, 42years old, 2. Chinyere Okoroji (female), 40years old, 3.Festus Ernest, 40 years old, 4. Tochukwu Ejiba, 35years old, 5. Chiboy Ogbonna, 23years old, 6. Ifeanyi Opara, 22years old, 7. Yusuf Bello, 20years old, 8. James Mmereole, 26years old, 9. Ada Oguamanam (female), 30years old, 10. Henry Oguamanam, 48years old, 11. Odunze Chukwu, 21years old, 12. Sunday Victor, 25years old, 13. Ozioma Chibuike, 26years old, 14. Ugochukwu Iwuchukwu, 26years old, 15. Chijioke Ndubuisi, 45years old, 16. Uwadiogwu Kingsley, 29years old, 17. Emeka Leechi Stephen, 34years old, 18. Aguh Chukwuemeka, 31years old, 19. Alex Ejike, 31years old, 20. Bright Umezuruike, 34years old, 21. Ikenna Egwuatu, 31years old, 22. Felix Ferdinand, 38years old, 23. Obinna Uzor, 33years old, 24. Osondu Orji, 34years old, 25. Chibueze Chimezie, 23years old, 26. Opara Mmaduabuchi, 28years old, 27. Kelechi Edward, 21years old, 28. Promise Emmanuel, 28years old, 29. Ogbonna Paschal, 28years old, 30. Anthony Gbadamosi, 45years old, 31. Nwachukwu Chilota, 25years old, 32. Chinedu Osuji, 26years old, 33. Chinonso Onyeka, 26years old, 34. Emmanuel Nwosu, 22years old, 35. Ugochukwu Ojinnaka, 21years old, 36. Ifeanyi Nwachukwu, 37years old, 37. Chukwuma Anukam, 30years old, 38. Ikenna Eke, 38years old, 39. Ogbonna Obasi, 42years old

Included are: 40. Okechukwu Anusionwu, 36years old, 41. John Musa Bawa, 35years old, 42. Udoka Chukwukere, 22years old, 43. Lucia Ezebuike (female), 22years old, 44. Obinnwanne Cynthia (female/underage), 17years old, 45. Chinasa Ike (female), 22years old, 46. Calista David (female), 56years old, 47. Chinazaram David, 18years old, 48. Kingsley Ozumba, 31years old, 49. Daniel Gabriel, 31years old, 50. Emmanuel Justice, 35years old, 51. Obinna Nwadike, 25years old, 52. Ihechi Ibekwe, 42years old, 53. Ishaya John, 21years old, 54. Leonard Chizoba, 29years old, 55. Chinedu Nwadike, 38years old, 56. Ofili Chukwuemeka, 22years old, 57. Agbagwa Chidubem, 25years old, 58. Wisdom Kelechi Orjinta, 35years old, 59. Promise Ezeukwu, 20years, 60. Ifeanyi Duruaku, 49years, 61. Chinedu Nwalaka, 34years old, 62. Onyebuchi Abasirim, 28years old, 63. Onyii Ugo, 35years old, 64. Osaze Prince, 20years old, 65. Desmond Stanley, 45years, 66. Daniel Akan, 28years old, 67. Onyekachi Nwachukwu, 32years old, 68. Princwill Obinna Odoemena, 33years old, 69. Nwaenyi Mmaduabuchi, 22years old and 70. Uma Onyemaechi, 25years old. 71. Orji Solomon, 27years old, 72. Uzoma Johnson, 19years old, 73. Onyeocha Chukwuebuka, 20years old, 74. Chukwuemeka Michael, 35years old.

The rest are: 75. Chika Amadi, 32years old, 76. Bilu Ujunwa, 29years old, 77. Chimenka Nwaoguru, 28years old, 78. Kenneth Nwosu, 52years old, 79. Godwin Ekeada, 37years old, 80. Barode Adesuyiode, 29years old, 81. Oke Kahinde, 29years old and 82. Emmanuel Egwuonwu, 35years old, 83. AwurumMbanu, 29years old, 84. Anthony Okechukwu, 59years old, 85.Mmadu Anthony 36years old, 86. Onyeoziri Alphonsus, 40years old, 87. Iheeme Victor, 22years old, 88. Kenneth Udensi, 38years old, 89. Okparaugo Uchenna, 38years old, 90. Chibueze Nwokeji, 29years old, 91. Uche Nwachukwu, 30years old, 92.Chika Osuji, 39years old, 93. Citizen Last-Born Echenwozor, 62years old, 94.Anyanwu Nnaoma, 25years old, 95.Chigozie Onyeka, 28years old, 96. Okebanama John, 28years old, 97. Ohamara Clinton, 21years old, 98. Ohagim Chibuike, 20years old, 99. Mathew Odunaka, 20years old, 100. Peter Mbah, 45years old, 101. Ruya John, 26years old, 102.Innocent Chinazor, 19years old, 103. Ugonna Dike, 25years old, 104. Onyebuchi Aguzie, 64years old, 105. Chibuzor Onuoha, 38years old and 106. Nkemakolam Okoro, 20years old.

OVER 12 IMO VICTIMS OF APRIL-MAY 2021 ABDUCTION, FALSE LABELING, UNLAWFUL DETENTION AND EXTORTION:

Hundreds of unarmed and innocent citizens of Imo State were abducted and falsely accused between April and May 2021 by combined forces of Police IRT and officers and personnel of Nigerian Army, Air Force, Navy and DSS. Dozens were rounded up in Owerri and environs and falsely labeled "IPOB/ESN/Unknown Gunmen terrorizing Imo State" and bundled at night to the Nigeria Police Force Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (FCIB) located at "Abuja FIB Abattoir"- where they were detained and tortured in connected with "Biafra Matters" or "Biafra Terrorism". It took the timely intervention of the Intersociety through petitions and media campaigns to force the FIB authorities to hurriedly free ten of them who were also forced to cough out between N1m and N1.5m each as "bail fees". Among the ten victims were:

John Chinonso, then 24-Year-Old from Nchoko-Dikenafai Community in Ideato South, Imo State and a resident of Orji-Uratta in Owerri North, Imo State. He was an orphan living with his elder brother orphan (Emmanuel) and arrested by a police patrol team on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, during which he was accused of "being one of ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station". Citizen Chinonso owned and managed 'DADDYFRESH BARBING SALOON' along Uratta Junction in Owerri.

Chukwudi Okoro, then 29 years old and a Shuttle Bus transporter/owner, plying Owerri-Orji route with his apprentice who drives the Bus. Citizen Chukwudi Okoro and his driver were heading home in the early evening of 25th May 2021 when they were arrested, having closed early for fear of rising wave of Army and Police abductions and extrajudicial killings. Chukwudi Okoro was later paraded in the same evening alongside four others as "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station".

Casmir Ibegbulem, then 40-Year-Old and a father of two. He was a "Permit Holder" staff of LNG Company at Bonny Island in Bayelsa State and a native of Ogwa Community in Mbaitoli, Imo State who returned for the burial of his in-law that took place on Friday, 28th May 2021. He was in Owerri on Tuesday, 25th May 2021 to pick personal items when police patrol personnel bounced on him at gunpoint and arrested him. He was paraded in the same evening alongside four others as "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station".

Chigaemezu Sebastian, then 26-Year-Old and a resident of Naze, Owerri, Imo State. He was also a trader-plumber at Ogboisi (Timber) Market, Owerri. He was arrested while traveling to his village at Ikeduru by police on 25th May 2021 and was in the same evening paraded alongside four others as "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station".

Daberechi Alozie, then 25-Year-Old from Obokofia-Egbema in Ohaji/Egbema LGA, Imo State and resided with his relative, a retired permanent secretary in the Imo State Civil Service in Owerri. Citizen Daberechi Alozie was on his way to Ogwa for a job for when he ran into Security Agents at Orji on 25th May 2021 and was arrested and was among those transferred to Force Headquarters (FIB), Abuja.

Ugbo Casmir Nnaemeka and Ojukwu Ukonu, differently resided at New Owerri and Off MCC Road, Owerri. The two, former aides of Rochas Okorochoa, a former Governor of the State, were arrested on May 13 (Ojukwu Ukonu) and May 14, 2021 (Casmir Nnaemeka Ugbo) by the operatives of the anti-kidnapping squad of the Imo State Police Command. On Friday, 28th May 2021, the Imo State Police Command released a false statement against them, titled: "Police Arrest Four (Five) Additional ESN Hoodlums That Attacked Imo Prison (Correctional) Headquarters, Others...".

*Smith Amadikwa: Citizen Smith Amadikwa was then 44-Year-Old father of kids and married to Hon Mrs. Ebere Amadikwa, a former Leader of the Obowo Local Government Legislative Council under former Governor Rochas Okorochoa. He was arrested and detained on May 12, 2021, after he had gone in company of his wife to catch up with an appointment at Owerri Shoprite-Samsung from where he was arrested by the Imo State Police Command. Citizen Smith Amadikwa also owned "Smith's Comedy Show"; and was a well-known 'Master of Ceremony' and 'Movie Actor'. He was among those falsely labeled "ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters".

Engineer Ikechukwu Okomah, then 50-Year-Old was a graduate of Engineering from the Enugu State University, class of 1996 and master's degree holder in Chemical Engineering and a respected member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

NAMES OF THE ABDUCTED, THE SLAIN, THE WOUNDED AND THE DISAPPEARED VICTIMS OF MILITARY TERROR

A native of Ubahaezike, Awo-Idemmili in Orsu Local Government Area, Imo State, he was arrested on May 19, 2021, by the anti-kidnapping squad of the Imo State Police Command and was one of those falsely labeled on Friday, May 28, 2021, by the Imo State Police Command as “ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters”.

Emeka Mbonu (Mescana), then 39-Year-Old was a father of three and a resident of MCC Road/Amawire, Owerri. He was into real estate and had served as a staff of the Owerri Capital Development Authority under former Governor Rochas Okorocha. A native of Osina in Ideato North, Imo State, he was arrested and detained by the operatives of the Imo State Police Command on May 13, 2021, and was one of those falsely labeled “ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters”. Citizens Ikechukwu Okomah and Emeka Mbonu were also accused of “possessing firearms” and later accused of “being ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters”.

*Citizen Ibe Chisom, on his part, was a Port Harcourt based father of three and a surveyor who was arrested by Police and SSS on March 18, 2021, and whisked away in his white Toyota Camry car. He had returned from Port Harcourt to his Umuodiya, Umuegwum in Mbaise, Imo State for a funeral ceremony when he was arrested around 12noon of March 18, 2021.

Akachukwu Nwadike, 24-Year-Old and 20 Others: At Ogbosisi Market, Owerri, Akachukwu Nwadike was severally stabbed with knives in March 2021 by police personnel from the Imo State Police Command and later taken away alongside twenty others. The police personnel had violently stormed the crowded Market and smashed windscreens of over ten parked private and commercial vehicles during which they broke into a food restaurant owned by Citizen Akachukwu's aged mother and stabbed him alongside two customers.

MAY 2021 MILITARY KILLINGS AND PROPERTY LOOTINGS AT ENYIOGUGU MARKET SQUARE (ABOR-MBAISE), IMO STATE:

Contrary to the then public statements issued by the Imo State Police Command, a lorry loaded with onions from Northern Nigeria and moving from Umuahia to Obowo and Ahiara was waylaid at Enyioyugu Market Square in Aboh-Mbaise by aggrieved violent citizens leading to passersby including church goers and returnees and some Okada riders, etc., scrambling for their illicit sharing and following phone calls by some Northern Muslim civilians, soldiers stormed the scene and opened fire in the crowded Market Square, shooting indiscriminately, with scores of defenseless deaths and injuries in the end. Coincided with the targeted political assassination of Mr. Gulak, a political associate of Imo Gov, security agents drafted from the military and the Imo State Police Command turned around and linked the onion lorry attack incident to Mr. Gulak's assassination including falsely labeling the slain and the injured as “ESN hoodlums that killed Gulak”.

Cars publicly displayed by the Police as “operational exhibits belonging to the ESN hoodlums” were later found to be those belonging to innocent motorists using the route. The first military attack in the Market Square had taken place on Sunday, May 30, 2021 and as if that was not enough, on Monday, May 31, 2021, the personnel of the 211 Regiment of the Nigerian Air Force Base, Owerri stormed the Enyioyugu Market Square with military trucks and engaged in looting and destruction of civilian shops in conspiracy with some Muslim Northern civilians trading and hawking in the area.

NAMES OF SHOP OWNERS AND ITEMS MILITARILY LOOTED:

GEORGE NDULAKA – Assorted Drinks * FRANK AKUBUEZE – Assorted Drinks & Restaurant * CRESCENTIA NWACHUKWU – Several Bags of Rice, many cartons of noodles, spaghetti, macaroni, many cartons of assorted milk, Milo, Ovaltine, soaps, several Parks of soft drinks, cartons of cigarettes, cartons of wines & hot drinks etc. * JOHN AKUSHIE – several cartons of wine and hot drinks, soft drinks, one bag of rice, several Parks of soft drinks etc. *

LIVINUS ANUFURO – Assorted electrical and electronics carted away *CHUKWUDI NWAGWU – Bags of Rice, many cartons of noodles, macaroni, many cartons of assorted beverages, soaps, soft drinks, cartons of cigarettes, cartons of wines & hot drinks etc. * JOHN OPARA – Big Gen set carted away * ONYINYECHI OPARA – Refrigerator and big get set carted * CHIMA OBASI – Shop only forced open nothing was removed *TEDDY IGBO – shop broken but nothing was removed * CHIKODI AKALI – Shop only forced open nothing was removed* BENSON OBILOR – Fruits shop vandalized * UJOJI CHISOM – Provision store completely vandalized *BEST OGBONNA – Gen set carted * NDUKWU JACINTA – wine shop vandalized with tailoring machines carted away * NJOKU UGOCHI – fruit shop vandalized *JANE ANYANWU – provision shop vandalized * CHRISTOPHER OPARA – shop broken but nothing was removed * KENNETH UWASOMBA – shop broken but nothing was removed *UCHE NWALAZIE – Provision store vandalized

2021 ABDUCTED AND DISAPPEARED CITIZENS IN IMO:

The names below represent not less than 300 unarmed citizens arrested or abducted and disappeared since January 2021 by security forces in Imo State. They included: Ibeleme Tochukwu, then 35 years of age, from Obibi-ochasi in Imo State, abducted on June 15, 2021; Ugochukwu Umeh, abducted in Owerri on April 23, 2021 and taken to Mogadishu Army Barracks in Abuja and disappeared without traces till date; Precious Uwaoma, abducted in Imo State; Chinaza Gideon, then 30 years of age from Obowo, Imo State, abducted on May 14, 2021 and moved to Abuja military facility on May 26, 2021; Jude Chukwu, then 60 years of age and an artist from Umulolo, Okigwe, abducted on Feb 23, 2021, labeled "Unknown Gunman" and disappeared till date; Akachukwu Nwachukwu, Chukwudi Okafor, Kingsley Ukachukwu and Ebuka Okafor, abducted by a team of police crack squad since April 18, 2021 and last traced to State CID, Owerri and never traced alive till date; Ibe Chisom Amadi, a Port Harcourt based surveyor and father of three, abducted by Police and DSS since May 18, 2021 at Umuegwum, Mbaise, Imo State and disappeared till date. Other abducted and disappeared unarmed citizens in Owerri Municipal Zone at different dates and months in 2021 were: Dim Uchechukwu abducted by DSS at Irete, Paul Okechukwu, abducted by police at Owerri Relief Market, Gift Nwali abducted by DSS at Ikenegbu, Owerri, Ifeanyi Arinze abducted by DSS at Owerri and Anayo Anyaibe, abducted and disappeared by the Police till date. Under Obowo LGA, Citizen Austine Oguoke was abducted and disappeared. Under Oguta LGA were: Nnamdi Obiechina, Henry Asika, Nkejika Uwazurike Ohamara, John Peter, JP, and Prince Dino Ajaero. Under Ahiara-Mbaise, Citizens Iheoma Kennedy, Ekwueme Kingsley and Onyekachi Uzoma Njoku were abducted and disappeared while Citizens Emeka Ngonadi and Akudinobi Ogochukwu came under abduction and disappearance till date from Orlu LGA.

2021 Custodial Killing Of Three Busloads Of Imo-Bound Unarmed Igbo Civilians At Abuja FIB Abattoir:

From several survivors' accounts, Imo-bound three busloads (over 50 in number) of unarmed Igbo civilian citizens were moved to the detention facilities of the Nigeria Police Force Department of Force Intelligence Bureau (Abattoir), Abuja between January and July 2021. The victims were drawn from hundreds of arrested unarmed citizens, arrested by Police IRT operatives in Imo State and transferred to the Force's Abattoir, Abuja, from where they have not been located alive till date. They comprised those arrested between Jan and July 2021 in various locations in Imo State and falsely labeled "ESN or IPOB members or terrorists or members or parties to IPOB/ESN terrorism" and among such victims were those abducted and bundled to the detention facilities of the Police F-OPS, FCID, Army and DSS Headquarters in Abuja from where they have not been located alive till date.

Among the abducted and disappeared unarmed citizens were names of 24 FIB (Abuja) and Tiger Base (Owerri) detainees identified by the visiting Red Cross officials including Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole and his younger brother, Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole. The RC officials were on secret slain and wounded citizens' identity investigation during which the two names and others were identified by the detainees as their missing cellmates at Owerri Tiger Base and Abuja FCIB Abattoir.

Scores of survivors interviewed by the Intersociety also confirmed the above and provided clearer accounts of how dozens of their cellmates were routinely taken out of their cells at late night in NPF Abattoir, Abuja and Tiger Base, Owerri and never returned alive. Among those executed in police detention facilities in Owerri and Abuja were Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole and Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole who were respectively killed alongside one hundred others in Police IRT detention facilities in Owerri and Abuja. While Pastor Cletus Egole was killed alongside estimated 57 others in June 2021 in Police FIB/IRT, Abuja; Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole was killed in April 2021 alongside eleven others at Owerri Police IRT Tiger Base, weeks after he was tricked into arrest and taken into custody in April 2021. Igwe Kelechi was abducted by Police IRT since 2021 and has never been located alive till then.

Miraculous Survivors Of “Abuja Abattoir Torture Chamber” Of Police FIB:

Among those arrested and arbitrarily detained during which they were severely tortured at the FCIB (Abattoir) of the Nigeria Police Force are scores of defenseless mothers of children or newly married young females, out of which, at least two had their pregnancies terminated from police custodial torture and their womanhood degraded and desecrated. They belonged to hundreds of unarmed and defenseless Igbo civilians abducted between January and June 2021 in different parts of Imo State particularly from Orlu and Owerri zones. They included:

Ifeyinwa Egole: She was running a successful maternity hospital when she was arrested by Police IRT from Tiger Base in Owerri on Feb 13, 2021. She was arrested alongside her husband, Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole and three other officials of the Organization of the African Instituted Churches (OAIC). After taken them to Police IRT Owerri Tiger Base, the arsonist police officers went back and threw petrol bombs on her maternity, her husband church and their family home and burned them to ashes. Not done, they located her husband's immediate younger brother, Eugene and made him to disappear. Crime leveled against the Egoles was that their first son was a “member of IPOB”. Police also labeled them “IPOB family” and their Synagogue Church as “IPOB training camp”. The Police IRT under the Force Bureau of Intelligence at Force Headquarters in Abuja also killed her husband (Cletus) in custody at Abattoir in Abuja in June 2021. The “Tiger Base” Unit of the Police IRT in Owerri, Imo State had earlier lured or tricked her husband's youngest brother, Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole, who based in Port Harcourt, to “come and bail his innocent eldest brother in Abuja”; only to be abducted and dumped at Imo Police IRT Tiger Base, Owerri where he was taken out of cell alongside scores of other cellmates at late night and killed in custody in May 2021 after having been arrest in April 2021. Madam Ifeyinwa Egole remained in Police IRT custody in Abuja without trial till June 2022; a period of a year and four months, when she was granted court bail. She was also tortured mercilessly and is presently frail and seriously sick.

Maria Ezediaru: She was arrested by Police IRT in Owerri on Feb 25, 2021, and tortured, degraded and held in perpetuity for a year and three months at Abattoir, Force Intelligence Bureau of the Nigeria Police Force, Abuja. She was granted court bail in May 2022. Madam Ezediaru, a respected mother of children, is a certified Nurse in Owerri where she based before being arrested by the Police for “taking food and medicine to a detained friend” at Owerri State CID and was randomly accused of “being a nurse to IPOB members and ESN terrorists”.

Melody Anyanwu and Oluchi Mmadumere: They were then 22 years of age when they were respectively arrested by Police IRT in Owerri, Imo State. Melody was arrested on May 21, 2021, alongside her father, then 62-Year-Old Linus Anyanwu and Georgina Obiajuru, her fiancé's relative and were thrown into detention where her father was tortured to death weeks after. Melody was accused of “being a girlfriend to a member of IPOB Member”, Her four months old pregnancy was lost because of torture inflicted on her. She was transferred to Abattoir, Abuja where she was detained without trial till October 8, 2021, or a period of six months. Oluchi Onwumere, on her part, was arrested on May 25, 2021, and held for over five months till Oct 8, 2021, when she was released through court bail. She was accused of being a “girlfriend to an IPOB member (Joseph)” who was arrested unarmed and killed extra-judicially by Police IRT on June 6, 2021.

Oluchi was forced to point her father's house days after her arrest and moments after she did, the Police IRT squad threw petrol bombs and burned the house to ashes.

Ngozi Umeadi: She was a nursing mother with a newly delivered infant and was arrested by the Police on Feb 16, 2021, and detained at Police IRT, Abuja for a year and six months. Mrs. Umeadi, a respected mother of five and an insurance worker was arrested and accused of "IPOB membership". She was severely tortured and held without trial from Feb 16, 2021, to October 24, 2022, when she was granted court bail.

Mrs. Ngozi Gladys Agboje (Ngozichukwu Ada-Dav): then 50 years of age, married and hailed from Owerri North, Imo State. She was a victim of criminal labeling, torture, arbitrary arrest, detention incommunicado without trial for ninety days, having been arrested by personnel of the Intelligence Response Team (IRT) of the Nigeria Police Force for over ninety days, having been arrested on the 28th day of June 2021, as she was about fixing her car. She was accused of "being close to Mama Biafra through which money and food are sent to detained IPOB members". She was moved to FIB (Abattoir), Abuja where she was severely tortured leading to fracturing of her legs and other internal injuries. She was turned into a conduit pipe and milked dry before being granted bail on Sept 15, 2021, during which her relatives were forced to pay not less than N4m as "bail fees". Included are Madam **Adaeze Akwaja and Uche Ekwuoha**, arrested between January and March 2021 and held arbitrarily and incommunicado at Abuja's former FSARS, now FCIB- IRT for several months as well as Idara Gold, arrested by DSS in 2021 and secretly transferred to WAWA Military Cantonment in 2022; likewise, Ikechukwu Henry, arrested in 2021 and secretly bundled to WAWA Cantonment in 2022.

VICTIMS OF 2021-2023 OPEN KILLINGS IN THE SOUTH-EAST:

The Intersociety had investigated and found that thousands of unarmed and defenseless were openly shot and killed by armed state actors between January 2021 and December 2023 during which armed non-State actors also openly shot and killed lower number but in thousands. Among those shot and killed in broad day by security forces in Owerri and environs were Noel Nzeribe, a 38-Year-Old successful businessman who was gunned down by security forces on April 30, 2021, in Imo State and Oguchi Unachukwu, a German-based businessman, shot and killed by Air Force personnel of 211 Owerri Airport Air Force Base on his way back to Germany. He was shot and killed on May 31, 2021. Included in the list is Late Ifeanyi Emmanuel Obi (then 44 years of age) and a father of two, from Evor-Oguta in Oguta, Imo State who was also a shoe manufacturer at Ariaria International Market in Abia State. He was shot and killed by joint patrol team of police and soldiers on June 6, 2021, on his way back to Aba after attending a funeral ceremony in her wife hometown of Orlu-Umuaka in Njaba, Imo State. Also, on June 3, 2021, then Catholic Archbishop of Owerri, Archbishop Anthony Obinna, visited the Owerri Federal Medical Center (FMC) where he saw not less than 35 fresh dead bodies of young males and females shot and killed by various security forces in Imo. The Amnesty International had issued a statement, saying that "it had documented at least 115 (unarmed) citizens killed by security forces in Imo State between March and July 2021".

VICTIMS OF OPEN EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS BY IMO STATE EBUBEAGU VIGILANTE MILITIAS AND ALLIED OTHERS:

...Killing of Seven Returning Wedding Guests: Chigozie Obinwa, Ozioma, Chikere Anyadioha, IfechiEkesinachi, Emeka Ekesinachi, Aboy Ihegboro and Chijindu; all indigenes of Otulu in Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State. They were shot and killed Awomama in neighboring Oru West LGA on July 17, 2023, by Ebubeagu Government Militias and aided and abetted by Imo DSS. **Killing of Lieutenant P.P. Johnson** from Aku Ihube, Okigwe on December 17, 2022, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others. **Killing of Mba Ifeoma Gloria and Ekemezie Tochukwu Martin** on January 18, 2023, at Arondizuogu in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others. **Killing of the Traditional Ruler of Obudi Agwa** in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, HRH Eze (Dr) Ignatius Asor and his two Palace staff on November 16, 2022, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others.

Killing of Tobechi Chigbu, a Sharwama maker at Amakohia Flyover on April 30, 2022, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others. **Killing of Customary Court Judge Nnaemeka Ugboma**; Chairperson of the Customary Court in Ejemekwuru, Oguta LGA of Imo State on February 3, 2023, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others. **Killing of automobile Mechanic Okolie Aloysius** at Okporo Orlu on August 2, 2021, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others.

The rest are the **killing and beheading of Jonathan Ugochukwu** at Okporo Orlu on August 9, 2022, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of an Orlu based Lawyer, Darlington Odume** at Amaifeke, Orlu on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, by suspected Government Ebubeagu militias or allied others. **Killing of five persons** from the same family at Umuebele-Okporo in Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State on June 18, 2022, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of the Traditional Rulers of Ihibinaowerre, HRH Eze Sampson Osunwa and Okwudor, HRH Eze Anayochukwu Durueburuo** in Njaba LGA on October 19, 2021, by suspected Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. Other armed sub-State actor (Ebubeagu vigilante militias and allied others) open shootings and killings associated with late night or broad day abductions, shootings and killings at close range as well as others arising from torture, disappearances and property violence including house burnings are also not exhaustible in this Special International Report. Also mentioned is the fact that the above did not include such killings that took place across the East particularly the South-East.

Reference:

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/10/14/major-general-adamu-garba-laka-with-505-convictions-were-almost-getting-to-end-of-insurgency-violent-extremism-and-terrorism/>

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

Abducted, Slain And Disappeared Victims Of Obigbo Army Massacre And Abductions (2020)



...Dead Victims Of Deadly And Abusive Use Of Force:

Among the 130 slain victims were: (1) Pastor Igwe (slain husband of Mrs. Amara Igwe), (2) Queen Nwazuo (slain fiancée of Mr. Monday Bakor killed in front of her shop), (3) Ndukwe Idika (missing and presumed killed in captivity), (4) Michael Igwe, (5) Ifeanyichukwu Imo, (6) Chigbo Elvis Ngozi (missing and presumed killed in captivity), (7) Obioma Okoroafor (missing and presumed killed in captivity), (8) Ozoemena Nwokorie (missing and presumed killed in captivity), (9) Mbeta Uchenna (still missing and presumed killed in captivity), (10) Chiadikobi Ndubuisi (still missing and presumed killed in captivity), (11) Okoro Peter and (12) Chinwendu Rufus Adiele (the two were shot at close range by Soldiers who also busted their brain boxes and killed instantly on 24th Oct 2020 few meters away from Gov Wike's convoy during his visit to Obigbo); (13) Jude Egejuru (died from gunshot injuries), (14) Clifford Okeke, (15) Cornelius Anya, (16) Udeme Ossy Monday, (17) Edochie Steven, (18) Ebere, (19) Wisdom, (20) Chizzy (still missing and presumed killed in captivity), (21) Michael Nkama (died from gunshot injuries), (22) Chinonso Joshua (died from gunshot injuries), (23) Godwin Samuel Umahi and (24) Sunday Umahi (related), (25) Queen Eze, (26) Darlington, (27) Chinonso Udoh (still missing and presumed killed in captivity), (28) Kufre Sandy (still missing since 6th Nov and presumed killed in captivity), (29) Justice (shot dead in front of his residence), (30) Martins (still missing and presumed killed in captivity), (31) Ebite Orjinta (from Irite-Uboma, Imo State), (32) Sunday Aneke (still missing and presumed killed in captivity), (26) Kingsley Iwuagwu (killed in Army custody in Niger State), (33) Okechukwu Anyanwu (killed in Army custody in Niger State), (34) Chijoke (killed in Army custody in Niger State), (35) Miss Victoria (raped to death by soldiers at Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja on 22nd Nov 2020), (36) Kingsley Okpara, (37) Nonso Ejiogu, (38) a young nursing mother (died from gunshot injuries), (39) her newborn baby of one month, 3 weeks and two days (yet to locate her relatives) and (40) a yet-to-be identified dead citizen.

Included are: (41) second yet-to-be-identified citizen and (42) third yet-to-be-identified dead citizen (the three slain bodies were shot dead and left to decompose along an Obigbo Street in a verified video footage, (43) Pastor Ikeakachukwu Moses Okpara (pastor of the Living Faith Church, shot and killed on 21st Oct 2020), (44) Olisa (a JAMBite shot and killed by soldiers), (45) three unidentified persons shot dead around Old Aba Road, near Imo River in Obigbo, (46) Victor Eme (14 years old schoolboy shot and killed), (47) Francis Ejiogu (28 years old forklift operator and only son of his parents shot on 22nd Oct who died on 23rd Oct 2020), (48) Emeka Onyeama (tricycle operator shot and killed), (49) Nanso Udor (still missing since 6th Nov and presumed killed in Army captivity), (50-56) six dead persons dumped at Glorious Medical Center including late Excellent Moses, (57) Eriga (a Cameroonian whose corpse was deposited at University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Choba) and (57-63) seven slain victims burnt to ashes by soldiers with an ambulance conveying them to a Mortuary (their remains and ambulance were set ablaze by soldiers at Market Junction by St. Paul's Catholic Church, Obigbo), (64) Thomas Ekwueme, (65) Pius Onochie, (66) Obinna Akapuru, (67) Monday Ifeanyi, (68) Tobechukwu Udoka and (69) **Elvis Ngozi Chigbu (the slain Citizens numbered 64-69 were among those starved or tortured to death at the Army Alpha Commando Base in Bida, Niger State.** The identified number of the slain Obigbo civilian residents is 69, out of more than 130 shot and killed by soldiers of the Nigerian Army in Obigbo Massacre.

...Shot And Wounded Victims:

Among the over 150 deadly injured victims are: (1) Chukwuma Chinonso, (2) Nwoke Okwudiri Nwonye, (3) Uche Ogbonna, (4) Chikaodi Agwu, (5) Michael Okwudiri, (6) John Emeka, (7) Agwu Enyi, (8) Obichukwu Chibuike, (9) Izuchukwu Igwe, (10) Eluu Chukwuemeka, (11) Arinze Joshua, (12) Nwakama Izuegbe, (13) Destiny Okorie, (14) Israel Asoh, (15) Emeka Heart, (16) Victor Heart, (17) Orji Amaoji, (18) Paschal, (19) Obasi Emela, (20) Chiwuzu Orjinta, (21) Sylvester Odoche,

(22) Elochukwu Emeka, (23) Nwakama Uzuegbu, (24) David Godwin, (25) Chima Iwuala, (26) Theresa David, (27) Ozara Ede Anyanwu, (28) Nnamdi Udorji, (29) Obasi Emerem, (30) Sunday Okoegwu, (31) Ozuen Christian, (32) Chima Ogbona, (33) Samuel Obasi, (34) Solomon Ukezu, (35) Ndubuisi Azunna, (36) Victoria Ndubuisi, (37) Ubong Umoh, (38) Tochukwu Nicholas, (39) Anthony Obi, (40) Udorji Anayo, (41) Etim Ubong, (42) Chisom Nnamdi, (43) Eric Angel, (44) Peter Ajah, (45) Uzochukwu, (46) Godwin, (47) Emeka, (48) Arinze, (49) Mike Ujam, (50) Ugwuanyi Ogbuu, (51) Theresa David, (52) Ogbonnaya Ipia, (53) Michael Ama Omu, (54) Michael Ibanga Udom (60 years old) and over 20 freed abductees bearing marks of torture and inflicted injuries while in Army captivity in Niger State and FCT (marked "56-74"). The identified number of the seriously injured Obigbo civilian residents under above reference is 74 out of over 150.

...620 OBIGBO CIVILIANS ABDUCTED, 468 LOCATED AND FREED AND 152 STILL MISSING:

Not less than 620 Obigbo civilians were found to have been abducted by soldiers of the Nigerian Army in 20 days or between Oct 21 and Nov 10, 2020; out of which 468 were found in different secret military facilities in faraway Northern part of the country and set free by court and 152 still missing and presumed dead. References: Reports by Sahara Reporters and Premium Times, Nov 24, 2020, and Nov 23, 2020: "Nigerian Army secretly airlifted abducted IPOB members (Obigbo residents) to secret detention centers in the North including Niger State" (<https://saharareporters.com/2020/11/24/nigerian-army-secretly-airlifts-alleged-ipob-members-arrested-rivers-state-detained-them>), <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/427469-investigation-inside-the-horrific-bloodshed-and-massive-extrajudicial-killings-in-nigerias-oyigbo-community.html?tztc=1>.

More discoveries later followed including first made on Dec 3, 10 and 15, 2020 during which 52 abductees were traced to four different secret Army detention facilities (Jebba, Kotangora, Zungeru and Bida) in Niger State and freed through court bails. Another batch of 55 young Igbo women were later discovered to be among those secretly held at the Mogadishu Army Barracks in Abuja through an intelligence obtained on Feb 8, 2021. More names further discovered in the Federal Capital Territory leading to their release through court bails. The freed Obigbo Army abductees included **Niger State Batch A, B, C and D comprising** 52 freed on December 3, 10 and 15, 2020; **Abuja Batch A** comprising 30 abductees freed on Dec 30, 2020; **Abuja Batch B** comprising a different set of 30 abductees including two young female rape victims freed on Jan 15, 2021; **Abuja Batch C** comprising 33 abductees freed on Jan 28 and 29 and Feb 3, 2021; **Abuja Batch D** comprising 63 abductees freed on Feb 15, 2021 and **Abuja Batch E** comprising 75 abductees (55 women and 20 men) freed on March 4 and 5, 2021.

Others are **Abuja Batch F** comprising 26 young males freed from DSS facility on June 29 and 30, 2021 after having been abducted and held for two months in Nigerian Army's secret detention facility from where they were secretly transferred to DSS Headquarters in Abuja and held at its old facility. There are also no fewer than 107, abducted in late October 2020 and freed from Nigerian Alpha Commando Base along Suleja-Bida Road in Niger State. They were located and freed on August 11, 2021, following media and publicity outcry coordinated by the Intersociety. The freed victims were originally 113 in number, out of which five died because of starvation and custodial torture in the hands of soldiers of the Nigerian Army. The freed 107 Obigbo Army abductees represented **Niger State Batch E**.

...HOW THE 113 OBIGBO ARMY ABDUCTEES WERE TRACED TO ARMY ALPHA COMMANDO BASE IN NIGER STATE:

The location of 113 Obigbo abductees at the Nigerian Army's Alpha Commando Base in Suleja-Bida axis of Niger State was made possible through the information given to the Intersociety by the family of Citizen Chigbo Ngozi Elvis who was abducted by soldiers alongside others on Oct 28, 2020, at the Imo River part of Obigbo in Rivers State. Citizen Elvis Chigbo was then 23 years of age and a bus conductor plying Port Harcourt-Abia Expressway. He was abducted alongside other passengers in his employer's commercial bus at an Army Roadblock around Rivers-Abia part of the Imo River. They were first bundled to 144 Battalion in Asa, Abia State from where they were transferred to the 6 Division Headquarters of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt.

It was from there that he disappeared alongside others till date.

His family mustered the courage to search for him and later told the Intersociety that "their Army contact had located him at an Army Base "between Niger State and Abuja", later found to be Nigerian Army's Alpha Commando Base in Suleja)". Citizen Elvis and 112 others were on Thursday, Feb 25, 2021, located at the Commando Base in faraway Suleja-Bida axis of Niger State in North-Central Nigeria where they were dumped and abandoned since late Oct 2020. Confirmation of their location paid off on Thursday, Feb 25, 2021. Out of the 113 Army abductees, 107 were released alive on August 11, 2021; out of which five had died in military captivity. Citizen Elvis Ngozi Chigbo was also found missing from the list of the freed 107 abductees and presumed to have been killed on transit or in the Army Alpha Commando's captivity.

Names of The Freed 107 Obigbo Army Abductees: 1 Benjamin Eze, 2 Paul Uwazie, 3 Humphrey Vickie, 4 Peter Umeh, 5 Prince Achi, 6 Odenigbo Israel, 7 Iwuoma Bright, 8 Gift Ivie, 9 Kamso Ignatius, 10 Chibuike Ochi, 11 Bobo Ochi, 12 Ochi Jacob, 13 Mensah Boniface, 14 Nwakaego Ibe, 15 Elechi Sylvester, 11 Amadi Chinasa, 17 Okeke Zechariah, 18 Mebechi Justice, 19 Anwulika Dede, 20 Alphonsus White, 21 Saturday Amonwa, 22 Daniel Onwubiko, 23 Sopuru Onochie, 24 Clifford Francis, 25 Emeka Ugbochi, 26 Echefuna Uchenna, 27 Anthony Okpara, 28 Godswill, 29 Ikenna Abuoma, 30 Paul Nwitte, 31 Okochi Emmanuel, 32 Richard Okoli, 33 Immanuel Sunny, 34 Johnson Akabuku, 35 Michael Azubuikie, 36 Oku Confidence, 37 Mark Uche, 38 Dominic Asiema, 39 Freedom Acalpu, 40 Nsikak Friday, 41 Chinonso Amaechi, 42 Bright Sunday, 43 Okpara Dinma, 44 John Igweba, 45 Humphrey Chukwunonso, 46 Boniface Uwuoma, 47 Osaretin Chinda, 48 Ekene Denison and 49 Emma Maduabuchi, 50 Chinedu Kelvin, 51 Osita Austin, 52 Legit Kererei, 53 Eric Alphonsus, 54 Ikechukwu, 55 Godwin Ume, 56 Chinenyeze Ekpere, 57 Innocent Odum, 58 Pastor Uchenna, 59 Boniface Ume, 60 Gilbert

Others: 61 Okafor Kingsley, 62 Chieyuran Ibe, 63 Emeka David, 64 Freedom Acalpu, 65 Sodienye Moses, 66 Onyinye Nwokeke, 67 Monday Ogah, 68 Ifeoma Igwe, 69 Chika Jideofor, 70 Chukwudi Anyazue, 71 Chimezie Ayigbo, 72 Chijioke (from Ekwulobia, Anambra State), 73 Ekene, 74 Nwude, 75 Vincent, 76 Ugochukwu, 77 Andrew Itheme, 78 Thomas Ibekwe, 79 Precious Anozie, 80 Cletus Justice, 81 Augustus, 82 Osita Chikwado, 83 Adams Kennedy, 84 Egesi Geoffrey, 85 Chidi Okeke, 86 Egbo Godwin, 87 Chinenyeze Bishop, 88 Akaudo Obinna, 89 Kanyinene Uche, 90 Azubuikie Calistus, 91 Victor Ugochi, 92 Okwu Nonyerem, 93 Kamso Anayo, 94 Ebube Kelvin, 95 Emeka David, 96 Sopuru Dikachi, 97 Chibuike Uzo, 98 Osuagwu Emmanuel, 99 Ojiako Bright, 100 Harrison Jude, 101 Winner Onukwube, 102 Chika Dede, 103 Papa Emma, 104 Success Mba, 105 Clifford Obunneme, 106 Chiefuna Chukwuma and 107 Apiam James; out of which, the following six lost their lives: **Thomas Ekwueme, Pius Onochie, Obinna Akapuru, Monday Ifeanyi, Tobechukwu Udoka** and **Elvis Ngozi Chigbo** (missing and presumed killed in captivity).

...BATCHES OF COURT-FREED 468 ABDUCTED OBIGBO RESIDENTS:

Out of the first batch of 52 Obigbo abductees, their bail was granted by a Magistrate Court sitting in Minna and presided over by a Grade 11 Magistrate, out of which the following four abductees were first to be freed: Jude Nwachukwu, Chibuzor Eber, Obi Uche and Michael Uzoma; followed by another bail granted to second batch on same Dec 3, 2020 by Hon Justice Hajiya Maryam Mahmoud of the Niger State High Court involving the following 26 abductees: Obinna Nwoke, Emeka Ibeana, Uchenna Ibeana, Nnowi Ifeanyi, Mbanefo Simeon (57 years old), Aloysius Mgbedike, Cletus Nnamdi, Onyema Fortune, Benjamin Andrew, Ebuka Ayota, Robbison Igwe, Igweze Ndubike, Ifeanyi Uwakwe, Emmy Simon, Malachy Umeh, Opara Uchenna, Opara Isaac, Richard Igwe, Obiekwe Uzoma, Joseph Ibe, Paul Ashiegbu and Amechi Ugo. The third bail involving the following twelve abducted citizens was granted by Hon Justice Aminu Bappa Aliyu of the Federal High Court sitting in Minna, Niger State on Dec 10, 2020: Gilbert Ibe, Ibe Emmanuel, Sunday, Paul (Okada Boy), Nwachineke Moses, Chukwu Nwodo, Power Peter, Ifeanyi Alozie, Okeke Bill, Mazi Ibeneme, Okpara Chigozie, Obinna and Chika.

The fourth bail was granted by the same Federal High Court on the same Dec 10, 2020, involving the following 13 abducted citizens: Chibuchi Adam, Aloysius Obinna, Oluchukwu Emma, Andrew Ichim, Ogochukwu Abel, Tobechukwu, Wisdom Okpara, Bright, Cornelius, Igwe Obinna, Monday Emeka, Paschal and Mr. Oyim. Another batch of 29 Obigbo Army abductees had their freedom secured through a Court bail granted on Dec 24, 2020 Court by Aminu Mohammed Abdullahi, Chief Magistrate of the Grade 11 Magistrate Court, sitting in Wuse, the Federal Capital Territory and they were freed on Dec 30, 2020 from Army and DSS secret dungeons including Abacha (Mogadishu) Army Barracks in Abuja and SSS secret dungeon in Wuse. Their names included: Citizens Cosmas Igwe, Benedict Ezeugwu, Nelson Attamah, Michael Ugwuanyi, Godwin Ezeugwu Attamah, Obinna Orji, Godwin Emeka Omeh, Linus Uroko Eze, Oluchukwu Ugwoke, Eze George Okwudili, Geoffrey Ugwuoke, Nwodo Emma Ogbonnaya, Nnama Celestina Chinwe, Mammah Remi Odinaka, Ben Emeka Oloko, Desmond Onyebuchi Ezeme, Charles Ugwu, Chime C. Nestor-Ezeme, Ezeme Nestor Chika, Ezike Chukwu, Gerald Ugochukwu Abonyi, Ezeugwu Paul Ikechukwu, Odoh Kyrian Obiora, Michael Ifeanyi, Sabastine Asogwa, Livinus Onyebuchi Ojabor, Innocent Ugwueke and Simon Akunna Amadi.

Another batch of 30 Obigbo abductees got their court bail granted by Magistrate Aminu Mohammed Abdullahi of the Grade 11 Magistrate Court sitting in Wuse, the Federal Capital Territory on Thursday Jan 14, 2021 and they were freed on Friday, Jan 15, 2021 from three secret dungeons; namely: **Nigerian Army's Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja, Nigerian Army Training Center in Suleja, Niger State** and **SSS (DSS) dungeon located at Mararaba in Abuja**. The names included: Citizens Okoli Kanayo, Boniface Okafor, Mbadiwe Godwin, Sima Man, Joseph Nwaaba, Eze Imo, Gozie Oliver, Nwamadi Monday, Izunne Gilbert, Nwabueze Chinyeze, Favour Uchenna, Ego Samuel, Ibenwolu Faith, Abel Daniel, Young Winner, Pepper White, Freedom (Kekeboy), Obinna Ekechukwu, Adonai Uwakwe, Celestine Uwakwe, Arinze (Water), One Man MOPOL, Onyema Amaechi, Chukwunonso Andrew, Chikwado Hosanna, Ndubuisi (Officer), Uzoma Ojiako, Kosisochukwu Ojiako, Miracle Ojiako and Goodness Nwagbaraukwu. Citizen Linus Uroko who missed being freed on Dec 30, 2020, was freed on Jan 13, 2021.

Another batch of 33 abductees were granted bail by the Grade 11 Magistrate Court in Wuse 11, Abuja on Feb 28, 2021, and Feb 29, 2021, which set them free from the Mogadishu Army Barracks in Abuja, FCT. They included: Ibeneme Uchendu, Okoli Precious, Elochukwu Osita, Osadebe Igbariam, Ekene Livinus, Eloka Ambrose, Bobo Uche, Anthonia Onyema, Chukwuka Collins, Chibuikwe Harrison, Kennedy Pius, Eberechukwu Monday, Victor Monday, Goddy Nwite, Clifford James, Agbara Francis, Emelu Joseph, Okoli Wesley, Andrew Mbadiwe, Nonso Mbadiwe, Michael Okoye, Emenike Ugochi, Oliver Sunday, Chukwuebuka Uchenna, Evidence Obiekwe, Lucky Obiekwe, Chinemere Chike, Chike Obinnaya, Dennis Awele, Paul Asouka, Ebere Emmanuel, Ogangam Ibe and Celestine Boniface.

The bail application for a batch of 63 Obigbo Army abductees was filed on Wednesday, Feb 10, 2021 before an Abuja Grade 11 Magistrate Court sitting in Wuse and granted leading to their release on Feb 15, 2021 from four different Army, DSS and Police dungeons in Abuja; namely: Mogadishu Army Barracks Annex B at Asokoro, DSS Training Center at Central Business District and its abandoned facility at Zuba and the Nigeria Police College at Suleja in Niger State. Their names included: Paul Uche, Anozie Obinna, Ebubechukwu Kaima, Andrew Ekpere, Uka Obinna, Uche Emmanuel, Ekene Anayo, Bright Emma, Ikenna Uzoma, Olisa Chukwudi, Somtochukwu Ibe, David Joe, David Chukwu, Chikadibia Paul, Blessed Friday, Nwaogu Ekene, Charles Ikeogwu, Igwe Samuel, Gozie Samuel, Simeon Mbanefo, Eze Chike, Godwin Umeh, Tochukwu Umeh, Desmond Alphonsus, Ukauwa Irim, Sabinus Ula, Riguma Friday, Ekpan Sunday, Kezie Kelechi, Ifeanyi Otutu, Ambrose Anyanwu, Paul Chike, Tochukwu Obiekwe, Elochukwu Moses, Mike Anya, Echefuna Chukwu, Echefuna Uche, Gift Onyenkachi, Alozie Chukwunonso, Chukwuma Ibeano, Friday Nonso, Nebechi Kennedy, Imma Ochi, Stanley Igwe, Okoro Benson, Emeka Nwaogugu, Uchechi Emmanuel, Joe Boniface, Gregory Amokachi, Daniel Erinne, Samson Chinda, Victor Enrinne, Christopher Kachi, Uzoma Philip, Kainene Ernest, Ikechukwu Isaiah, Isaac Oriaku, Ekpere Mmadu, Uchenna Chris, Ebuka Silas, Honesty Gift, Osita Ifeanyi and Chibuikwe Robinson.

...Release Of 55 Abducted Obigbo Women And 20 Men From Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja:

Another batch of Obigbo Army abductees involving 55 young Igbo women and 20 men; totaling 75 were freed on March 4 and 5, 2021 having been granted bail by the Grade 11 Magistrate Court, Wuse 11, FCT Judicial Division, Abuja on Feb 27, 2021 (20 men and two women) and on March 1, 2021 (involving 53 women); after being held secretly and severely tortured since late Oct 2020. They were secretly held by Nigerian Army for over three months (late Oct 2020 to mid Feb 2021) from where they were transferred to Nigeria Police Force and DSS facilities where they spent weeks before being arraigned and freed in late Feb 2021

Names of the Army abducted 55 women included: Ijeoma Francisca, Pauline Anyanwu, Grace Samson, Rebecca Ibeanusi, Ebere Uchechi, Emmanuella Oluchukwu, Okafor Uloma, Peace Amaka, Eberechi ibe, Ekene Silver, Grace Anwulika, Mba Asiegbu, Modesta Umezie, Blessing Paulina, Joy Anozie, Amarachukwu Believe, Amadi Chinasa, Onwuka Uzoma, Chidinma Ukachukwu, Chioma Isaac and Peace Isaac (sisters), Ebube Aneto, Tina Emeka, Stephanie Sunday, Mercy Chidinma, Diri Ibe, Mirabel Angel, Nwosu Abigail, Uwaoma Queen, Sarah Alo, Sandra Evoh and Cynthia Evoh (sisters), Bridget Dede, Erica Ndubuisi and Ujunwa Ndubuisi (sisters), Oluchi Mercy, Uchendu Priscilla, Goodness Kaima, Mama Nnamdi (39 years old), Ekpere Odinaka, Nwoji Mary, Rosemary Ogudike, Happiness Odinaka, Georgina Umunze, Ngozi White, Atumofe Charity and Atumofe Precious (sisters), Amaka Ebere, Clementina Obiageli, Success Florence, Dike Amara, Kelechi Orji and Ukaamaka Oluchi (all released from DSS dungeons after being held for months and transferred by Nigerian Army) and Joyce Igwe and Ujunwa Felix (freed from the Nigeria Police Force after being held for months and transferred by Nigerian Army). Names of 20 men among them included: Precious Ibe, Okonkwo Peter, Basil Anyanwu, Apostle Collins, Emeajokwu Bright, Nonso Isaac, Kennedy Samuel, Ugwu Odinnaka, Hossana Gregory, Ambrose Kenechukwu, Timothy Onyeama, Raphael Adam, Lucky Okolie, Richard Okpara, Emmaus God-Day, Chibuike Andrew, Kenneth Onuigbo, Patrick Uzoma, Anthony Okparaego and Uche Paul (all freed from the Nigeria Police Force after being held for months by the Army from where they were transferred to the Police).

...A CASE OF MORE THAN 100 OBIGBO AND ORLU ARMY ABDUCTEES DUMPED IN KADUNA PRISONS AND LOCK CENTERS:

The continued search for secret location of hundreds of Obigbo Army abductees of Oct-Nov 2020 later led to fresh discovery in October 2021 of another batch of more than 100 Igbo-Easterners including 89 males and six females located alive and five located dead in captivity including one Citizen Ugochukwu who was reported to have died of asthma in custody. The fresh discovery was made through intelligence collected by the trio of Richard Okoroafor Esquire, an International Human Rights Campaigner, Comrade Damian Ugwu of Amnesty International (as he then was) and Emeka Umeagbalasi, a Criminologist and Head of the Intersociety and human rights and self-determination activists. The collective efforts paid off in October 2021 when 100 defenseless abductees were discovered in the Kaduna Prisons and Lock Centers. On further investigations, it was found that more than 50 of them were among hundreds of innocent and defenseless Obigbo Residents abducted by soldiers of the Nigerian Army in late October and early Nov 2020 and secretly held for over 12 months without release or available official records; out of which about 50 others belonged to those abducted from different parts of Imo State particularly from Orlu and Owerri zones since Feb, March, April, May and June 2021 who were unlawfully held for several months in secret military dungeons before being secretly transferred and dumped in the Kaduna Prisons and Lock Centers. Among the nothing less 100 Army abductees, five were traced to have died in military captivity.

Their names included: Humphrey Onyii, Kenechukwu Paul, Kacil Ude, Antonio Obi, Oluchi Nwaba, Ben Akachukwu, Mebechukwu Ifeanyi, Ebube Uche, David Akudo, Namdi Ndidi, Francis Collins, Ozioma Anurika (female), Odinaka Prince, Kingsley Obinna, Ekechukwu Joshua, Ekechukwu Paul, Pius Victoria (female), Emmanuel Obinna, Kanyinene Andrew, Kosisochukwu Best, Kachi Ude, Uchechukwu Uba, Londonboy Kelvin, Chinedu Anwuru, Sunday Adaoche, Chika Obasi, Isaac Ejekwe, Benjamin Orakwe, Maxwell Uba, Kenneth Erochukwu, Mba Osigwe, Harrison Ezenwa, Boniface Nsowolu, Lawrence Celestine, Ugonna Kennedy, Nwadike Akolam, Jerry Chukwuemeka, Arinze Somtoochukwu, Anyanwu Ositadinma, Livinus Shedrack, Monday Uba, Ogugua Chukwuebuka, Prince Eze Ugochi, Ndubuisi Anayo, Bright Okafor, Emma Okafor, Henry Sopuruchukwu, Chika Ugwueze, Osinachi Jerry, Abraham Emeka, Moses Uzoma, Aaron Osagie, Onyekachi Chukwu and Chukwu Prince, Ibe Francis, Maduka Synagogue, Onyinyechi Chukwuma (female), Maurine Akapu (female), Ebuka Ositadinma, Ebere Anyanwu, Paulina Eberechukwu (female), EkeneMaria Chisaram (female), Chibuikem Anarue, Success Anome, Richard Onyii, Peter Charise, Nwa Daddy, Boniface, Igwe Harry, Chinonso Kelvin, Geoffrey Egemba, Ikechukwu Mike, Chike Ndurugo, Chima Okorie, David Amaefula, Aloysius Kalu, Valerian Ndubuisi, Kingsley Ebube, Chukwuebuka Aja, Nwabuiife Henry, Elias Chima, Anthony Austin, Benjamin Amechi, Ugwunna John, Chisom Mbah, Ejikom Louis, Mgbeke Jasper, Odoh Joshua, Oku Solomon, Chidi Ugoms, Mathias Osuji and two others—totaling 95 persons including six females and 89 males.

...TABLE SHOWING NAMES, AGES AND STATES OF ORIGIN OF 107 OBIGBO ARMY ABDUCTEES FREED FROM NIGER STATE:

S/N	NAMES	AGES	STATE
	Benjamin Eze	27	ANAMBRA
	Paul Uwazieike	22	ABIA
	Humphrey Vickie	38	EBONYI
	Peter Umeze	20	IMO
	Odemgbo Israel	26	ANAMBRA
	Prince Achi	30	ABIA
	Willie Gift	25	EBONYI
	Kamso Ignatius	27	ANAMBRA
	Chibuike Ochi	29	ANAMBRA
	Bobo Ochi	32	IMO
	Mensah Boniface	44	ENUGU
	Elechi Sylvester	29	ENUGU
	Amadi Chinasa	30	IMO
	Okeke Zachariah	41	IMO
	Mebechi Justice	35	ABIA
	Anwuluka Dieide	22	EBONYI
	Alphonsus White	47	EBONYI
	Saturday Amonwa	24	EBONYI
	Daniel Onwubiko	31	IMO
	Supuru Onochie	22	IMO
	Clifford Francis	25	ABIA
	Emeka Ugbochi	26	ABIA
	Echefuna Uchenna	24	ABIA
	Anthony Okpara	31	IMO
	Godswill Ike	30	IMO
	Ikenna Abuoma	29	ENUGU
	Paul Nwille	28	ABIA
	Okochi Emmanuel	27	ANAMBRA
	Richard Okoli	28	ANAMBRA
	Immanuel Sunny	27	ANAMBRA
	Johnson Akabuku	26	IMO
	Micheal Azubuike	24	EBONYI
	Oku Confidence	22	EBONYI
	Mark Uche	22	EBONYI
	Dominic Asiama	20	ABIA
	Freedom Acalpu	21	ABIA
	Nsikak Friday	20	EBONYI
	Chinonso Amaechi	25	EBONYI
	Bright Sunday	26	ABIA
	Okpara Dinma	48	ABIA
	John Igweba	21	ABIA
	Humphery Chukwunonoso	21	EBONYI
	Boniface Uwuoma	45	IMO
	Osaretin Chinda	23	ABIA
	Ekene Denison	25	EBONYI
	Emma Maduabuchi	40	ENUGU
	Chinedu Kelvin	29	EBONYI
	Osita Austin	28	ABIA
	Legit Kerere	27	IMO

Eric Alphonsus	28	ABIA
Iyke	37	ENUGU
Godwin Ume	30	IMO
Chinenyeze Ekpere	35	ENUGU
Innocent Odum	37	IMO
Pastor Uchenna	35	IMO
Boniface Ume	30	IMO
Gilbert	29	EBONYI
Okafor Kingsley	28	ANAMBRA
Chieyuran Ibe	26	ABIA
Emeka David	25	ABIA
Sodienya Moses	24	ABIA
Onyinye Nwokeke	23	IMO
Monday Ogah	28	IMO
Ifeoma Igwe	26	ABIA
Chike Jideofor	38	IMO
Chukwudi Anyazue	35	IMO
Chimezie	32	ENUGU
Ayigbo	31	EVONYI
Chijloke	29	EBONYI
Ekene	26	IMO
Nwude	25	ENUGU
Vincent	28	IMO
Ugochukwu	26	ANAMBRA
Adrew Ihame	24	IMO
Thomas Ibekwe	22	ENUGU
Precious Anozie	25	ABIA
Cletus Justice	23	ABIA
Augustine	34	ABIA
Osita Chikwado	27	ABIA
Adam Kennedy	29	ENUGU
Egesi Goffrey	38	IMO
Chidi Okeke	29	IMO
Egbo Godwin	38	IMO
Tobechukwu Udoka	29	EBONYI
Chineyenze Bishop	34	IMO
Akaudo Obinna	21	ENUGU
Kanyinene Uche	20	IMO
Azubulke Calistus	32	ANAMBRA
Victor Ugochi	31	ANAMBRA
Okwu Nonyerem	31	IMO
Kamso Anayo	39	IMO
Sopuru Dikachi	35	ENUGU
Chibulke Uzo	32	ENUGU
Osuagwu Emmanuel	31	IMO
Ojiako Bright	33	IMO
Harrison Jude	34	IMO
Winner Onukube	32	IMO
Chika Dede	30	IMO
Papa Emma	28	IMO
Success Mba	26	IMO
Clifford Obunneme	27	IMO
Chiemerie Chukwuma	38	ENUGU
Ekweme Thomas	36(Dead)	IMO
Plus Onochie	32(Dead)	ENUGU
Obinna Akapuru	28(Dead)	IMO
Monday Ifeanyi	27(Dead)	IMO
ELVIS Ngozi Chigbo	23(presumed dead)	ABIA

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

Victims Of First Nigerian Military Terror In The East: August 2015-August 2019



...MILITARY AND POLICE CRACKDOWNS FOLLOWING NNEWI AND ONITSHA PRO BIAFRA PROTESTS: AUGUST 30, 2015:

Several peaceful street protests were held in Onitsha and Nnewi on August 30, 2015 during which the combined team of armed soldiers, Police SARS and Mobile Police units responded violently by opening fire at the peaceful protesters with live bullets leading to instant death of six defenseless citizens. Similar protests took place at Asaba, Delta State; Enugu, Enugu State; Yenagoa, Bayelsa State; Uyo, Akwa Ibom State; Igweocha or Port Harcourt, Rivers State; and Aba, Abia State during which scores of deaths and dozens of injuries were recorded.

August 30, 2015-Death Toll: Among the six citizens that were shot dead by soldiers and police at Nnewi were Citizens Ebuka Nnorom of Ufuma, Anambra State and Obasi Emmanuel Maduka of Onicha LGA, Ebonyi State. Late Emmanuel Obasi Maduka was shot dead on by personnel of the Nigerian Navy at Niger Bridgehead, Onitsha during which dead bodies of four others were taken away by soldiers and police. Over ten persons were also injured in the protests. In Yenagoa and Port Harcourt protests, among those killed were Citizens Daniel Chukwualue and Christian Okechukwu George from Abia State who died from gunshot injuries following a street protest of Oct 21, 2015, in Port Harcourt. Christian Agwunta Eke from Imo State was among those shot and killed by soldiers in the Nov 15, 2015 Yenagoa mega protest.

Mega Pro Biafra Protests Of December 2, 2015 At Onitsha Niger Bridgehead:

The peaceful protest had started in the evening of December 1, 2015 as "vigil and picketing" at the Onitsha Niger Bridgehead and continued into the next day of December 2, 2015, extending to Onitsha Upper Iweka, Owerri Road and Obodoukwu Road, etc. The protest was peaceful and well organized with leaders of IPOB, organizers of the protest, hand-walling themselves by the roadsides ensuring free flow of vehicular and human movements. However, hours into the mega protest, lethal signals were given to the soldiers of the 302 Artillery Regiment Onitsha by then GOC, 82 Division of the Nigerian Army, Enugu and the Army Headquarters in Abuja, joined by that of then Inspector General of Police (Solomon Arase), directing the drafted Army and Police officers and personnel to "crush the peaceful protesters and quell their protests" during which more than 13 persons were killed and 30 others seriously injured. Then IGP, Solomon Arase specifically directed his senior police commanders in South-East and South-South to "apply maximum force to quell the protests and crack down on the protesters."

As if that was not enough, eyewitness accounts of motor of motor park operators and night hawkers around the area revealed that drafted soldiers and police personnel recklessly and crudely engaged in late night shootings and killings leading to additional death of dozens and scores of injuries, to the extent several dead bodies of those shot and killed were drowned in the River Niger by soldiers or taken away to undisclosed locations alongside the wounded. The material evidence seen at the scene of the Onitsha Niger Bridgehead protest included over a dozen private and commercial motorcycles believed to be those belonging to the slain victims downed or abducted and taken to undisclosed locations by the drafted soldiers of the Onitsha 302 Army Artillery Regiment and police personnel led by the Onitsha Area Command.

DECEMBER 2, 2015 ONITSHA PROTEST MILITARY SHOOTING AND KILLING DEATH TOLL:

Among more than 13 slain victims included Miss Anthonia Nkiruka Ikeanyionwu (a student at the Federal College of Education (Technical) at Umunze in Anambra State); Kenneth Ogadinma (from Abia State), Chima Onoh (from Enugu State), Angus Chikwado (from Anambra State) and Miss Felicia Egwuatu (from Anambra State). The remaining eight slain citizens, shot and killed by drafted soldiers and police personnel were taken to undisclosed locations by soldiers of the Onitsha Military Cantonment then under the command of Col Isa Abdullahi Maigari. Dozens of others, likely to have been killed in the late night of December 1, 2015, technically represented “dark figures of crime” or untracked and unrecorded casualties.

Dec 17, 2015 Post Judgment Army Killings At Onitsha Niger Bridgehead:

Hours, after an Abuja Federal High Court presided over by Hon Justice Ademola Adeniji, delivered a ruling ordering for unconditional release of Citizen Nnamdi Kanu, jubilant IPOB members numbering between 60 and 100 went into spontaneous celebration and marched from Nkpor to Ojukwu Statue at Onitsha Niger Bridgehead where they met some soldiers of northern Muslim extraction who opened fire at them, killing 12 and injuring 15 others. Most of the dead bodies and injured others were taken away by soldiers to Onitsha Army Barracks and other secret locations. Other dead bodies later identified including the shattered body of Late Chigozie Ezeji were rescued by friends and relatives and later deposited at some private hospitals including the Multicare Hospital at Nkpor and the White Chapel Hospital at Fegge area of Onitsha. Late Chigozie Ezeji was one of those rescued alive by friends after being shot and battered, but he died on the way to the White Chapel Hospital in Onitsha, Anambra State.

DEAD AND INJURED VICTIMS OF DECEMBER 17, 2015 ARMY KILLINGS IN ONITSHA:

Not less than 12 persons were killed and among them were Citizens Okwu Friday, Michael Nweke (then 37) (from Ezza North LGA) in Ebonyi State; buried on March 11, 2016; Peter Chukwuma Nwankwo (then 26) (from Ezza South LGA) in Ebonyi State; buried on March 11, 2016), Mathew Ndukwe Kanu (then 25) (from Akanu-Ohafia LGA) in Abia State; buried on March 12, 2016 and Chigozie Ezeji (then 32) (from Idemmili North LGA) in Anambra State. The names above mentioned did not include four others who died in the hospital during treatments. A total of 27 persons were also shot and critically wounded and taken to the Multicare Hospital for treatment following Army shootings arising December 2 and 17, 2015 Pro Biafra protests in Onitsha; out of which four died. Several others with serious bullet wounds also ran away from hospitals to their private homes for self-medication, fearing raids and abductions by soldiers, out of which some must have died.

FEBRUARY 2016 ARMY AND POLICE MASS KILLINGS AT NGWA HIGH SCHOOL IN ABA, ABIA STATE:

Leaders and Members of the Indigenous People of Biafra in their hundreds had gathered inside the premises of the former Igbo National College renamed Ngwa National High School. The gathering was for prayers and singing rally for the release of Citizen Nnamdi Kanu and detained others. Few hours before noon of February 9, 2016, the Abia State Police Command and its Aba Area Command then headed by CP (now Retired DIG) Habila Joshak and ACP Peter Nwagbara (then Aba Area Commander) ordered their personnel to storm the place; saying they received a distress call, red alert and matching orders from then IGP, Solomon Arase to quell the prayer rally. About thirty minutes later, soldiers of the 144 Battalion of the Nigerian Army, located at Asa Community in Ukwu West LGA near Aba, then under the command of Lt Col Sidi Umar Kasim; joined by DSS and Naval personnel, coordinated through the Abia State Joint Security Taskforce mobilized by then Governor Okezie Ikpeazu; stormed the place in their large numbers in more than 12 security Hilux vans. Moments after their arrival, soldiers took battle positions and corked their rifles loaded with live bullets and seconds later, they opened fire at the gathered crowd, killing over 30 and injuring more than 40 others.

As the survivors were scampering for safety and escaping through the school's perimeter fence, soldiers again opened fire on them and gunned down scores. Police personnel also joined them in the shooting spree; leading to instant death of at least 30 excluding 16 members of the group whose lifeless bodies were later dumped on February 12, 2016, inside two burrow pits along the Aba-Port Harcourt Road, out of which, 13 were discovered on February 12 by local whistleblowers and three others found days later in another burrow pit behind the Aba Mosque. The thirteen corpses were set ablaze on March 1, 2016, by suspected agents of the Government of Abia State and soldiers of the 144 Battalion for purposes of destruction of evidence and culpability traces. Amnesty International team was earlier on 18, 2016 taken to the burrow pits by the Intersociety researchers during which several lifeless bodies of the slain IPOB members were discovered to have been tied with cut pieces of Biafra flags. The Intersociety thereafter sent a letter to then Government of Abia State, requesting for a Coroner's Inquest and barely 24 hours of the receipt of our letter, the corpses went up in flames. Amnesty International researchers also met the corpses burning to ashes during their returned visit same day.

DEAD VICTIMS OF FEBRUARY 9, 2016 NGWA HIGH SCHOOL MASS KILLINGS:

Not less than 30 persons were killed in the Aba prayer/singing rally and among them were: Citizens Uche Friday (30yrs) (Abia State), Emeka Ekpemandu (then 35) (Imo State), Chiovoghlefu Chibuikem (Abia State), Nzubechi Onwumere (Imo State), Peter Chinecherem Ukasoanya (then 27) (Abia State), Chigozie Cyril Nwoye (then 23) (Enugu State), Chukwudi Onyekwere (then 26) (Imo State) and Uchechukwu Nwachukwu (Abia State). Scores of defenseless citizens numbering about 15 were also shot and killed in Aba during similar street protests of January 18 and 29, 2016 and one of those killed was Citizen Chibuzor Maduagwu Paul (then 28y) from Imo State. Some slain and wounded bodies were moved by the drafted soldiers and police personnel to undisclosed locations while some of those dumped inside the burrow pits along the Aba-Port Harcourt Road have their hands tied behind their backs with cut pieces of Biafra flags technically suggesting that they must have been taken to the burrow pits alive before being shot and killed while others that have only their eyes blindfolded with cut pieces of cloth are likely to have been killed elsewhere from where they were dumped inside the burrow pits. It is also likely that the former was forced to carry the lifeless bodies of the latter to the burrow pit after which they had their hands tied behind their back and shot and killed by soldiers of 144 Army Battalion.

IGBO HEROES DAY MASSACRE OF 140 UNARMED CITIZENS IN ONITSHA, NKPOR AND ASABA:

Of all the mass killings highlighted above, the Nkpor and Onitsha massacre and its Asaba spillover were the second bloodiest after the September 2017 Army Python Dance 11 in Abia State. The Onitsha-Nkpor Igbo Heroes Day Massacre recorded more than 140 civilian casualties and over 130 injuries. The leadership of the Indigenous People of Biafra and other pro-Biafra and Igbo campaigners had chosen Nkpor part of Anambra State as the venue for their 2016 Biafra-Igbo Heroes Day Anniversary; having nonviolently and successfully marked same in Enugu and Umuahia in 2015 and 2014 respectively. On May 24, 2016, the leadership of the IPOB addressed a letter to the Government of Anambra State through then State Commissioner of Police, CP (now Retired AIG) Mr. Hosea Karma. The letter was dated May 23 and signed on May 24, 2016, by Mr. Uchenna Asiegbu; the group's then head of the Directorate of State. The CP was constitutionally charged in the letter to ensure that the anniversary was a hitch free, and the event venue provided with adequate security, and it was sent to then Anambra CP four days to the anniversary.

Then Anambra CP and Government of Anambra State, on receipt of the letter, neither invited the signatories to the letter or their representatives, nor made any public pronouncement concerning the status of the letter. Unknown to organizers, the letter became a countermeasure and a ploy for unleashing unspeakable violence and crackdown on the organizers, their supporters and other defenseless members of the public including early morning travelers and those returning from early morning church services who later became dead and wounded victims. The letter was also used as a pretext to mobilize killer soldiers and police personnel leading to heavy deployment of troops and war-grade weapons from 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu.

There was also inter-State security arrangement between Anambra and Delta States including mobilization of military, police and DSS personnel from Delta State and placement of them on red alert. The soldiers of the Onitsha Military Cantonment crossed over to Asaba and took over strategic places including Abraka Junction and Asaba Airport end of the Onitsha-Asaba-Benin-Lagos Dual Carriage Way.

As if that was not enough, the security forces including dreaded Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Nigeria Police Force and the drafted soldiers launched violent crackdowns including late-night raids, mass arrests, abductions and close-range shootings and killings. Defenseless citizens who arrived Nkpor and Ogidi at late-night May 29, 2016, for the event and squatted in the classrooms of St Edmunds Catholic Primary School, Nkpor were attacked after they have arrived and gone to sleep, leading to several of them being shot and killed or gravely injured. At least, three Catholic faithful returning from early morning service (morning mass) at St Edmunds Catholic Church, Nkpor were among those shot dead by soldiers in early morning of May 30, 2016, along Nkpor-Umuoji Road (main scene of the massacre). The massacre and related atrocity crimes continued into the morning of May 30, 2016, and extended to noon hours of the same day, during which more than 110 defenseless citizens were shot at close range and killed at Nkpor, Ogidi, and Onitsha; with over 30 other deaths recorded at Asaba spillover attacks. In Anambra State, the murderous operation was extended to Umuoji and Nnewi parts of the State.

A total of more than 130 unarmed and defenseless citizens were also shot and critically injured; out of which, some died of injuries and scores crippled for life. Most bodies of those shot and killed were picked by soldiers on the spot using their military trucks and taken to undisclosed locations till date, with their whereabouts remaining unknown to their families, lawyers and doctors since then. Some security sources and survivors/eyewitnesses interviewed later disclosed that most of them were lumped together and criminally interred on Wednesday June 1, 2016, in shallow graves located in one of the two military cemeteries inside the Onitsha Military Barracks. A source further disclosed that the Government of Anambra State partook in the criminal mass burial through a Commissioner for Information who supervised same. In Asaba, soldiers of the Onitsha 302 Artillery Regiment then led by one Major C.O. Ibrahim of the Military Police Unit of the Regiment and others drafted from the 82 Division in Enugu and police personnel attached to Delta State Police Command opened fire and killed at least 30 defenseless and unarmed citizens and injured over 60 others. Those trekking down to Onitsha for the event and scores of others going about their lawful businesses were blocked at the Asaba and Onitsha end of the Onitsha-Asaba-Benin Dual Carriage Way and rained with live bullets.

Dead Victims Of Onitsha, Nkpor And Asaba Massacre: Names of some slain citizens in Nkpor and Onitsha massacre of May 29 and 30, 2016 were given as: Nicodemus Azubuike, Chikaodi Uka Ume, Ernest Uzor, Chukwudi Ozioko, God's Power Etukudo, Ifeanyichukwu Kalu, Sunday Ogudo, Ogechi Ejiogu, Daniel Kalu Ukagha, Chima Ezechiugo, Onuoha Jude Nnamdi, Chikezie Nwodo, Chibuzor Nwabuike, Kingsley Onwo, Onyeka Chukwu Ekwe, Sunday Ogbonna, Sunday David, Patrick Anyika, Raphael Agwu, Chukwudi Mmadu, Bartholomew Nwosu, Levy Okwudiri Ejiofor, Chukwueke Kalu, Onyeka Promise Chukwueke (Nnewi North) and Ugochi Juli Okechukwu (female). Among no fewer than 30 persons killed in the Asaba spillover massacre were Chinedu Udoye, Oluchukwu Odanibe, Ikechukwu Enebeli, Henry Nzekwe, Hero Vincent, Ojo Chimezie, Ogbuefi Obi, Ogochukwu Ijega, Apam Oyi, Okeke Obiora, and Nwabueze Uzonna.

PORT HARCOURT PRO DONALD TRUMP INAUGURATION MASS KILLINGS (JAN 2017):

Leaders and Members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) had gathered in their thousands in Port Harcourt for a solidarity rally in support of then new Donald Trump Government of the United States. The date was also the same with his swearing in as the 45th President of the United States. Letters of notification were sent and delivered to relevant security agencies including then Rivers State Police Commissioner and the Government of Rivers State. Despite the notification, the soldiers of the 6 Division of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt, Rivers State particularly those from the 29 Battalion and other security agencies including Police SARS operatives were deployed and armed with assault rifles loaded with live bullets.

The drafted soldiers stormed the scenes of the rally and moments after, opened fire on the organizers, leading to the death of about 20 and over 70 injuries. Eyewitnesses said that soldiers took away 10 dead bodies while the rest were picked and taken away by Police SARS and other personnel of the Rivers State Police Command. Among the shot and injured ones, and out of five who were rushed to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, two survived, and three died, and out of the three that died, one was rescued and relocated to another hospital morgue, while the bodies of the remaining two got entrapped in the hospital till date. Of 10 slain Pro Biafra activists and uninvolved others whose bodies were picked and taken away by soldiers in different parts of Port Harcourt, one was picked the drafted soldiers at GRA/Mummy Road, two along Ada George Road by Garrison area and seven around Okporo Road, all in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Port Harcourt Mass Killing Dead Victims: Names of three slain pro Biafra activists recovered and buried by their families were given as (1) Uwakwe Justus Ikechi from Ezinihite-Mbaise LGA of Imo State; buried on February 16, 2017, (2) Ndubueze Johnson Okoli (then 20) from Orumba South LGA, Anambra State; buried on February 3, 2017 and (3) Kingsley Mathew Essien (then 17) from Ikono LGA, Akwa Ibom State; buried on March 3, 2017.

SHOT AND WOUNDED VICTIMS OF THE MILITARY TERROR IN THE EAST: AUGUST 2015-AUGUST 2019:

August 30, 2015 Port Harcourt Victims: Among those shot and critically injured in Rivers by officers and personnel of the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force were Citizens Sunday Udegbe, Nwabunne Udo, Agwasi Anthony, Meshach Emmanuel, Chinwendu Ogbonna, Amanda Onyekachi, Emmanuel Arinze, Okwudiri Ojah, Chibuikwe David, Uzochi Ugwojialili, Chukwuma Igwe, Kingsley Okere, Chinedu Solomon Iwu, Okon Emmanuel Udo, Kelechi Uwaeze, Dominic Uwalaka, Solomon Chikwe, Ikenna Ezekwem, Thomas Ubani, Amarachi Onyemachi and Chukwudi Ofoegbuliwe. It is also recalled that scores of others were killed including those shot and drowned inside swamps

August 30, 2015 Asaba Victims: Those shot and critically wounded in Delta State included: Chinedu Abel, Onovo Michael, Kingsley Anuife, Amechi Ojeh, Ogbonna Kanayo, David Ogbu, Charles Chukwuka, Elochukwu Uzor, Chinedu Chukwuma, and Onyekanna Ifechukwudebelu.

August 30, 2015 Onitsha Victims: Those shot and critically injured on 30th August 2015 in Anambra State included: Sampson Kalu, Chidiebere Nnaji, Onyekwelu Ovute, Felix Ndianaefo, Ikechukwu Okafor, Chimaobi Okafor, Christopher Oforah, Sunday Nwazugbo, Stanley Eze, Mrs. Eucharia and Mrs. Patricia.

August 30, 2015 Enugu Victims: In Enugu State, the following were shot and critically injured: Mr. Godswill Ojikeme, Mrs. Chinyere Godswill Ojikeme, Ogbodo Monday, Jonah Kelechi, Onuigbo Paul and Obiorah Innocent

Nov 9, 2015 Igweocha (Port Harcourt) Protest Victims: Among the wounded were Agwasi Anthony, Meshak Emmanuel, Onyemachi Amarachi (had her leg amputated), Nwabunne Odogwu, Chimaobi Nwoye, Iwu Solomon Chinedu, Kingsley Okere, Paulinus Onyema Uwaga, Uzochi Ugwojialili, Chidiebere Dike, Chinonye Ibe, Simeon Ugbede and Kenechi Nwaeze (shot and injured at his legs and eyes during the Oct 22, 2015 protest in Port Harcourt).

December 2 and 17, 2015 Shot And Wounded Victims In Onitsha: Among those shot and critically injured by soldiers, Police and Navy in Onitsha on December 2 and 17, 2015 included: Citizens Jonah Kelechi, Nwode Friday, Ogoto Monday, Nwankwo Ejike, Onuigbo Paul, Mbonu Izunna, Obiora Innocent, Amadi Chinonso, Chukwu Miracle Daberechi, Alo Amechi, Nwaele Chigozie, Okonkwo Felix, Eneje Emeka, Uchechukwu Kingsley, Igwebuike Chinonso, Onyemaechi Ikeagu, Nwaoba Emeka, Nwajioha Chinonso, Nwaele Chinonso, Ijeoma Chukwu, Nzube Emmanuel, Ifeanyi Uffo, Ephraim Okwudili Uzoabalum, Francis Ikechukwu, Ejike Jideoffor, Makuochukwu Ozobi and Okechukwu Okonkwo.

February 9, 2016 Shot And Wounded Victims At Ngwa High School, Aba: Among innocent and unarmed citizens shot and critically injured in Aba on February 9, 2016 by the Nigerian Army, joined by other security agencies included: Mrs. Charity Ahuruonye (then 40) Abia State; Chibuzor Akabueze (then 29) Imo State, Chukwuemeka Iwuoha Imo State, Chibuzor Chukwu Ebonyi State, Innocent Chinedu Okoro (then 52) Abia State, Obinna Emmanuel Alaribe (then 26) Abia State,

Uchenna Ihuoma (then 28) Imo State, Ekene Uzor (then 29) Anambra State, Sunday Kalu (then 63) Abia State; Mrs. Nnenna Okebe (then 55) Abia State; Mrs. Comfort Kingsley (then 32); Mrs. Ngozi Paul (then 34) Imo State; and Ifiok Alexandra Ibanga Akwa Ibom State.

May 29 And 30, 2016 Shot And Wounded Victims At Nkpor And Onitsha: Some names of the over shot and 80 critical injured citizens at Nkpor and Onitsha Army and Police massacre of May 29 and 30, 2016 included: Obi Nkemakonam (shot at his chest region), Ubani Nwenneakonam, Nwuzo Friday, Ilo Friday, Olisama Chukwuemeka, Awah Sopuruchi, Okoye Chinedu, Ezello Chuka, Onyeduna Ifesinachi, Nnamani Sunday, Chinonso Amadi, Tagbo Chibuzo, Anyanwu Chika, Egbe Johnson, Osukwe Ijeoma, Nkechukwu Ikechukwu, Kenneth Eni, Orjichukwu Chigozie, Solomon Izundu, Ebili Edward, Gabriel Onyedikachi, Ilo Ozoemena, Nwauju Charles, Onuoha Chidozie, Onyemaechi Nwaezeoma, Innocent Obodoekwe, Ifeanyi Azubuike, Adigwe Chukwudi, Ugochukwu Mbam, Obiora Chukwueme, Ugochukwu Samuel, Onuoha Chigozie, Maduka Egwela, John Onuchukwu, Maduabuchi Onwukanjo, Izuchukwu Nwaogba, Nnamdi Okonkwo, Ibekwe Okechukwu, Felix Odianwu, Okafor Moses Madukasi, Chibuike Osuagwu, Johnson Egbe, Ability Ugorji, Ifeanyi Iroh, Agugbara Eleonu, Egwu Joseph, Iteshi Celestine Chukwuka, Igwe Patrick Anayo, Monday Clement Oduu, Nnamdi Immanuel and Alor Ozoemena (shot at his chest region).

Some of the shot and critically wounded victims who ran away from hospitals to their homes through the help of their friends and relatives to escape constant military raids in their hospitals, abductions and disappearances from their intensive care wards included: Chidi Nwigwe, Uchenna Odaa, Ezeaka Ejike, Chima Anamuasonye, and Nwaowe John. Some who were rescued by their friends and relatives and taken to Abia State for safety and adequate treatments included Ifeanyi C. Azubuike (later died) and Ugochukwu Nnamu, and among those rescued and taken to Enugu State for safety was Ifeanyi Ogumma and Arinze Aja.

MAY 30, 2016 SHOT AND WOUNDED VICTIMS AT ASABA:

The following 29 names were among over 50 shot and critically wounded by soldiers and police personnel in Asaba: Ichoku Ndu, Ebere Obidike, Nwabueze Uzonna, Okey Roland, Chukwudi Ifenna, Isaac Uzochukwu, Eberima Aguh, Henry Gideon, Efion Apani, Abuchi Obi, Ozoemena Chukwuma, Lotenna Ifeajuna, Ifebuchi Okenwa, Wisdom Omota, Ejike Abunchukwu, Ozobu Ogbonna, Emeka Madueke, Paschal Gideon, Afam Onyeburu, Izu Onwubiewe, Okey Agubata, Celestine Nnamdi, Obieke Lotenna, Nwabueze Oti, Chijioke Ozoro, Nwadike Chibuzo, Azuka Ifeake, Chioma Nkemjika and Obiora Okonkwo.

JANUARY 20, 2017 SHOT AND WOUNDED VICTIMS AT IGWEOCHA (PORT HARCOURT) PRO TRUMP RALLY:

Names of some over 70 pro Biafra activists and uninvolved others shot and critically injured at pro Trump Rally in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on January 20, 2017 included: Udo Effiong Asukuah, Mrs Ojeanya, Wisdom Ugochukwu Agor, Mrs Sandra Nwachukwu (lost one of her eyes), Tizath Brownson Israel, Gideon Basse, Dr. Chinyere Sunday, Basse Ben, Friday Nsofor, Ibero Ugonma, Samuel Orji, Chikaodinaka Obasi, Magboh Nkeiruka, Okoye Sunday Collins, Uchenna Ajogwu, Stanley Okechukwu, Oforegbu Victoria, Martin Anochirim, Emmanuel Chikwe, Daniel Friday Ukeh, Odinakachi Chinyere Ekeh (then 27), Peter Etim Ebe, Arinze Uju, Uko Herald, Ifeanyi Chukwu Benson, Kingsley Ahamuefula, Ifeanyi Chukwu Okoli (Imo State), Uchenna Ajogu (Enugu State), Ugwuagbo Emmanuel (Enugu State), Emmanuel Ike (Imo State); and Odinakachi Chinyere. The degrees of injuries inflicted ranged from loss of eyes, limbs, fingers, legs to wounding including piercing of chest, brain, heart, armpit, waist, face, buttocks, stomach, intestine, lung, and reproductive regions of their bodies, etc.

REVISITING THE NIGERIAN ARMY PYTHON DANCE II MASSACRE OF SEPT 11-15, 2017 IN ABIA STATE:

The Nigerian Army under then President Muhammadu Buhari as Commander-in-Chief and Retired Lt Gen Turkur Yusuf Buratai as Army Chief of Staff had organized pre-Army Python Dance II Massacre Operation in Abia State which lasted for four days in September 2017 and executed in about four different locations (Ogwe, Aba, Isiala-Ngwa and Afaraukwu-Umuahia) in Abia State during which over 180 unarmed and defenseless citizens, mostly comprised of Igbo citizens in productive age-brackets were openly shot and killed or abducted and secretly killed in military captivity. The massacre also led to hurried designation of IPOB by the Defense Headquarters as "terror group" on September 15, 2017, with intents to cover traces and retrogressively legitimize the massacre under the pretext of "IPOB-Biafra Terrorism"; which aftermath effect remotely contributed, partly, to the December 20, 2020 formation of "the Eastern Security Network (ESN) of IPOB".

The massacre was also perpetrated and hurriedly completed a day before the official commencement of the "Army Python Dance II in the Southeast"; officially flagged off on September 15, 2017, and ended on October 14, 2017. The massacre, perpetrated in quick succession under four days of September 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2017, also snowballed into mass murder, maiming, extrajudicial killings, torture, late night raids, unlawful detention, false labeling, ethnic and religious profiling, class criminalization, hearsay conclusions, sexual harassment and sexual violence including rape, confiscation of properties and property lootings, abductions and enforced disappearances, etc. Having obtained intelligence report on unspeakable casualty figures following the massacre, the Nigerian Defense Headquarters hurriedly designated IPOB as "terror group" on September 15, 2017 in order to cover up and justify the massacre. Two days later on Sunday, September 17, 2017, then President Muhammadu Buhari hurriedly proclaimed IPOB as "a terrorist group" and secured a controversial order *exparte* (devoid of fair hearing) two days after on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, to back up his controversial proclamation.

Found, too, was the fact that dozens of those shot and killed during late night raids in Aba, Asa-Ogwe and Isiala-Ngwa Military Checkpoints were innocent and law-abiding members of the public going about their legitimate businesses through night traveling including those coming into Southeast through Port Harcourt-Enugu Dual Carriage Way and others traveling outside the Region using same route and adjoining others. Scores were also shot and killed or wounded in Aba in broad daylight and in front of their shops or places of work. The Army massacre operation was deliberately concentrated in Abia State and solely targeted at home of IPOB Leader, Nnamdi Kanu and teeming his supporters but disguised as "Army Python Dance II" in the Southeast. In the end, estimated total of more than 180 defenseless civilian deaths and 130 injuries were recorded including 105 deaths in Afara-Ukwu Ibeku (hometown of IPOB Leader, Nnamdi Kanu), 20 deaths at Isiala-Ngwa Military Checkpoint, 55 deaths in Aba and 30 deaths at Asa-Ogwe. Many of those shot and killed at Asa-Ogwe Boundary Military Checkpoint and Isiala-Ngwa Military Checkpoint, from eyewitnesses' accounts, were arrested alive and tagged "pro-Biafra campaigners", taken out of the two Military Checkpoints and bundled to 144 Army Battalion Headquarters at Asa and shot dead at late night.

There were also those shot and killed in broad daylight including six corpses dumped and abandoned at King Jerry's OO Mortuary at Isiala-Ngwa and nearby private morgues. Included in the list were over 30 corpses dumped inside Umu-Ura Village Forest in Ogwe Community near Aba, discovered in August 2018 who must have been arrested alive at Asa-Ogwe Military Checkpoint and secretly bundled at late night to 144 Battalion of Nigerian Army at Asa Community in Ukwu West LGA of Abia State, later blindfolded and taken to the Forest alive and executed in batches at late hours of the night. The Nigerian Army had on September 14, 2017, about 3.26pm stormed the Palace of HRM, Eze Israel Okwu Kanu (as he then was) and its environs in a war-grade manner. The soldiers, according to eyes witnesses, stormed the Palace and its environs with war-grade weapons including assault rifles, armored personnel carriers, machine guns, military truckloads of soldiers and dozens of military Hilux vans, etc.

Moments after storming the area, the soldiers took battle positions and immediately opened fire at the gathered crowd, comprising several hundreds of pro-Biafra activists who were singing and dancing with music instruments used in peaceful democratic assemblies. As the unarmed and defenseless citizens were scampering for safety amid raining of live bullets, some soldiers continued shooting them at close range while others kept picking the dead bodies and critically injured citizens, likewise expended and unexpended bullets for purpose of destruction of material evidence and to avoid being caught in the act. As if that was not enough, the critically shot and injured victims were lumped on top of bodies of dead victims inside military trucks and Hilux vans and driven away. Eight corpses of those who fell inside ditches during the shootings were later recovered by sympathizers and survivors. The Afara-Ukwu Army massacre operation was conducted under three hours which started about 3.26pm and ended around 6pm of September 14, 2017, with over 105 deaths and over 70 injuries recorded.

By the accounts of two survivors and eyewitnesses, the Nigerian Army carried out the massacre operation against unarmed and defenseless citizens of old Eastern Nigeria in Abia State on September 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2017 with different types of war-grade military weapons. The two survivors-eyewitnesses had told the Intersociety that “from the sounds of guns, going by our former military career experiences it clearly shows that the soldiers came with or were armed with AK-47s, AK-49s, special machine guns and 48mm and 25 serial grenades and other lethal military weapons”. “They also stormed the Afara-Ukwu Palace and its surroundings on September 14, 2017, with at least 15 military Hilux vans, 12 military trucks loaded with armed soldiers; another 5 military Hilux vans mounted with machine guns, AA type and at least six Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs)”.

In the Powerline area of Aba in Abia State, pieces of unexpended military bullets were also picked by some survivors/witnesses who survived the late-night military raids of September 12, 13 and 14, 2017. Among those killed in the late-night raids of September 13 and 14, 2017 were Citizens Ugochukwu Nwachukwu from Abo-Mbaise in Imo State and Celestine Aga from Nkanu East in Enugu State. Sixty (60) unarmed citizens including survivors of the massacre and other members of the public were also arrested during and after the massacre and arraigned at Umuahia Magistrate Court on “terrorism charges” and were later reminded at Aba Prison Custody. As it has become the despicable practice of the Nigerian Army since August 2015, approximately 80% of the dead bodies of those shot and killed in Afara-Ukwu, Isiala-Ngwa, Aba and Asa-Ogwe were taken away and dumped or buried in undisclosed locations or graveyards. For instance, days after the Afara-Ukwu massacre, corpses numbering about eight were found inside a bush at a location in Umuahia. The dumped dead bodies were later identified as supporters of IPOB and its leader, Mr. Nnamdi Kanu by their survived colleagues. Further examinations indicated that eight dead bodies had their hands tied behind their back with a meter-length of marine rope; technically suggesting that they were arrested alive and later taken into the bush during late night where they were executed en masse by soldiers of 144 Battalion.

There is also the possibility that they were forced by soldiers to bury their slain colleagues at hours of the blue-law; after which they were tied, shot and killed. The corpses they were possibly forced to bury must have been those picked by soldiers at the scene of the Afara-Ukwu massacre; after which the eight executed citizens were forced while alive to carry them to designated hidden locations inside the bush usually in late hours of the night. They must have been shot dead and dumped by their captor-soldiers inside the bush to cover up their atrocities or erase traces. Some photos of the slain citizens were also taken from morgues where they were deposited. The army torture video taken at Isiala-Ngwa Army Checkpoint was re-studied and one of the corpses of those killed at the scene and dumped by the roadside shown in the video was identified as Ifeanyichukwu (Ifechukwu) Agbayisi, who was shot and killed by soldiers on September 12, 2017 and later dumped and abandoned at King OO Jerry Mortuary, Isiala-Ngwa, from where he was retrieved and buried in his hometown in Anambra State on October 19, 2017.

Fear of military and other security reprisals including late-night raids, arrests, sex violence, torture, and extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances also forced many families of the slain victims to refuse to publicly declare their beloved ones as “missing persons” since August 2015.

Most Nigerians and members of the international community, till date, did not know or have full details of what transpired in Abia State in September 2017 under the so-called "Nigerian Army Python Dance II." Areas of Aba that were affected by soldiers' late night and early morning' raids of September 13 and 14, 2017 included Ariaria, Umuode, Osisioma, Power Line and Abayi areas of the commercial city. Threats of invasion, arrest, detention, torture, extrajudicial killings, sexual violence and enforced disappearances by soldiers and police SARS operatives also forced most families, friends, and associates of the slain victims to keep perpetual sealed lips over their "missing" loved ones. These further forced them into mourning them in enforced silence, shock, frustration, anguish, sorrow and anger. Some of them willing to seek justice including open inquiries over the whereabouts of their loved ones also got such hampered by threats, fears and teething poverty level in the country. The totality of these further led to untimely death of some of them while several others ended up as victims of traumatic disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Many children of the slain victims also dropped out of school and their survived parents relegated to abject poverty, insecurity and other unsafe conditions.

SLAIN VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2017 MILITARY MASSACRE IN ABIA STATE:

They included: (1) Chinedu Uwandu (Imo State), (2) Ogochukwu Joseph Ogbah (Abia State), (3) Henry Ogar Ogoyi (Cross River State), (4) Kelechi Meshach Metu (Imo State), (5) Odika Osime Chukwuma (Anambra State), (6) Onyeka Ujam (Enugu State), (7) Celestine Aga (Enugu State), (8) Joseph Ifeanyi Chukwu Agbayisi (Anambra State), (9) Blessing Adaku Odoemena (Abia State), (10) Imo Emele Uduma Okemini (Abia State), (11) Emmanuel Ugochukwu Nwachukwu (Imo State), (12) Okwudiri Samuel Obika (Imo State), (13) Anayo Anyanwu (Imo State), (14) Udoette Miracle Udofia (Akwa Ibom State) and (15) MaCois Palibor (Bayelsa State), (16) Ogbogu Okoro (Abia State), (17) Chigozie Ikechukwu (Abia State), (18) Ikenna Okorie (Abia State), (19) Adiele Paul (Abia State), (20) Ahamuefuna Austin Nnamdi (Imo State), (21) John Akor (Benue State), (22) Emmanuel Ogbuh (Imo State), (23) Kevin Nnamdi Ikeme (Abia State), (24) Sunday Nnadozie (Imo State), (25) Iteshi Celestine Chukwuka (Ebonyi State), (26) Ndubuisi Arum (Abia State), (27) Sunday David, (28) Chukwudi Mmadu, (29) Levi Okwudiri, (30) Chukwueke Kalu, (31) Paul Chinonso David (earlier abducted and later killed on Sept 7, 2017 at Ubakala Army Checkpoint) and (32) Ebubechukwu Ogbu (arrested with three other IPOB members in Enugu and tortured to death in police detention on Nov 4, 2017).

Names Of The Shot And Wounded Victims: Kingsley Olisakwe, Chinedu Okeke, Nzube Elekwa, Peter Ohiagu, Wisdom Joseph, John Evans, Peter Chukwu Blessing, Chibuisi Obialo, Obinna Nwaobasi, Ginika Basil, Uche Ikechukwu, Odinaka Onyeka, Michael Solomon, Eje Friday, Onwuabuchi Alozie Uwa, Moses Okeke, Isaiah Mmaduabuchi, Anayo John, Favor Ndudunachi, Innocent Odeku and Basil Nwaogu

NAMES OF OVER 60 ARRESTED VICTIMS OF THE SEPT 2017 ABIA MILITARY MASSACRE CHARGED FOR "TERRORISM":

Soldiers and police in Abia State had arrested no fewer than 60 pro-Biafra activists and other members of the public across the State and arraigned them for "terrorism" and other related charges. They were part of those arrested on September 12, 13 and 14, 2017 during the Army massacre operation at Afara-Ukwu, near Umuahia and Isiala-Ngwa and were arraigned on September 18, 2017, before an Umuahia Magistrate Court via Charge Nos 11/670 C/2017 (CP, Abia State vs. Ogbonnaya Orji & Others and 11/676 C/2017 (CP, Abia State vs. Chinonso Kalu & Ors).

Their names and age brackets as of then included: Ogbonnaya Orji (22), Onyike Ogbah (39), Ada Nnude, Chibuike Victor (45), Gabriel Isaiah (46), Eze Chita (46), Eze Monday (20), Samuel Nse (20), Nathaniel Friday (24), Gentle Odudu Dickson (35), Chukwudi Eugene (35), Ejim Monday (23), Emeka Umealor (37), Chidi Eze (40), Paul Uche (23), Victor Okafor (38), James Ogayi (38), Eze Nnanna (35), Godwin Ndukwe (27), Iheohakara Innocent (35), Ozoemena Sunday (24), Chika Okeh, Sunday Isaiah (32) and Kingsley Saturday (20), Chukwuemeka Onyeocha (33), Chukwu Ugonnaya (24), Chinonso Kalu (32), Ede David (35), Benjamin Ozoro (37), Uchenna Onyema (30), Tochukwu Ibeleme (33),

Ndubuisi Lazarus (26), Uche Uka (34), Dandy Nwankwo (45), Tony Williams (47), Zeruwa Kalu (28), Ifeanyi Jeff (36), Ogadinma Iwuanyanwu Ejekwe (30), Prince Ehibe (26), Ogochukwu Obi (35), Livinus Nnanna (33), Prince Chukwuma (42), Samuel Eke (27), Christopher Ejilugwuebo (32) and Osiba Mmaduabuchi (34).

Among those untried and dumped at Aba Prisons (Correctional Center) as of end of October 2019 and possibly till date (2024) included: Victor Okafor, Gabriel Isaiah, Emeka Umelo, Nze Samuel, Onyeike Ogba, Godwin Ndukwe, Emmanuel Christian, Uchenna Onyema, Zeruwa Kalu, David Ede, Ogadinma Ejiekwe; and those in Port Harcourt untried as of end of 2019 and possibly till date (2024) included Chidinma Godwin, Uchenna Innocent Iroh, Ikenna Igwe and Bright Sunday Okoro, Ms. Ada Uche, Chukwudi Eugene, Nzubechukwu Odinanwa and Chukwuemeka Ogbodo held in Enugu Maximum Prison; Sunday Okafor held in Umuahia Prison, Yadiabube Victor, Chisom Nwankwo, Frank Iwuchukwu Igwu, Ifeanyi Nwankwo, Oforbike Ogbonnaya, Nwaogu ThankGod, Udodinma Christian, Sunday Udofia and Ndifreke Achibong then held untried in Port Harcourt Prison since May 23, 2018.

38 DEAD BODIES OF THE SEPT 2017 ARMY PYTHON DANCE 11 MASSACRE DUMPED INSIDE ABIA'S OGWE FOREST:

Defining Criminal Graveyard: This is a crime scene where unarmed or defenseless citizens are shot dead or a place (i.e., bush, forest, swamp, river or cremation spot) where corpses of unarmed and defenseless killed by armed State actors or armed non-State actors are dumped or dismembered through burning and use of acid substances; or buried in shallow graves. Such graveyard is abominable and criminal because due processes are never followed or applied from the circumstances of the victims' death to the disposal of their bodies in such criminal graveyards. Apart from the fact that the victims are killed outside the law, the lawful and rightful processes of their interment including consent, cooperation and presence of their families or relatives, independent medical examinations (i.e. autopsy and coroner's inquest) into their killing are never followed or applied.

A native and resident of Ogwe Community in Ukwa West LGA of Abia, who was then a pro-Biafra activist, had in early August 2018 raised the alarm over his shocking discovery of dozens of decomposed corpses inside the Umu-Ura Village Forest in Ogwe Community. He told his colleagues that his resolve to spy on the forest was because of suspicious movements of soldiers on patrol vans into the forest which was on for past several months. As Okada rider plying the area from Ogwe Junction along Aba-Port Harcourt Federal Road to Ogwe Community including its Umu-Ura Village, about three kilometers from Ogwe Junction; he was used to observing their suspicious movements into the forest including hearing sounds of gunshots in late night in the same direction. Located close to the forest is the Ugwuachi Military Checkpoint, mounted by soldiers of 144 Battalion, located at Asa Community in the same Ukwa West LGA of Abia State. His colleagues further quoted the whistleblower as having seen over 30 decomposed corpses in some ditches within the forest. His fellow pro Biafra activists had after the Army Python Dance 11 of September 2017 in Abia State organized a search party for possible location of dozens of their missing colleagues and uninvolved others and such a search paid off when they saw several corpses going up in flames inside the Forest, manned by the Army and Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen.

The corpses were said to have been set ablaze about three days after the pro-Biafra whistleblower raised the alarm. It was on account of the above that the leadership of IPOB raised a global alarm via its statement of August 14, 2018. Undeterred, another search party comprising five members of the print media and pro Biafra activists was organized to storm the forest on August 10 and 11, 2018, but the pressmen reportedly cited security concerns and withdrew; forcing the pro Biafra activists to storm the forest later same day through Obiawon Village in the Community where they found five other corpses littered in different parts of the forest. It was further discovered that four corpses found in a location in the same forest the previous day by a second eyewitness had gone missing, suggesting strongly that the 144 Battalion Army authorities and Government of Abia State must have organized a field team to ransack the forest, retrieve all the corpses and burn them beyond recognition to erase traces of culpability. The five corpses met on the ground were videoed and pictured.

THE INTERSOCIETY'S FIELDTRIP TO OGWE FOREST:

On Sunday, August 19, 2018, the Intersociety went to the forest on crime scene analysis during which three corpses were seen, which went up in flames after three days of our visit. The first corpse seen was located about eight to ten meters away from two others located four to five meters apart. One of the three corpses was still bearing shackle marks of the victim before he was shot and killed; suggesting strongly that many must have been taken to the forest as slain or dead bodies while the rest including the former must have made it to the forest alive before shot and killed; after they must have been forced to carry their slain colleagues to the forest. Facial and primary evaluation of the discovered corpses by independent medical experts especially their state of decomposition suggested that they must have been shot and killed eleven months ago as of then. Field interviews were also conducted in four different locations: Ogwe Junction, Umu-Ura, Awaza and another village near Umu-Ura Village. Those interviewed including Okada and KEKE riders happened to be regular users of the link road and the forest. They confirmed the frequent patrol and encroachment into the forest by soldiers using Hilux vans especially between the hours of 8 pm, 9 pm, 10 pm, 11 pm and 12 am and 2 am and that sometimes residents are woken by military gunshots inside the forest as late as 2 am and 1 am lasting for 10-13 minutes. The forest is about a kilometer away from the residential area of the Community and very large as well. On the fate of burnt and disappeared corpses, it was linked to the said authorities by some of those interviewed with one of them querying "if we think Government will still allow them to be there after such alarm was raised and reported in the media."

Findings: (1) There is no evidence of intra or inter-communal conflict in the area; either stretching back to Aba and environs or up to Asa (Abia)-Obigbo (Rivers) boundary areas. (2) Ugwuachi Military Checkpoint located inside Ogwe Community is a satellite checkpoint controlled by the Asa main Military Checkpoint located in Asa Community, Ukwa West LGA of the area of Abia State and situated along Aba-Port Harcourt Federal Road in the same Abia State. (3) There is 144 Battalion of the Nigerian Army located in Asa Community, Ukwa West LGA of Abia State: a community sharing boundary with Obigbo in Rivers State. (4) The 144 Battalion is a unit of 14 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Ohafia, in Abia State, commanded as of September 2017 by Lt Col Umar Sidi Kassim (Commanding Officer). (5) The 14 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, located in Ohafia was then under the command of Brig Gen Khalifa Ibrahim (Brigade Commander). (6) The ethnoreligious or Fulani-Hausa Muslim identities of the heads of the two military formations in such part of Igbo Land are clear evidence of perpetration of hate killings or ethnic cleansing targeted at unarmed and defenseless Igbo citizens. (7) From Asa Community where 144 Battalion is located to Ogwe Community is about four to five kilometers and from Ogwe Junction by Aba-Port Harcourt Federal Road to Umu-Ura Village Forest where the corpses were dumped is about 1.2 kilometers. (8) There is a designated settlement in the same vast Community Forest for Fulani Herdsmen which is about 1.5 kilometers from the crime scene within the Forest.

(9) There is steady heavy military presence and patrol for protection of the Herdsmen which must have prompted the setting up of Ugwuachi satellite Military Checkpoint inside Ogwe Community. (10) The military policing architecture of the Area especially the Forest must have made it possible to serve as another criminal graveyard of the Nigerian Army where bodies of the murdered Igbo citizens are dumped at late night or those arrested alive taken to and killed. (11) The over 30 burnt corpses and others found inside the Ogwe Forest are most likely those that went missing during the Army Python Dance 11 in Abia State. (12) The bulk of them must have been those arrested at Asa main Military Checkpoint under stop and search especially those coming from Rivers and Akwa Ibom and traveling to the Umuahia residence of Mr. Nnamdi Kanu of the Biafra Indigenous People on September 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2017 or other parts of Igbo Land. (13) Others must have been those arrested alive or shot dead by soldiers in Aba and environs during the Army Python Dance 11. (14) There are most likely other undetected or undiscovered criminal graveyards scattered in other forests and bushes located between Aba and Asa areas, Aba and Isiala-ngwa areas and Isiala-ngwa and Umuahia areas. (15) One of the un-revealed motives behind "Army Python Dance" in Igbo Land is most likely to be for purpose of designating and securing forest locations for settlement and permanent occupation by the Fulani Herdsmen and their patrons.

(16) Authorities of the Nigerian Army under Lt Gen Tukur Buratai (COAS) as of then were undeniably responsible for all located and yet-to-be located criminal graveyards in Igbo Land and their associated atrocities. (17) The discovery of the corpses and hasty efforts of the suspected authorities of the Nigerian Army and the Government of Abia State, as of then, to destroy evidence was not only the first or the last of such discoveries but also a clear vindication of the Intersociety which had in its several reports on Army Python Dance 11 informed the global community that corpses of most of the slain victims were taken away by soldiers and either decimated with acid substances or dumped/buried in shallow graves inside bushes or forests; or thrown off bridges into the river to erase traces of culpability.

AUGUST 2018 VIOLENT CRACKDOWN ON 127 IGBO WOMEN UNDER THE PRETEXT OF "BIAFRA TERRORISM":

A total of 127 Igbo mothers were on August 17, 2018, attacked and arrested by the Nigeria Police Force in Imo State, South-East Nigeria. Their arrest was ordered by the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters in Abuja and executed by the Imo State Police Command then headed by Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Dasuki Galandanchi. Among the wounded are Nkechi John and Ibekwe Jacinta. The arrest and detention of the 127 Igbo mothers also had the backing of the Presidency, then headed by Retired Major Gen Muhammadu Buhari and deputized by Prof Yemi Osinbajo. The Nigerian Presidency had put in place a lethal policy directive against street protests and religious processions in Nigeria particularly those in connection with nonviolent self-determination organized by the likes of IPOB and Islamic Movement in Nigeria (Shiites). Over 80 of the arrested and detained mothers were then between 22 and 45 years of age and the remaining 47 others between 50 and 64 years of age. Most of them were also married with some being grandmothers. The 127 unarmed and defenseless Igbo women were arrested while on peaceful street protest in the streets of Owerri in Imo State over some critical issues eating up the country and the South-East Region; one of which was the continued massacre of Igbo sons and daughters by Nigerian security forces and military siege or occupation of Igbo Land and Islamization of security forces formations and headships in the South-East. The arrested and detained 127 women had also demanded the whereabouts of Mr. Nnamdi Kanu and his royal parents (Eze Israel Okwu Kanu and Lolo Ugoeze Nnene Kanu), who escaped during the military invasion of their Palace on September 14, 2017. Mr. Nnamdi Kanu later surfaced in Jerusalem, Israel on Friday, 19th October 2018 after he was last sighted in his hometown on 10th September 2017.

The Nigeria Police Force, Imo State Command brutally responded to the 127 mothers' street protest by clamping down on them on August 17, 2017, arresting and detaining them for three days in the crowded detention facilities of the State CID, Owerri, Imo State. Out of the 127 arrested and detained Igbo mothers, 112 were later arraigned at the Owerri Chief Magistrate Court on 10-count charges of "terrorism" and other felonies in charge number: **OW/430/2018: CP Imo State v Ijeoma Okorie (30yrs) & 111 others**; and thereafter remanded in the Owerri Prison custody under inhuman and other degrading prison conditions. The remaining 15 were separately arraigned on August 22, 2018, before the said Owerri Magistrate Court on the same phantom charges of "terrorism" and others.

The public uproar and outcries including wide condemnations from the Intersociety and others and sustained media campaigns forced the Office of the Attorney General of Imo State to enter an application for discontinuation of their trial or "nolle prosequi", leading to their discharge and acquittal from court and unconditional release from prison on August 24, 2018.

Their Names And Ages As Of Then:

Afoma Umoh Wisdom (64), Virginia Akwufube (62), Ezike Emmanuela (62), Uzoma Oraka (62), Charity Obioha (60), Chinyere Nwachukwu (55), Udeogu Margret (58), Ratchel Okengwu (58), Angelina Felix (55), Monica Anaelechi (54), Esther Osuji (52), Florence Olewembu (52), Nkechi Ekwedisika (52), Kosarachukwu Udegbonam (51), Josephine Ogolo (51), Monica Nwaeleke (50), Mabel Okoire (50), Chika Njoku (50), Grace Nkemakolam (50), Paulina Awunezi (50), Christiana Muonwuba (50), Margret Eze (50), Florence Egede (50), Rose Osuchukwu (50), Comfort Uti (50),

Nnedinma Onuoha (49), Agatha Nwachukwu (49), Ijeoma Okorie (30), Uloma Ejiogu (30), Victoria Jacob (45), Vivian Ozuruigbo (30), Chinenye Imo (40), Chinyere Egbulom (38), Cynthia Onyebuchi (31), Chigbata Chinyere (38), Egesi Josephine (41), Hope Eze (45), Ikejiofor Amechi (44), Nkeiru Ajagba (45), Ngozi James (46), Nnene Nweke (46), Lucy Mary Kanu (21), Irole Goodness (30), Ogechi Okechukwu (30), Tochukwu Eze (38), Onyemaechi Ijezie (38), Ginika Awuzie (39), Vero Nnamani (30), Nkwoagu Chinenye (22), Ijeoma Victoria Nnadozie (43), Blessing Udeme (25), Nnewuchi Obiageli (31), Ngozi Onyenwugo (22), Ruth Onwumere (45), Nkeiruka Ohanebo (45), Nzube Uwaigwe (22), Eberechi Iheanacho (39), Ego Nwafor (40), Chinyere Eze (32).

Adaku Inyama (45), Ndidi Uchenna (45), Nneka Kingsley (38), Nkeiru Nwankwo (37), Chinwendu David (38), Juliet Nwaiwu (42), Juliet Innocent Onwuka (40), Chinyere Nwankwo (25), Nkeiru Orji (34), Joy Uwabunike (47), Nnene Ibeneli (38), Jane Isaac (25), Kelechi Emmanuel (40), Ngozi Nwajaku (34), Ugochi Okwum (32), Ifeoma Emmanuel (42), Nkeiru Onyegbari (35), Eucharika Eke (42), Ijeoma Onyedinefu (33), Blessing Nnedede (26), Iheanyichukwu Ogueri (35), Ogochukwu Alaribe (35), Uchechukwu Okoro (48), Iheomachi Ejiaku (40), Uchchukwu Ahamuefula (32), Evelyn Usulo (38), Joy Chimezie (45), Precious Ogbonna (40), Obiageli Nwite (48), Ginika Ndibe (20), Chinelo Ugwueze (38), Nwachukwu Blessing (22), Rita Edet (29), Nnenna Okorie (36), Chinyere Eze (43), Iwuneme Bibian (45), Onuoha Ogechi (no age), Peculiar Nwachukwu (28), Felicia Ike (42), Obiageli Obumsolu (39), Ugonne Godwin (45), Kalunwoke Ekemiri (28), Nwauwa Cecelia (44), Igboka Ngozi, Angela Okeke, Blessing Aguama, Oguchim Chinedu and Mary Okorie. Names of three young women including a sick patient and a pregnant woman who collapsed in the presence of Magistrate S.K. Durumba during their arraignment are not included in the above.

15 OTHERS ARRAIGNED, DISCHARGED AND ACQUITTED ON AUGUST 23, 2018 AND THEIR AGES AS OF THEN:

Chinyere Ubani (35), (2) Precious Anyanwu (45), (3) Nwakaego John (43), (4) Nwadike Chinyere (29), (5) Chika Uruagwu (38), (6) Florence Ifeanyi (25), (7) Cynthia Okoroagwu (40), (8) Chinedu Chibuzo (25), (9) Paulina Iroanya (38), (10) Josephine Ntizi (45), (11) Blessing Nwelele (45), (12) Chinyere Achonna (48), (13) Nneka Okoro (38), (14) Margret Eze (36) and (15) Ijeoma Nwafor (43).

140 Igbo Mourners Seized At Army Roadblock In 2019 In Enugu And Labeled “IPOB/Biafra Terrorists”:

The 140 Mourners in convoy of different commercial and private vehicles were barricaded on their way to a funeral at a military roadblock in Nsukka area of Enugu State, arrested and brutalized including frog-jumping and beatings and later dumped by soldiers at the State CID in Enugu from where 130 of them were mentioned and arraigned on May 23, 2019, at the Enugu State Magistrate Court for “terrorism” and “treason”. Their arraignment was contained Magistrate Court Arraignment Number: CME/3059/2019(CP, Enugu v. Nnanna Okonkwo 'M' (36) and 139 Others). They were subsequently remanded in Enugu Prisons. Owing to public outcries and condemnations, they were later granted bail.

Their names and ages as of then included: 1. Nnanna Okonkwo (36), 2. Kenneth Azubuike (25), 3. Mmalì Chukwuani (25), 4. Isu Ejali (20), 5. Nwankwor Sunday (27), 6. Chukwudi Peter (27), 7. Ani Emmanuel (28), 8. Chijioke Ithemehi (25), 9. Edeh John (45), 10. Nwinya Ndubuisi (25), 11. Ugwu Ugochukwu (31), 12. Chukwu Edward (42), 13. Uzochukwu Obi (27), 14. Ifeanyi Simon (31), 15. Chukwudi Ugwu (27), 16. Chijindu Ezekwueme (47), 17. Ogbonna Anthony (45), 18. Chinedu Ugochukwu (30), 19. Onweri Sunday (27), 20. Udeh Abraham (17), 21. Onyeka Okoro (30), 22. Nweke Tuesday (27), 23. Sunday Nwafor (adult), 24. Uzochukwu Aneke (30), 25. Eche Ikechukwu (27), 26. Ozoemena Ogbu (54), 27. Eyiuche Chinemerum (22), 28. Agbo Chijioke (28), 29. Ahuji Nومه (41), 30. Okoro Chimezie (26), 31. Nwankwo Chukwuemeka (26), 32. Ikechukwu Igwe (27), 33. Humphrey Onweh (27), 34. Emeka Igwe (26), 35. Chikwendu Ogbodo (36), 36. Nwafor Friday (33), 37. Chinedu Okonkwo (24), 38. Okoro Chukwuebuka (18), 39. Iluga Joshua (28) and 40. Daniel Agbor (45), 41. Emeka Offorbuisi (27), 42. Nwani Chukwuebuka (32), 43. John Edeh (adult), 44. Orunna Okechukwu (28), 45. Ezech Uchenna (40), 46. Egwuatu Chimezie (26), 47. Nebechi Chimezie (24), 48. Collinus Chukwu (29), 49. Amegu Nnaemeka (25), 50. Onyekachi Onyia (32), 51. Precious Ogiyi (58).

52.Udeh Sunday (26), 53.Okorie Uche (34), 54. Okeke Chukwuebuka (25), 55.Umeh Afamefuna (24), 56.Sunday Chukwu (39), 57.Chimamanda Amechi (33), 58.Ekwumba Clement (38), 59.Iganga Sunday (34), 60.Ezeh Godwin (30).

61.Nwankwo Sunday (39), 62.Uchenna Ugwu (44), 63. Nnaji Afam (42), 64.Benjamin Chukwu (38), 65.Edufu Ifeanyi (20),66.Ugwuoke Simon (64), 67.Anthony Usulor (50), 68.Ikechukwu Aguh (35), 69.John Ezeh (40), 70.Omezi Sopuruchim (37), 71.Gabriel Akabueze (61), 72.Sunday Akam (28), 73.Aguh Okwudilichukwu (42), 74. Okonkwo Frankln (34), 75.Ocho Chijoke (43), 76.Ibeh Ifeanyi (35), 77.Nworie Onuabuchi (24), 78.Idima Onyedikachi (35), 79.Onovo Chukwuneme (21) and 80.Ogbonnaya Okereke (32), 81.Okorie Odunakachukwu (27), 82.Emeka Oguenyi (38), 83.Okechukwu Ogbonna (40), 84.Egwuatu Kizito (26), 85.Emmanuel Edeh (49), 86.Ifeanyi Okeke (39), 87.Nnaji Chiemerie (38), 88.Cheta Chibuzo (19), 89.Okwudiri Odoh (33), 90.Mirah Eneje (female-55), 91.John Okoro (44), 92.Okwudiri Nwatu (44), 93.Ejike Nnamani (25), 94.Ani Joseph Sunday (38), 95.Eze Emmanuel (30), 96. Ozoemena Ani (adult), 97.Ayogu Emeka (32), 98.Okonkwo Nonso (24), 99.Igwesi Chukwuemeka (37), 100.Emeka Ujam (40), 101.Odinaka Ani (25), 102.Nmaduodi Okorie (30), 103.Ikechukwu Nweke (34), 104.Oge Simon (32), 105. Chinyere Edeh (female-31), 106.Ndu Okwudiri (48), 107.Chima Aguh (23), 108.Akachukwu Daniel (33), 109.Chisom Ogadinma (29), 110.Chidi Nsiegbe (30),

111.Ottah John (36), 112.Ikechukwu Emeka (27), 113.Sunday Nworah (25), 114.Eze Ikenna (31), 115. Francis Nwaigwe (29), 116.Chukwuebuka Okafor (30), 117.Chidi Nwunah (35), 118.Eze Emeka (23), 119.Ogbuagu Okechukwu (33) and 120.Ani Ike Henry (28), 121.Okoro Everistus (52), 122.Idoko Felix (30), 123.Okoye James (43), 124.Ugwuanyi Nnaemeka (27), 125.Paul Etako (40), 126.Ogbonna Chinedu (27), 127.Aniago Ogbonna (42), 128.Augustine Oguamalam (28), 129.Ifeoma Umeh (female-31), 130.Ogechi Abiara (female-15), 131.Nkiruka Nnajinwaogbu (female-44), 132.Light Nwachukwu (female-55), 133.Offor Adaeze (female-25), 134.Igwebuike Nnenna (female-55), 135.Onyinye Nnamani (female-37),136. Bassey Okon (33), 137.Sunday Oreka (25), 138.Anthony Amuchi (52), 139.Eneh Ifeanyi (52) and 140.Ofonume Sunday (30).

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Abandonment Of Good Governance Model Remotely Fueling Military Terror In The East



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men (human beings) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men (members of the Human Family), deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness”.

The above was the foundation upon which the American democracy and civil liberty was founded and has remained a model for modern democratic governance across the world particularly in African countries of Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Liberia and majority of EU countries and those of the North and the South American Continents. Though, the Chapter Two of the Nigeria's 1999 Constitution was worded and modelled after the US Independence Declaration of 1776 and the current Constitution of the United States, but the Chapter Two's provisions have been observed in gross breach and abuses.

Limited Government Founded On 'Social Contract': The "Concept of Social Contract" was developed to avoid the modern societies relapsing into "the State of Nature" "where every person has a natural right to do anything one thinks necessary for preserving one's own life"; thereby making life "miserable, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short". The above was according to Prof Thomas Hobbes (April 5, 1588-Dec 4, 1679), a 17th Century English Philosopher, in his Leviathan (Chapters XIII XIII XIV: published in 1651) and his earlier work, "De Cive" (1642, 1647). Hobbes further described this natural condition in the State of Nature with the Latin phrase (bellum omnium contra omnes) meaning "war of all against all". He developed the way out of the state of nature into political society and government by way of mutual contracts or "Social Contracts". Prof Thomas Hobbes' "Social Contract" work later inspired and influenced the United States and the French Revolutions of 1776 (USA) and 1789-1794 (France).

Through the combined efforts of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Franklin Benjamin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston, the famous United States Independence Speech, drawn from the works of the likes of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, was written and delivered on July 4, 1776. Prof Thomas Hobbes "Social Contract" connotes sacred and inviolable agreement between the Governed and the Governors, which fundamentally contains "the Dos and the Don'ts" and the "Social Contract Obligations" of the elected and the appointed public office holders exercising executive, legislative and judicial functions. It must be reminded that Section 13 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution clearly provides: "it shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers or duties, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter (Two) of this Constitution." Section 14 (2) of the 1999 Constitution (under Chapter Two) also provides: "it is hereby declared that sovereignty belongs to the People of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority".

SOCIAL CONTRACT'S PRICELESS SERVICES REQUIRED OF STATE, CITIZENS AND SOCIAL ENTITIES

Principles of 'Social Contract Obligations and Services to Humanity' are divided into "State Social Responsibilities" and "Citizens' Services to Humanity or Society". Priceless duties or responsibilities of those in charge of the State to the Governed are called "Social Contract Obligations", which are devoid of any permissible derogation.

On the other hand, "Citizens' Services to Humanity or Society are further divided into Five including: those in Social Enterprises Entities (example, Churches and other charity entities), called "Community and Humanitarian Services"; those in Legal Profession (example, Lawyers), called "Pro Bono Services"; those in other Professions (.i.e. Researchers and Academicians), called "Donation of In-Kind Resources"; those in charge of Companies and Allied Others, called "Corporate Social Responsibilities"; and others involving Individual/Group-Citizens (example, private-citizens, human rights and pro-democracy activists and their organizations), called "Services to Humanity or Society".

For those in Government exercising Judicial, Legislative and Executive Powers, their 'Social Contract' obligations include ensuring steady availability of commonwealth and common good; equal access to public resources and public facilities; safe and secured environment; ensuring equality before the law including periodic civil and criminal justice reforms and human rights and rule of law-compliant legislations and judicial pronouncements; provision of security and safety of lives and properties; ensuring popular participation in political and electoral processes; provision of public mobility such as roads, water and air transports; access to good public healthcare, safe water, food and shelter; and public accountability and morality.

The honoring or strict adherence to all the above by Government is strategically called "subsidization of human and societal needs provisions". This is because through the humane dispensation of public funds, such needs are quantitatively and qualitatively provided at subsidized rates or costs. Citizens' equal access to them is also ensured and made possible through their procurement or provision using public funds and experts trained using public funds or trade, investment and services exchanges between two countries or among countries. In the above, dearth or paucity of public funds is never a permissible excuse for the Government in place as such needs can still be provided using "direct labor and direct expertise". A typical example of the use of 'direct labor' for purpose of providing critical public human needs was the construction of the China's "Great Hall of the People" (presently world's largest parliamentary building); started in Sept 1957 and completed in July 1959 ahead of the country's Revolutionary Tenth Anniversary in Sept 1959; involving the deployment and use of 7,785 workers including architectural and civil engineering experts.

For those in legal and other professions and private-citizens and group-citizens, theirs are such contributions made from their 'expert-knowledge' and donated free of charge or at subsidized costs for the good of the Humanity and the Society. For those in social enterprises, theirs are such contributions made to assist the needy in the Society or for the development of the Humanity and the Society for purposes of ensuring societal good including peace and orderliness. For Companies and Multinational Companies, theirs are primarily to ensure safe and protected environment including positive environmental impartment and general good of the Humanity and the Society.

...A CRITICAL LOOK AT UNDP'S 'HUMAN SECURITY' DIMENSION TO GOOD GOVERNANCE OF 1994

To ensure 'democracy, good and accountable governance, human rights, rule of law and citizens' security and safety-ruled society in accordance with the United Nations' formative Purposes of International Peace and Security, Human Rights, Rule of Law and Development; the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 1994 put in place a 'Good Governance Handbook' for all developing countries at various stages of democratic dispensation as a guide towards ensuring freedom from want, hunger, disease and threat of the same; unemployment, under-development, crime, social conflict, political repression, bad governance, 'structural, physical and cultural violence'; corruption and abuse of power; leadership failure, environmental hazards and absence of basic necessities of life. The UNDP's Good Governance Handbook of 1994 is called "Human Security Development"; to be used by the elected public office holders and appointed public departments' administrators; particularly those exercising executive and legislative duties at National, State, Regional, Province, County and Local Government levels. The UNDP's Handbook is called "New Dimensions of Human Security".

The 'Human Security' is defined by the UNDP as follows: "The concept of security has for too long been interpreted narrowly; as security of the territory from external aggression, or as protection of national interests in foreign policy or as global security from the threat of a nuclear holocaust. It has been related more to nation-state than people.... forgotten were the legitimate concerns of ordinary people.... for many of them, security symbolized protection from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflict, political repression and environmental hazards".

UNDP Human Development Program; 1994: 22. According to the South African Department of Defense; 1996: "Security is an all-encompassing condition in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace and safety; to participate fully in the process of governance; enjoy the protection of the fundamental human rights; have access to resources and the basic necessities of life; and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being". **Source: South African Department of Defense 1996.**

There are essentially seven dimensions associated 'Human Security'. These are **economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security**. Some of the criteria associated with economic security include insured basic income and employment, and access to such social safety net. Food security is simply access to basic nutrition and food supply. Health security covers many different issues such as access to safe water, living in a safe environment, access to health services, access to safe and affordable family planning and basic support during pregnancy and delivery, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and basic knowledge to live a healthy life. Environmental security covers such issues as prevention of water and air pollutions, prevention from deforestation, irrigated land conservation, prevention of natural hazards such as droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes etc.

Community security on the other hand covers conservation of traditions and cultures, languages and commonly held values including religious freedoms, abolishment of ethnic discrimination, prevention of ethnic conflicts, and protection of indigenous people. Political security is concerned with protection of human rights and well-being of all people; protection against people from state repression such as freedom of press, freedom of speech, and freedom of voting; abolishment of political detention, imprisonment, systematic ill treatment, and disappearances. Personal Security aims to protect people or persons from physical violence, whether from the State or external States, from violent individuals and sub-state actors, from domestic abuse, or from predatory adults. Four major sources of personal insecurity are crimes, government repression, disease and hunger.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX



- **About The Intersociety**
- **Authors' Profiles**
- **Acknowledgments**
- **Contacts**

ABOUT THE INTERSOCIETY

The International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of (InterSociety), Corporate Author of this Special International Report, was founded by Emeka Umeagbalasi and launched in July 2008. The launch of the Intersociety followed its successful registration at the Part C of Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission in April 2008. Since then, the Intersociety has become a leading Democracy, Rule of Law, Fundamental Human Rights and Citizens' Security and Safety Advocacy Voice in Nigeria and beyond. The Intersociety was brought into existence through inspirations and field advocacy experiences gathered by its Founder (Emeka Umeagbalasi) when he variously held sway as a top-notch grassroots Human Rights and Democracy Campaigner. Emeka Umeagbalasi who founded the Intersociety was inspired by the success stories of Amnesty International (UK), founded by Peter Benenson and his colleague in March 1961; Human Rights Watch (USA), founded in 1978 as "Helsinki Watch" by Robert L. Bernstein and two others; and Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), Nigeria's premier Human Rights and Pro-Democracy Group, founded in 1987 by Olisa Agbakoba, SAN, and others.

The Intersociety, since formation, has uncompromisingly campaigned for promotion, respect and advancement of Human Rights, Rule of Law, Democracy and Citizens' Security and Safety in Nigeria or any part thereof. Our Human Rights advocacy jurisdiction also covers international borders or boundaries including stateless enclaves under UN System populated by at least 4.4m as at end of 2022 (UN Higher Commissioner for Refugees: 2023). Our Four Thematic Areas are: **Democracy, Good and Accountable Governance; Fundamental Human Rights (civil liberties) and other UN recognized Human Rights; Rule of Law including periodic Judicial and Electoral justice and process reforms; and Citizens' Security and Safety including Policing the Police and holding perpetrators accountable.** The Intersociety is governed by an assemblage of powerful and mutually bonded group of experts drawn from key university disciplines including law, criminology, security studies, peace studies and conflict resolution; mass communications, etc., who freely, pricelessly, and willingly put together their respective expertise ("donated in-kind resources") for purpose of ensuring democracy, rule of law, human rights and citizens' security and safety-ruled society. We are 'multiple merit awards' winners and recipients of several local and international 'Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Democracy Education Certificates', etc.

Our Vision

Our Human Rights and Democracy Campaign envisions a world where all people: women, children, men, the elderly and the vulnerable are free to enjoy all their human rights equally as enshrined in the 1948's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and codified statutes of the UN Member-States under popular and credible democratic and rule of law setting as a driving force for realizing their full potentials and living in peace and dignity including protection of life, property, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our Mission

Our mission is to support, protect, promote, and advance democracy, rule of law and human rights; expose perpetrators of heinous crimes (state actors and non-state actors) and bring them to accountability; and seek compensations for their victims.

These we vigorously pursue by supporting and conscientizing individuals, organizations, and nations through research, investigation, documentation, publication, and campaign to realize their civil, political, economic, social, democratic, environmental, and cultural rights and responsibilities as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, a growing body of public international law and codified statutes of the UN Member-States.

Our Four Thematic Areas

- * Democracy, Good and Accountable Governance
- * Fundamental Human Rights (civil liberties) and other UN recognized Human Rights
- * Rule of Law including periodic Judicial and Electoral justice and process reforms
- * Citizens' Security and Safety including Policing the Police and holding perpetrators accountable

Author-In-Chief

Emeka Umeagbalasi (Criminologist), BSc., CSS, M.Sc., PCR

- Emeka Umeagbalasi, Author-in-Chief of this Special International Report, is an Ezinifite-Aguata, Anambra State of Nigeria's born astute, dogged, and consistent Human Rights and Democracy Campaigner since 1994 when he joined the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), Nigeria's premier Human Rights and Pro-Democracy advocacy organization, formed in 1987 and had held several elective positions at the State and Zonal Levels of the Organization. He also became a volunteer-member of Amnesty International (Nigeria) in 1995 and later served as its Group Coordinator of Onitsha Pre-Group. From 1996 to 1998, Umeagbalasi was an international Associate Member of Human Rights Watch (USA). Born in Feb 1969 and married; Emeka Umeagbalasi is a Criminologist and Graduate of Security Studies with a Second-Class Upper Division from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) where he also obtained a master's degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.

Emeka Umeagbalasi has held various positions in different Human Rights and Pro-Democracy movements and belongs to several local and international NGOs and bodies of experts from where he gathered experiences, expertise, courage, inspirations, and aspiration to form the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (InterSociety) in 2008. He has written, authored and co-authored several reports and articles bordering on human rights abuses and violations, security sector corruption, religious intolerance and persecution, rule of law, terrorism and security and safety and has secured the release of thousands of victims of arbitrary arrest and detention and saved thousands of others from being falsely labeled and needing to be arrested, incarcerated, extrajudicially killed, tortured and bodily lacerated. The Intersociety Leader (Umeagbalasi) is a multiple 'merit awards' winner' with over twenty merit awards and recognitions in Nigeria and has obtained several Human Rights and Democracy Education Certificates, including but not limited to: "a Certificate of Participation" in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the United States Department of State (DoS)'s Educational and Cultural Affairs on "NGO Management in the U.S." (Class of June 10-28, 2013).

Co-Authors:

Chidinma Evangeline Udegbonam, Esquire

- Chidinma Evangeline Udegbonam, Esquire, a Co-Author of this Special International Report, is an Abonkwu, Uwani-Amokwe-Udi (LGA) of Enugu State-born Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. She studied Law at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (Kaduna State) where she obtained her LLB and later BL from the Nigerian Law School and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2016. She held positions in several Human Rights advocacy groups before joining the Intersociety in 2017 as an 'Expert-Volunteer'. Barrister Chidinma Udegbonam is a top-notch Human Rights Lawyer and Defender of the Oppressed and Advocate of Rule of Law. She has offered several 'services pro bono publico' or public-interest and citizen-interest voluntary professional services including defending hundreds of 'Awaiting-Trial' inmates and police custodial detainees both in Nigeria or any part thereof and outside Nigeria, who were wrongly accused and dumped to languish in prison and police custodies without proper trial. Human Rights Lawyer Chidinma Udegbonam is presently heading the Intersociety's Campaign and Publicity Department in addition to being the Acting Deputy Leader of the Organization.

She has also earned a name and respect as Advocate of the Oppressed, the Endangered, the Slain, the Tortured, the Falsely Accused, the Disappeared and the Domestically Sexually Abused.

Chinwe Umeche, Esquire

- Chinwe Umeche, Esquire, a Co-Author of this Special International Report, is an Amichi, Nnewi-South of Anambra State-born Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, having studied Law (UNIZIK) and obtained her LLB and later BL from the Nigerian Law School and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2012. She is presently Head of Chambers and Managing Partner of I.C. Ejiofor and Co., a Firm of Legal Practitioners and Notaries Public, with offices at FCT (Abuja) and Nnewi, Anambra State. Barrister Chinwe Umeche is a Human Rights Lawyer who has offered several 'services pro bono publico' or public/citizen-interest voluntary professional services including defending thousands of unarmed citizens wrongly and maliciously accused or framed by the State. Barrister Chinwe Umeche belongs to the generation of democracy activists and campaigners that made it possible for a popular and accountable governance to be enthroned in Anambra State particularly between 2006 and 2014 and has consistently, in conjunction with other fearless voices, risen in strong defense of Human and Peoples Rights and Democracy in Nigeria and beyond. She joined the Intersociety in 2014 and presently heads its Democracy and Good Governance Program. Human Rights Lawyer Chinwe Umeche has also earned a name and respect as Advocate of the Oppressed, the Endangered, the Slain, the Tortured, the Falsely Accused, the Disappeared and the Domestically Sexually Abused.

Obianuju Igboeli, Esquire

- Obianuju Joy Igboeli, Esquire, a Co-Author of this Special International Report, is an Ihiala of Anambra State-born Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. She studied Law at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (Anambra State) where she obtained her LLB and later BL from the Nigerian Law School and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2013. Lawyer Igboeli is representing the "Physically Challenged Persons" suffering Government neglect and general rejection-upon which she was brought into the "Expert-Volunteer Corp" of the Intersociety in 2014. She is also a dogged Human Rights Lawyer and Defender of the Oppressed and Advocate of Rule of Law who has offered several 'services pro bono publico' or public-interest and citizen-interest voluntary professional services including defending several 'Awaiting-Trial' inmates and police custodial detainees wrongly accused and dumped to languish in prison and police custodies without proper trial. Human Rights Lawyer Joy Igboeli is the present Head of the Intersociety's Fundamental Human Rights (civil liberties) and Rule of Law Program, a strategic advocacy position she has held since 2014.

Ndidiamaka Catherine Bernard, Esquire

- Ndidiamaka Catherine Bernard, Esquire, a Co-Author of this Special International Report, is an Ekwulobia-Aguata of Anambra State-born Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. She studied Law at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Enugu State) where she obtained her LLB and later BL from the Nigerian Law School and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2015. Barrister Ndidiamaka Bernard is also a master's degree holder in Cyber Law (LLM Cyberlaw: Jan 2024) from the University of Lagos. She was brought into the Intersociety as an "Expert-Volunteer" in 2016 and since then has remained a dogged Human Rights Lawyer and Defender of the Oppressed and Advocate of Rule of Law. Human Rights Lawyer Ndidiamaka Catherine Bernard is the present Head of the Intersociety's International Human Rights and Law Program, a strategic advocacy position she has held since 2016.

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HOLDEN AT ENUGU

AFFIDAVIT OF FACTS

I, **Nze-na-Ozo Chukwuemeka Umeagbalasi**, 55, Male, Christian, Married, University-trained Criminologist and Graduate of Security Studies, Human Rights and Rule of Law Advocate and Nigerian Citizen of Igbo-South-East extraction and a Resident of 41 Miss Elems Street, Fegge, Onitsha, Anambra State, South-East Nigeria, do solemnly and sincerely depose as follows:

1. That I am the Lead-Researcher of International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), Nigeria's leading research and investigative human rights, rule of law and citizens security and safety advocacy Organization since 2008.

2. That International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety) was formed by me and a couple of activist friends in April 2008 and incorporated and issued with the Corporate Affairs Commission(CAC) Certificate in July 2008 with Registration Number 27239.

3. That Intersociety which I headed is of international standing, voicing and respectability

4. That I, Nze-na-Ozo Emeka Umeagbalasi (Umeagbalasi II) is of international respectability with uncompromising integrity and professional background grounded in research and investigation, and intelligence and facts gathering since 2015.

5. That the foregoing follows my expert background as a university-trained

Criminologist and Graduate of Security Studies with a Post-Graduate expertise in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution and over 29 years of grassroots experience in human rights, rule of law, democracy and security and safety activism and as a member of several local and international organizations and coalitions working on them since 1995 till date.

5. That by virtue of the foregoing, I am very conversant with the facts and circumstances regarding the subject matter warranting deposing this affidavit of facts.

7. That by the foregoing I am the deponent therein.

8. That as Intersociety's Lead-Researcher, I, joined by a team of lawyers, journalists and field researcher assistants, recently carried out a detailed research and investigation into the state of insecurity and other unsafe conditions troubling Eastern Nigeria-comprising South-East and South-South, covering August 30, 2015, to December 2024.

9. That the research and investigation had critically looked at various dastardly and unlawful roles played and still being played by the drafted security forces, their establishments and high commands, bearing in mind the availability of the local and international laws and safeguards put in place to checkmate such unlawful conducts and atrocious activities.
10. That the research and investigation also critically investigated the violent activities of armed non-state actors.
11. That the research and investigation is titled: "NIGERIA: Ocean Of Innocent Blood Flowing In The East" with a background of "Special International Report".
12. That in the end, the research and investigation found that *"Officers And Personnel Of The Armed Forces (Army, Air Force And Navy), The Police And The DSS, Joined By The Paramilitaries And Killer-Vigilantes Have Used "IPOB/ESN/BIAFRA Terrorism" As A Pretext To Secretly Massacre 22,500 Unarmed Civilians And Openly Killed 9,800 Others (Totaling Over 32,300) In The Past Nine Years And Four Months (August 2015-Dec 2024) In The Ongoing Military Siege And Terror In Eastern Nigeria); During Which Government-Linked And Non-Government-Linked Armed Non-State Actors Killed 14,500 Others"*.
13. That the research and investigation took more than seven months to compile and compute and facts used were those researched on and gathered by Intersociety and other local and international sources from 2010 to date (December 2024) across Nigeria with Eastern Nigeria as a critical case-study.
14. That the research and investigation work is grounded in the following eight key features of modern academic discourse, social research and investigation; namely: *debate, scholarship, argument, criticism, analysis, evidence, objectivity and precision*.
15. That the research and investigation is dispassionately problem solving, packaged with 76 far-reaching recommendations as follows: twenty-seven recommendations to Government of Nigeria and the country's Armed Forces and Police and their High Commands, twenty to Igbo Land Governments and Governors, twenty-one to Igbo Leaders in Diaspora and International Rights Groups, four to Nigeria's international development partners and relevant UN and AU bodies, and four to the Families of the Slain, the Wounded, the Abducted and Disappeared.
16. That the Special International Report (NIGERIA: Ocean Of Innocent Blood Flowing In The East) is our priceless contribution geared towards ending unchecked killings, abductions, disappearances and other internationally prohibited acts by state actors and non-state actors in Eastern Nigeria since August 2015; with overall goal of ensuring a three-way justice: justice to the victims (the wounded, the slain, the arbitrarily arrested and detained, the abducted and disappeared) including adequate compensations and apologies to them and punishment of their offenders; justice against the perpetrators (including confinement behind local and international bars and blacklisting); and justice to the society that has been desecrated, devalued and degraded by the actions and activities of the perpetrators.

17. That I make this affidavit solemnly and conscientiously, believing its content to be true and correct and in accordance with the provisions of the Oaths Act of 2004.

V. Ugoagbala
DEPONENT

SWORN TO AT THE HIGH COURT REGISTRY,
ENUGU, THIS 10th DAY OF Dec, 2024



BEFORE ME

*Call fee 90000
CR No. 0868392*

[Signature]

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

10/12/2024

