Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

African societies exhibit remarkable diversity, with each society being influenced by distinct historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors. These communities may be categorized into rural and urban environments, with notable variances within each classification. Traditional rural communities often preserve strong community bonds, prioritizing the collective well-being, while metropolitan areas encounter more intricate dynamics as a result of heightened globalization and urbanization[1]. Social divisions within African societies often centre around factors like ethnicity, language, religion, and socio-economic status[2]. These divisions can sometimes lead to tensions and conflicts, which can be exploited by criminal elements.

The West Africa sub-region has been marked by various conflicts and tensions arising from factors such as ethnic diversity, resource scarcity, political instability and religious differences[3]. These conflicts often have regional implications, affecting neighbouring countries and creating an environment conducive to crime. Nigeria, being a prominent West African nation, faces its own share of challenges. The country's vast population, cultural diversity, and uneven development have led to ethno-religious tensions and political strife[4]. Boko Haram's insurgency in the Northeast and conflicts between farmers and herders in central Nigeria illustrate these issues. These conflicts not only disrupt communities but also create opportunities for criminal groups to operate in the resulting power vacuums.

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Meanwhile, criminality has been seen in several societies around the globe because certain forms of illegal behaviour have shown themselves to be a substantial societal burden, hence stimulating discourse over the definition and limits of criminality. The problem of criminality in Nigeria is a complex phenomenon that arises from a confluence of several variables, including socio-economic inequalities, high levels of unemployment, pervasive corruption, and deficiencies in law enforcement[5]. The aforementioned circumstances have led to the emergence of many illicit activities, including cybercrime, fraudulent practices, kidnapping, illegal extraction of petroleum resources, and the trafficking of people. The intricacy of criminal networks has been further exacerbated by the presence of high population density and urbanization.

Among this criminal act, kidnapping is considered to be the most rampant in Nigeria. Kidnapping has emerged as a severe criminal act in Nigeria, giving rise to concerns across various societal and legal dimensions. This nefarious trend has multifaceted implications, warranting critique from different perspectives to comprehend its escalating prevalence but first, what is kidnapping? In simple term, kidnapping is a crime that involves taking someone against their will and transporting them away, whether through force, deception, or intimidation. Kidnapping is also defined as the unlawful abduction or restraint of an individual against their will, often involving force, threat, or deception, with the intent to either hold them for ransom, harm, or to facilitate the commission of another crime[6].

Kidnapping is also considered as an act, driven by criminal psychology, emphasizing the offender's motives and psychological factors that propel them to abduct individuals. This perspective underscores the role of deviant behaviour and abnormal psychology in

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shaping kidnapped cases[7]. It is important to note that this criminal act is driven by some factors. For instance, from a societal perspective, the pervasive poverty, lack of economic opportunities, and unequal distribution of resources in Nigeria have contributed to the increase in kidnapped incidents[8]. Desperation for financial gain pushes individuals towards criminal activities, leading to a surge in kidnapped cases. Additionally, the breakdown of social institutions and inadequate law enforcement further exacerbate the problem, fostering an environment conducive to criminal activities.

The psychological toll of kidnap on victims and their families cannot be overlooked. Kidnap inflicts lasting trauma, fear, and emotional distress, eroding the sense of security and trust within communities[9]. The media's sensationalized coverage of kidnappings also inadvertently glorifies the criminals, potentially encouraging copy acts. Moreover, political factors play significant role in the rise of kidnapping. Ethnic tensions, regional conflicts, and political instability in certain areas of Nigeria create an environment where criminals exploit existing vulnerabilities[10]. Corruption within law enforcement agencies and a lack of swift and efficient judicial processes contribute to the impunity that kidnappers often enjoy.

In the meantime, the resurgence of high-profile crimes like the Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped in 2014, Dapchi schoolgirls kidnapped in 2018, the Kankara schoolboys kidnapped in 2020, UNIMAID lecturers' kidnap, and the Babington Macaulay schoolgirls abduction cases within the polity and the ineffective response by the national security apparatus have reignited the debate on the importance of intelligence gathering to the security organizations in Nigeria. Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) in this context is seen as the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of relevant

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information to identify patterns, anticipate threats and inform decision-making in law enforcement[11].

While intelligence gathering is a product resulting from the collation, evaluation, analysis, integration, and interpretation of all available information which concern one or more aspects of targets, the changing nature of communities and, the shifting characteristics of crime and violence that affect these communities require advanced policing strategies[12]. Strategies that worked in the past are not always effective today. Hence the level and the changing character of communities require the Nigerian Police to seek more effective methods of preventing and combating crime.

Meanwhile, kidnapping has escalated into a pressing security concern in Oyo State, Nigeria, prompting growing apprehension among residents and exposing the inadequacies of law enforcement, notably the Nigeria Police. The state's geographical location and economic significance make it susceptible to criminal activities, including abduction for ransom. The rise of kidnapping in Oyo State can be attributed to a combination of factors. Socioeconomic disparities, lack of viable employment opportunities, and poverty create an environment where criminal elements exploit vulnerabilities for financial gain[13]. Additionally, the state's intricate network of highways facilitates the movement of criminals, making it easier for them to execute and escape after abductions.

The Nigeria Police's role in combating kidnapping in Oyo State has proven to be largely ineffective. Understaffing, limited resources, and inadequate training undermine their ability to swiftly respond to kidnapped cases. Corruption within the police force further hampers efforts to curb this menace[15]. These issues erode public trust in law enforcement

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and embolden criminals. The absence of a comprehensive and coordinated strategy on intelligence gathering, along with the lack of advanced technology and intelligence sharing with other security agencies, further weakens the police's ability to tackle kidnapping effectively[16]. As a result, residents of Oyo State are left vulnerable and anxious due to the persistent threat of abduction.

Addressing the kidnap crisis in Oyo State requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing both short-term law enforcement reforms and long-term socioeconomic interventions and intelligence gathering. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to investigate as well as examine Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, 2012-2024.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The escalating rate of kidnapping in Nigeria presents a pressing security concern that demands immediate attention. The gravity of this issue is exacerbated by several factors, including socioeconomic disparities, high unemployment rates, porous borders, and a fragmented law enforcement infrastructure. Oyo State has witnessed a surge in kidnappings over recent years, with victims ranging from ordinary citizens to prominent figures. Kidnapping has become a lucrative "business" in some part of the state that the victims' families and communities sometimes were forced to pay high ransoms to secure the release of their loved ones.

In order to stop this nefarious act, the Nigerian Police, through its anti-kidnapping task force, police constabulary unit, and community partners, play a pivotal role in combating kidnapping and ensuring the safety and security of citizens. The Nigerian Police are at

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the forefront of law enforcement efforts to combat kidnapping. The response to reports of kidnappings, conduct investigations, and arrests made have contributed to the deterrence of such crimes. The visible presence and active response of the police can deter potential kidnappers, reducing the likelihood of abductions in the first place but this law enforcement agency lack the required intelligence gathering effort to stop these kidnappers.

Strategic intelligence gathering is paramount for the Nigerian Police in Oyo State to effectively combat kidnapping because it provides critical insights into the activities, networks, and intentions of criminal syndicates involved in abductions. The Nigerian Police can use this intelligence gathering to focus resources on high-risk areas and individuals, optimizing the allocation of personnel and equipment for more efficient anti-kidnapping operations. Previous studies on the importance of strategic intelligence gathering for the Nigerian Police in combating kidnapping have highlighted investments in modern technology and tools to aid intelligence collection and analysis, such as surveillance systems and data analytics.

While many studies have examined the role of the Nigeria Police in reducing crime which include kidnapping for ransom and other nefarious act, none of these studies have examined Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: A Study of Oyo State, Nigeria 2012-2024**.** This is the gap that the current research intended to fill.

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1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study was to investigate kidnapping, strategic intelligence gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: A Study of Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives of the study were to:

i. investigate the technique adopted by the Nigerian Police to combat and resolve kidnap cases in Oyo State, Nigeria,
ii. examine the extent at which technological advancements and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies enhance the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence for combatting kidnap cases in Oyo State,
iii. investigate the perceptions of local communities and kidnapped victims regarding the role of the police in responding to and preventing kidnap cases, and,
iv. identify the key challenges and barriers that the Nigerian Police face in gathering and utilizing strategic intelligence to address kidnap incidents in Oyo State.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the various techniques adopted by the Nigeria Police to combat and resolve kidnap cases in Oyo State, Nigeria?
2. How effectively do technological advancements and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies enhance the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence for combatting kidnap cases in Oyo State?

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3. How do local residents and individuals who have been kidnapped rate the police's response to and prevention of kidnapping incidents?
4. What are the key challenges and barriers that the police face in gathering and utilizing strategic intelligence to address kidnapping incidents in Oyo State?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The research on Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, holds substantial significance within the context of both law enforcement and public safety. Kidnapping has emerged as a critical criminal issue, not only in Oyo State but across Nigeria, leading to profound social and economic consequences. This importance of the study lies in its potential to provide valuable insights into enhancing the effectiveness of police efforts in addressing and preventing kidnapping incidents. By investigating how Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence gathering (SIG) techniques are applied by the Nigerian Police in Oyo State, the research shed light on the efficacy of intelligence-driven strategies.

Secondly, the findings illuminated the extent to which Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) influences successful outcomes in investigations and rescue operations of kidnap cases. Furthermore, identifying challenges faced by the police in gathering and utilizing strategic intelligence enabled the development of targeted solutions and operational improvements. The study's exploration of community perceptions towards police involvement in kidnapping cases can foster stronger police-citizen relationships. If the research reveals that positive perceptions correlate with better cooperation, it can inform community engagement initiatives and strategies.

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Additionally, assessing the role of technology and inter-agency collaboration in intelligence gathering could provide recommendations for modernising law enforcement approaches. Lastly, this research has the potential to shape policy decisions, police training, and resource allocation, resulting in more robust counter-kidnapping measures. By addressing this critical security concern, the study contributed significantly to the safety, stability, and well-being of Oyo State's residents while serving as a model for improving anti-kidnapping efforts across Nigeria.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study on Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: A Study of Oyo State delved into a specific chronological span, focusing on the years from 2012-2024. Within this timeframe, the study comprehensively examined the evolution of strategic intelligence gathering employed by the Nigerian Police to combat kidnapping incidents in Oyo State. It analysed the effectiveness of these strategies, identifying trends, successes, and challenges encountered during the specified period. By concentrating on these years, the study aimed to provide a detailed snapshot of the police's approach to intelligence gathering and its impact on addressing kidnapping cases within a significant timeframe, offering valuable insights into the evolution of anti-kidnapping efforts and contributing to the broader understanding of law enforcement practices in the region.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

The study was limited by the availability and accuracy of data on kidnapping and strategic intelligence (SIG) and the Nigeria Police operations: A Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, 2012-2024. The study also faced operational and security constraints, including

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restricted access to police operations, intelligence, or sensitive information, which can hinder data collection and analysis. The study was limited by the level of cooperation and transparency from the police, which can impact the accuracy and completeness of the data.

1.8 Operational Definitions of Terms

Anti-kidnapping: Anti-kidnapping refers to the specialized efforts aimed at preventing, combating, and responding to kidnapping incidents. The Nigeria Police play a pivotal role in this domain by establishing dedicated units and employing advanced tactics to counter kidnapping activities. Their responsibilities include intelligence gathering, hostage negotiation, conducting rescue operations, and collaborating with other agencies. The Nigeria Police's commitment to anti-kidnapping efforts is essential for safeguarding citizens, maintaining public trust, and addressing the serious threat that kidnapping poses to both individuals and societal stability.

Kidnapping: Kidnapping is the criminal act of unlawfully seizing and detaining individuals against their will, often for ransom or other illicit motives. In Oyo State and Nigeria, the pervasive occurrence of kidnapping has significantly impacted policing. Law enforcement agencies have had to allocate substantial resources to counter this threat, necessitating the development of specialized units, advanced intelligence techniques, and community engagement strategies. The rise in kidnappings has prompted a strategic shift in police operations to effectively prevent, address, and resolve such cases, ensuring public safety.

Law Enforcement: Law enforcement encompasses the activities and organizations responsible for upholding and enforcing laws within a society. In Nigeria, the Nigerian

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Police hold a crucial role in maintaining law and order. They safeguard citizens, prevent, and investigate crimes, and ensure justice is served. Their presence is pivotal in deterring criminal activities, fostering public safety, and upholding the rule of law. The Nigerian Police's diligent enforcement efforts contribute to a stable and secure environment that facilitates societal progress and well-being.

Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG): Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) involves the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of relevant information to identify patterns, anticipate threats, and inform decision-making in law enforcement. Its importance lies in enabling agencies to proactively address criminal activities, allocate resources effectively, and enhance operational outcomes. By utilizing SIG, law enforcement agencies can stay ahead of evolving criminal tactics, prevent crimes, and ensure the safety of communities, thus significantly bolstering the effectiveness and efficiency of their efforts.

Insecurity: Insecurity refers to a state of vulnerability, uncertainty, or lack of safety, both on an individual and societal level. It encompasses feelings of fear, instability, and the perception of being at risk, whether related to personal well-being, economic concerns, or broader societal issues. Insecurity may arise from various factors such as social unrest, economic instability, or the threat of violence, contributing to a sense of unease and a diminished confidence in one's safety and stability.

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Kidnapping

In ordinary parlance, the concept of kidnapping is considered to be the illegal act of forcibly taking or confining someone without their consent, usually with harmful intentions. However, many legal systems and cultural contexts may have subtle variations in their definitions and interpretations of this offence. Kidnapping encompasses several interpretations among individuals, frequently differing based on their perspectives, the applicable legal framework, the individuals involved, and their underlying motivations. However, some definitions relevant to this study will be considered[1].

An author identified that kidnapping is the illegal act of forcibly transporting, moving, and confining an individual without their consent. Kidnapping may also be described as the act of unlawfully imprisoning someone by abduction or the use of threats to abduct. These two actions, when carried out together on the same individual, combine to form the single crime of kidnapping. The abduction component is often, but not always, carried out by the use of coercion or intimidation. Essentially, the offender may use a weapon to coerce the victim into a car, but the act would still be considered kidnapping even if the victim freely enters the vehicle due to persuasion[2]. Within a legal framework, kidnapping is often described as the illicit and deliberate act of seizing or confining someone without their consent, usually by the use of physical force, intimidation, or deceit[1]. The primary motivation behind this action often involves seeking ransom,

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causing injury, or pursuing other illicit objectives. The laws of kidnapping may differ among jurisdictions, but they always aim to safeguard persons from being forcefully abducted or detained without their consent. This definition is typically embraced by legal experts and authorities since it serves as the foundation for criminal legislation and judicial procedures. Although this description is simple and direct, it may be criticized for its possible lack of detail about the underlying reasons, which might vary significantly across different instances[2].

As peculiar crimes, hostage-taking and kidnapping are deviant behaviours that are unique in intended teleology, synaptic of analogous crimes, universal in specific areas of ravage, prevalent with relative intensity which spate of ravage may be spasmodic or regular, and creating tensed zeitgeist. Hostage-taking and kidnapping are cognate crimes that have culture and metamorphoses. This crime culture's metamorphosis is determined by the type of social and value-systems operational in the society and these societal value systems and mechanism typify and localize the crime circumstances and events.

Thus, peculiarity of crimes has implications on locality, the prevailing socio-economic activities in it, the topography of the area (that the criminals themselves spend time to survey and study during crime-incubation in order to master and dominion over it), the pedigree and structure of insecurity and safety-consciousness of the area, as well as human readiness to onslaught and blitz miscreants in their mist. However, crime metamorphosed stages are at each state and stage unique as a total independent entity, while determinately heading to its full maturity and blossoming stage. Crime culture is the determinant factor of crime typology and peculiarities, whether the metamorphosed culture is seen as a way of living (for the perpetrators) or way of surviving (for the

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victims). The more sophisticated and organized it is, the higher the typology and peculiarities become.

The forcible taking, confinement, and taking of a person against their will is known as kidnapping. The crucial element of this common law crime is that the victim's act was not requested. According to a different definition, kidnapping is the forcible abduction of a person or group of people for any number of reasons, including political, religious, economic, or self-determination struggles[3]. The "act of seizing and detaining or carrying away a person by unlawful force or by fraud, and often with a demand for ransom," is another definition of kidnapping given by academics. It is removing someone from their family by force without that person's consent in order to hold that person as a hostage and benefit from their family[4].

Kidnapping is a sad situation in which a person is forcibly taken against their will to an unidentified place by a person or group of people (abductors), some of whom may be armed, for personal benefit. The act of capturing an individual or group of individuals with the intention of achieving a specific goal is known as kidnapping. It is the taking of a human person against their will in order to fulfil other desires or goals through the use of force. The act takes a victim captive in order to use the kidnapped person to accomplish a desired outcome[5]. Thus, for there to be an abduction, there must be two people involved: the living victim on the one hand, and the cold-blooded criminal on the other, who is there to incite fear in order to achieve a predetermined goal or advance a social cause. Abduction and kidnapping are almost interchangeable. Sometimes it entails the theft of cars carrying cargo or passengers in order to support terrorism or personal gain. To sum it all up, kidnapping is a serious crime that carries a life sentence or the

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death penalty in many jurisdictions across the world. It is defined as the abduction of a person against their will by force, fraud, or intimidation[6].

Kidnapping has a long history and may perhaps be as old as humanity itself, it is still considered a hazardous crime that is expanding quickly across the world in the modern era. Because of the way it is carried out, which typically involves violence and the use of weapons and results in the victims losing their lives, kidnapping has become a major area of interest for most states. According to a recent study, militias in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued to kidnap men, women, and children during village raids and hold them as slaves[5]. This practice is currently spreading throughout the world. In certain parts of the world, abduction rose sharply in the 1990s, to the point where some cities earned the moniker "kidnapping capital of the world." Colombia was named the "Kidnapping Capital of the World" in 2001 after it reported the highest total number of kidnappings as well as the highest kidnapping rate worldwide. In 2004 Mexico was branded in a same manner.

An estimated 1,500 foreigners were abducted in Iraq in 2007. As of 2003, there were about 4,000 kidnappings in Colombia and 2,000 in Argentina annually. The number of kidnappings reported by Mexico's National Institute of Statistics in 2013 was 1,695, up 20% from 2012. However, analysts believe that over 90% of kidnappings that occur in Mexico remain unreported. Throughout the 20th century, countries in Latin America and the Pacific, including Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, and Peru, saw an increase in the illegal worldwide trend[6].

Since it now happens in public and targets the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in addition to individuals going about their regular business,

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kidnapping as a variation on armed robbery is far more unsettling. The new trend is that it is increasingly happening to drivers on isolated sections of some roadways where security is more challenging to maintain. The Kaduna-Abuja highway is one of the routes where a lot of incidents have been reported. This has led to a number of horrifying attacks on defenceless travellers along the Abuja-Kaduna highway, including assaults on politicians, government officials, and other targets[7].

The most recent incident on the Abuja-Kaduna road was the kidnapping of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) board chairman and his daughter. Following the kidnapping of approximately thirty travellers in early April 2019, there was a public uproar and many Nigerians demanded that security personnel stop the threat[7]. Security personnel have engaged in gunfights with criminals as a result of their relentless efforts to apprehend those terrorising motorists along the Abuja–Kaduna motorway[8].

Although it is never acceptable to kidnap and abduct another person, there are many different reasons why criminals commit the act, including ransom, adoption, begging, prostitution, marriage, illegal affairs, political gain, rituals, slavery, illegal activity, murder, and other reasons. Kidnapping has resulted in many innocent victims and fatalities throughout the years. It also damages the psychological well-being of the victims and their families and instils terror in the minds of the public. It prevents direct financial investment in the region where this heinous act is being committed, which eventually results in a drop in economic productivity and unemployment as well as a danger to the government's ability to persuade foreign investors to conduct business in the nation[9].

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Crimes such as kidnapping have a human tendency. Thus, a person needs to originate from a certain location in order to commit a crime. This location is frequently near to the crime scene and may even be the same as the crime scene itself. Thus, location is essential to comprehending crime. Understanding the geography of crime is necessary to reduce it, as it possesses an innately geographical aspect. Criminal activity always takes place in a specific location.

Crimes are typically not dispersed throughout space in a predictable manner or at random. For example, crime rates are higher in certain places than in others, and the types of crimes vary as well. For instance, some areas have records of more crime incidence than others, and the kinds of crimes differ from one area to another. Identifying high crime areas or hot spots plays a key role in how law enforcement agencies operate and address crime in problem areas for strategic and problem-solving purposes. The process of developing and accessing police actions can benefit from the identification of high-crime locations.

Additionally, testing for geographical displacement or diffusion of benefits can be helpful in determining the ideas of hot and cool places[10]. "Hotspot" refers to places with a high concentration of crimes or those where a certain crime is most frequently committed when analysing crimes or a specific crime, such as kidnapping. A hot spot is generally understood to be an area that has recorded more criminal events than other locations or areas within the scope of the investigation or study, despite the fact that different people have defined hot spots of crime differently based on their understanding. It might also be viewed as a place where victims are more likely to occur than in other places. This begs the question of what locations or regions should be classified as having

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a lower than average risk of kidnapping victims; so, the idea of "cool spots" was proposed. Simply put, cool spots are regions or locations where there is little to no chance of becoming a victim[11].

Conversely, the social interpretations of kidnapping explore the profound psychological effects experienced by victims. Hence, kidnapping may be seen as a kind of terrorism, inflicting profound psychological distress and a persistent feeling of vulnerability. This idea acknowledges the enduring psychological impact on those who have experienced harm, emphasizing the need of providing support services and treatment alongside legal procedures. Nevertheless, it might be criticized for its emphasis on the victim's perspective, which may not be universally relevant in every situation, especially when taking into account the intentions of the wrongdoer. Analysing this offence via a sociological lens enables us to delve into its wider ramifications on both individuals and society at large[12].

In 2011, one individual who had been kidnapped authored a very comprehensive book exploring the phenomenon of kidnapping based on their own firsthand experience. The book which was her memoir presents a distressing narrative of her kidnapping, confinement, and final rescue, offering an intimate insight into the horrible ordeals she suffered while being held captive. Based on her firsthand experience, she described abduction as the distressing ordeal of being forcefully and illegally separated from her loved ones, her residence, and her liberty[13]. Regarding its pertinence to abduction concerns in Nigeria, it is crucial to acknowledge that the author's situation and the problems of kidnapping in Nigeria differ significantly. Nevertheless, there are some overarching thematic resemblances that may be delineated.

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Both her case and the kidnapping incidents in Nigeria include the forcible abduction of victims. In Nigeria, instances of abduction often transpire with the intention of extorting money, driven by political objectives, or as a consequence of the continuing struggle involving factions such as Boko Haram. These abductions might lead to extended durations of being held captive. The author's story provides a realistic account of the mental and physical distress she endured while being held captive. Individuals who are abducted in Nigeria often experience comparable distress, including as physical mistreatment, sexual assault, and severe psychological strain, resulting in enduring psychological and emotional consequences[14].

Thirdly, in the memoir the author discusses how she coped with her captivity by creating routines, maintaining some semblance of normalcy, and forming bonds with her captors as a survival strategy. Similarly, some Nigerian kidnap victims may develop strategies to adapt to their situations, such as building rapport with their captors or finding ways to endure their captivity[7]. Her also memoir highlights the profound impact her disappearance had on her family and the community. Kidnappings in Nigeria also have devastating effects on families and communities, often causing fear and mistrust, and leading to emotional and psychological scars for all involved.

Her eventual rescue by law enforcement underscores the importance of effective law enforcement and public awareness in addressing kidnapping cases[15]. In Nigeria, the response to kidnappings varies, and there is often a need for improved coordination and resources to combat this issue effectively. While there are parallels between her experience and kidnapping issues in Nigeria, it is crucial to recognize that the scale and complexity of kidnapping in Nigeria are far more extensive, often involving criminal

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organizations and a wider range of motives. Addressing kidnapping issues in Nigeria requires a multifaceted approach that includes law enforcement efforts, social programs, and international cooperation[7].

Furthermore, kidnapping can be understood as a form of false imprisonment, where individuals are unlawfully confined by another person against their will, thereby infringing upon their right to freedom of movement. Kidnapping is the act of forcibly kidnapping someone against their will, often with the intention of unlawfully imprisoning or confining them[16]. Kidnapping may occur with the intention of extorting a ransom in return for the release of the victim, or for other illicit motives. Aggravated abduction refers to the act of kidnapping someone while causing physical harm to them.

Another definition of kidnapping is said to revolves upon the act of seizure. According to Turner, kidnapping occurs when individuals are forcefully abducted and taken to a location where they are unlawfully confined against their will[17]. It also delineates instances in which individuals are enticed and then detained unlawfully. The criteria explicitly differentiate between abduction and any kind of lawful home arrest or police custody that may be authorized by the government and executed by law enforcement officers. It demonstrates that kidnapping is an illegal activity in which an individual or group uses coercion and threats to forcibly abduct and confine a victim(s) against their will, typically with the intention of obtaining something from the victim(s) or individuals connected to them through blood or association[18].

The definition of kidnapping provided by some authors presents a specific perspective on the crime. While these authors characterize it as an organized and systematic robbery, the claim that it is not as deadly as armed robbery but more profitable may oversimplify

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the issue[19]. Kidnapping can be extremely deadly, leading to physical and psychological harm to victims. Profitability alone should not be the sole criterion for evaluating the gravity of a crime. Moreover, the assertion that the existence of laws prohibits it does not consider the complexities of enforcing such laws or addressing the underlying socio-economic factors driving this crime. A more comprehensive definition should consider these nuances for a well-rounded analysis.

Considering these viewpoints, it is evident that the majority of the authors agree that abduction/kidnapping is a criminal and coercive act intentionally perpetrated against the will of the victims for financial motives, either by force or deception. Nevertheless, none of the aforementioned perspectives saw abduction as a response to injustice. Kidnapping is seen as an act or action carried out by dissatisfied individuals, while the specific cause of their complaints was not mentioned.

2.1.2 Type and Classification of Kidnapping

For proper understanding of the act of kidnapping, some authors identified three elements that need to be taken into account. The first among these elements are:

1. Taking an individual away against their consent;
2. Keeping an individual away in false imprisonment or illegal confinement;
3. Extortion of ransom from the victim/family.

Various scholars in the literature have established and studied several categories and classifications of the concept of kidnapping. An author has classified the concept into three distinct categories with the first being criminal kidnapping which refers to the act of abducting someone with the intention of demanding ransom from their family,

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company, or colleagues[13]. Political kidnapping which is considered to be the second classification by the above author involves the abduction of individuals in order to further a political agenda, frequently using advanced weaponry. This category includes both militant and terrorist actions. Lastly, the third classification is pathological kidnapping, which is often referred to as emotional kidnapping. To the author, the latter refers to a kind of abduction in which the intention is to cause psychological suffering to the victim. Instances of this include sexual assault, parental kidnapping in cases of separation, and several other occurrences.

Similarly, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime has formally categorized kidnapping into various types, including abduction for the purpose of demanding a ransom, abduction occurring between or within criminal organisations, abduction for the purpose of sexual exploitation, abduction related to familial or marital conflicts, retaliatory abduction, politically motivated abduction, and abduction driven by ideological motives[14]. Nevertheless, the prevalent kind of abduction in Nigeria seems to be kidnapping for ransom, in which affluent individuals are taken captive in return for monetary compensation.

The Overseas Security Advisory Council reveal that abduction for ransom is recognised as one of the five fundamental forms of kidnapping. For them, the act of kidnapping someone in exchange for money is a significant tactic deployed by criminals to get finances for their illegal activities[15]. It is considered the earliest and greatest widely used kind of abduction, including the seizing of hostages to get money from their family members or business partners. Therefore, in developing nations such as Nigeria,

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expatriates and affluent persons comprise the majority of victims targeted in this kind of abduction.

There are several instances of foreigners in the nation. In 2015, a United States missionary was kidnapped in the southern region of Abuja, and ransom of $300,000 was sought in exchange for her freedom[16]. The aforementioned organisation has also listed tiger abduction or proxy bombs as another kind of abduction. It refers to a kind of abduction when the objective is not to demand a ransom, but rather to compel the victim to do a certain activity on behalf of the criminals, such as pressuring a banker to reveal the passcode for the bank's vault in an effort to facilitate theft. Occasionally, the target may be abducted and compelled to place an explosive device in a designated location (known as proxy bombing), a tactic often used by militant organisations engaged in guerrilla warfare. Tiger abduction is prevalent in both Western and Asian nations.

The practice of kidnapping, and more especially explicit kidnapping, is common in a number of nations in Africa and Latin America. This scenario describes a circumstance in which a single individual is kidnapped, and the perpetrator uses a firearm or other scary tactics to scare the victim into complying with the perpetrator's demands, which often include forcing the victim to withdraw the maximum daily cash limit from an ATM. When the victim surpasses the daily transaction limit, the crooks may sometimes keep the victim hostage for the whole night in order to extract more money from them. In order to achieve their nefarious goals, criminals and kidnappers will resort to a wide variety of methods and strategies[17].

In addition to using physical force to forcibly recruit their victims and manipulate them into compliance, express kidnappers may assume the guise of cab operators or even law

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enforcement agents to deceive their unwary targets. An example of a significant security issue faced by visitors entering South Africa, as noted in the 2016 Crimes and Safety Report, is the occurrence of express kidnappings[18]. These include kidnappers impersonating police officials near the country's airports. The perpetrators, while in law enforcement attire, would establish a roadblock and intercept the unsuspecting target with the intention of either robbing them or carrying out a swift abduction for ransom[19]. Typically, express abduction victims are ultimately freed without damage, particularly if they have been very cooperative with their kidnappers. The emergence of ride-share apps in several nations, including Nigeria, has been driven by the prevalence of this kind of abduction.

The launch of Uber in Nigeria is perceived as a commendable measure that contributes to the reduction of express kidnapping in the nation. Nevertheless, even the ride-share system is susceptible to infiltration by criminals for the purpose of committing a kidnapping, as was clearly shown in South Africa in 2017. In this incident, a couple was assaulted and coerced by an individual pretending to be a rideshare driver, ultimately being forced to withdraw money from an ATM[20].

Political and ideological abduction is the fourth form of kidnapping that has been discovered. This is a politically or ideologically inspired abduction. In this scenario, individuals who have been kidnapped are being kept captive by their abductors with the intention of exchanging them for their fellow colleagues who are now detained by the government as captives. Therefore, the captives are seen to possess a certain level of value in terms of being potential targets for kidnapping and subsequent ransom demands.

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This worth may arise from their status as individuals whom the government cannot afford to overlook if they are abducted, or due to concerns about losing political significance[21].

Furthermore, this kind of abduction may be executed with the intention of gaining a strategic edge in talks with the government or only for the goal of promoting propaganda. In this situation, the victim's immediate family has little or no influence in ensuring the victim's release[23]. Consequently, the victim's destiny hinges on the result of talks between their government and the criminal syndicates. There are several instances of this particular kind of abduction documented in the literature. The Boko Haram extremist organisation in northeastern Nigeria has, on many times, kidnapped school children in the towns of Chibok and Dapchi, located in the states of Borno and Yobe, respectively.

Prominent figures in the nation, including the former president have acted as intermediaries in the discussions between the organisation and the government. The organisation often engaged in negotiations to exchange the abducted children for its incarcerated members[24]. Hence, the phenomenon of political and ideological abduction is more prevalent in nations that harbour radical militant organisations or insurgents, who often resort to armed resistance against their own government. Al-Qa'ida, a well-known terrorist organisation, has been involved in several instances of this particular kind of abduction. They have targeted prominent people and demanded the exchange of their incarcerated members in exchange for the restoration of the captives[25].

Virtual kidnapping, as defined by an author, is the fifth category of kidnapping. In this type of kidnapping, the criminals exploit the victim's personal information and daily habits[26]. They deceive the victim's family by using an accomplice who pretends to be the hostage. This accomplice cries and screams for help, creating the illusion that the victim

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is in immediate danger. In this manner, the family of the victims would be obligated to promptly give the requested ransom, which is often a small amount, in order to ensure timely payment[27]. Meanwhile, the putative victim may be occupied elsewhere, unaware of the events that took place between his family and the crooks.

Virtual abduction mostly targets persons who reside distant from their family members, such as international students, expatriates, or those in transit. This scheme manipulates individuals by capitalizing on their feelings of panic, dread, and hurry. The operational methods of virtual kidnappers differ in different locations and periods. This style of abduction involves the victim receiving a phone call notifying them of the kidnapping of their loved one, and then demanding a ransom in exchange for ensuring their safe return[28]. As part of the scheme, an accomplice is recruited to portray the victim by engaging in loud and emotional screaming and sobbing, in order to convince others that the abduction is genuine.

Consequently, the FBI has repeatedly issued warnings against the proliferation of a fraudulent scheme referred to as virtual kidnapping. The author furthermore delineated and expounded over the following categories of abductions: bridal, express, and tiger kidnappings. Bride abduction, as defined by the authors, is the act of forcibly taking a bride or bridegroom to an undisclosed location with the purpose of marrying them without the approval of their parents. Furthermore, another academic has recognised this kind of abduction as a prevalent custom among conventional nomadic civilizations of Asia and Africa[29].

Previously, the concept of this kind of abduction was explored as a cultural aspect of kidnapping. It was suggested that bride kidnapping should be seen as a cultural custom

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in some Asian and African traditional societies, when the bride is forcibly taken against the will of her parents. Frequently, there are instances in which the bride's family declines to give their daughter's hand in marriage to the groom. As a result, the bride collaborates with the groom and elopes to a location where they may wed and establish their life together[30]. The act might be classified as abduction when the bride is carried away without the agreement of her parents, notwithstanding her love for the groom.

Express kidnapping is a sort of abduction motivated by the intention to quickly get money by forcing the victim to withdraw cash from an ATM. The duration of the event is often brief since the victim is typically released unless they demonstrate noncompliance with the perpetrators. Therefore, several scholars characterize this kind of abduction as driven by financial incentives. Express abduction often does not need a large sum of money[31]. Instead, it is motivated by the kidnappers' intention to demand a little ransom that the victim's family or business contacts may promptly gather within a few periods.

2.1.3 Overview of Kidnapping in Nigeria

Kidnapping in Nigeria started in the new millennium. Kidnapping in Nigeria began rising in 2006 when militants in Niger-delta started kidnapping expatriates for ransom[32]. Another source has it that it all started in 2005 when a group named Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) threatens to attack British nationals and facilities in Nigeria-Delta if the British police failed to release a former governor who was arrested in London for money laundering offences[33]. While the Federal Government dismissed the threat, the Nigeria military troop were deployed to their region.

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In 2005, a leader of another group named and the leader of the Niger-Delta People Volunteer Force (NDPVF) was arrested by the Nigerian government in connection with the rising tension in Niger-Delta[34]. Two years after, what appeared to be the first reported case of abduction of expatriates took place when four foreign oil workers working on the AE fields of shell petroleum were kidnapped by militants import account. This resulted in a further cutback of 120,000 barrels per day in crude oil production[35]. In the following year, ten persons including soldiers of the military joint task force. Deployed by the government to the Niger Delta region (operation restore hope) were crushed to death.

However, in 2007, nine Chinese workers that that were kidnapped in Bayelsa (a southern state of Nigeria) were released after being held for eleven days. In 2007, what appeared to be a major warning to the government and the citizens was announced by the militants when they vowed to extend hostilities beyond the Niger-Delta region to other parts of the country[36]. They also warned all expatriates to leave Nigeria with immediate effect and on this day, the American Cable News Network (CNN) reported that there were no fewer than 200,000 armed militants in the Niger Delta region. In March of the same year, after 98 days in captivity, two Italian oil workers regained freedom. They were employees of Agip oil. The kidnapping went on and between March 15 to May 16, when the official residence of the Nigeria's vice president elect was bombed, but his mother miraculously escapes through a boat unhurt[37]. In the later part of the same year, some militants kidnapped a 4 years-old Nigeria-British girl while on her way to school but was released after several appeals after several appeals from the Nigerian president and well-wishers[38].

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The most prominent thing about these kidnapping was that huge amount of money was being paid as ransom before these expatriates are released. However, none of the expatriates lost his life even though there are many sad tales from these expatriates after their release. However, in the earlier part July of the same year, Nigerians as well as foreign oil worker in the Niger-Delta region woke up to the news that the leader of the NDPVF had been released from prison by the order of the appeal court[39]. Hence, there was a reduction in hostage taking as well as an agreement signed by the carious militant groups and the Federal Government that hence forth. There would not be hostage or expatriate abduction in Nigeria again, a peace deal that has stopped in then.

It is the abduction of expatriates that has stopped in Nigeria. However, the abduction of members of the Nigerian society is still fruitful. A former minister revealed that 512 people were kidnapped in 2009 and 30 and out of the 512 died in the hand of their kidnappers[40]. Commenting on the agitations of the Niger Delta militants he said "the desire of militants to become independent and form smaller groups led to the rampart kidnapping incidents in different parts of the state" he stressed further that: "The leader of the major robbery gangs in the whole of the country was recently killed during a gun battle with the police and members of his gang have switched to kidnapping[41].

Initially what they do is target a rich personality or their realties but they do not do again. What they do is that they go to Reverie schools and communities and kidnap many people so as to affect the ransom in bulk". In a Village in Otukpo area of Benue State, the kidnappers of the catholic priest killed him in cold blood, despite receiving about N2 million from his family members[42]. Statistics shows that the level of kidnapping activities in the country is not encouraging. Citizens of the country are advancing in it and think

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that it is the best and quickest way to make money. A recent statistic on kidnapping in Nigeria revealed that at least 430 civilians were killed, while over N5 billion was demanded from 3,620 persons in 582 kidnap-related cases in the last one year, which is from 2022 to 2023[43].

Another risk consultancy firm, Control Risks, reported recently that 74 percent of kidnappings recorded in African in 2012 occurred in Nigeria[44]. Nigeria in the recent years is among the top ten countries with high kidnapping incidence globally. The Cable had reported that at least 1,157 students have been abducted over the course of seven years in northern Nigeria. A respected scholar also affirmed that one can tell, when and how the stress and remind ourselves that not only are these abnormal times, but seems to be times of the shirking responsibility in very key areas Two weeks after the bandits kidnapped 27 students and 15 workers of Government Science College Kagara, Niger State, 317 school girls were abducted in the Government Girls Secondary School Jangebe in Zamfara State on Friday 26th of February 2021[45].

As a result of these, some schools have been closed in Kano after shutting down 10 boarding schools in the same state. The schools closed down are Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso College of Advanced and Remedial Studies, Tundun Wada; School of Environmental Studies, Gwarzo; School of Rural Technology and Entrepreneurship Development, Rano; and Audu Bako College of Agricultural Development, Dambatta. Kidnapping has kept Nigeria in state of dilemma, a land where people see bad behaviour as a means of making huge money[46]. It is one of the major problems being experienced in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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2.1.4 Kidnapped Incidents in Nigeria

Kidnapping is all over Nigeria. It is a national problem that has eaten so deep into the tissue of the nation. It is a problem that that need to be tackled nationally. Kidnapping is growing daily in Nigeria. This criminal commerce paints an ugly picture of the already battered image of Nigeria. This kidnapping racket has become incurable disease kidnapping become a life-threatening ailment. For instance, there is no much in Nigeria when we do not read on the pages of newspapers about cases of kidnapping. Kidnapping has become the bane of our nation[47]. It is evident that Nigeria society has lost hope of tomorrow. The kidnapping of young and old people in Nigeria are bane of our live today. Nigerians, who are involved in this ugly business find it difficult to quit.

Kidnappers see it as a business that can never be abolished by any government in Nigeria. This is because, the Government of Nigeria is yet to take a bold step to find a lasting panacea to this barbaric act. Once the government comes with a stiff action against the kidnappers, the idea of seeing the trade as a type coated with much profit would be a forgotten trade. Unarguably, the cardinal security puzzle that seems to be quaking the Nigerian nation is the series of foreign oil and construction workers as well as series of attacks on the oil facilities by the militant in Niger delta region of Nigerian. Since the beginning of this criminal act of kidnapping[48].

Nigeria has recorded huge losses in crude oil. This has made many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to spring up in Nigeria. One of such is *'Erukaye Hope'* a Non Governmental Organization based in Delta State. Many have and are still making effort to obstruct this criminal business. Following the report release of the German archaeologists kidnapped in Kaduna State, a top-level security consultant and public

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affairs analyst, has said that kidnapping thieves unabated in Nigeria because of the outdated security architecture in the country, low-level of ammunition used by security operatives; and government's laxity in putting measure in place to prevent the menace. He said this in Lagos while commenting on the security situation across the nation[49].

A scholar blamed the government for not nipping the menace of abduction in the bud when it first began at an unsophisticated level in the Niger-Delta region, saying that it turned a blind eye to the social vice until it advanced to the level of kidnapping for ransom and higher level of random kidnapping experienced today. He said that since it has been noted that most kidnappers escape with their victims through the waterways, there was need for government to establish naval police along the inland waterways in the country to facilitate easier arrest of kidnappers[50].

The security expert lamented the report of some kidnappers possessing fire power that was more superior to that of the security operatives; stressing that so long as that trend continues, kidnappers will continue to enjoy a field day in the country. He said: "To fight kidnapping to a stand-still, we need to first change the archaic security architecture in the country[51]. Then, raise the level of the ammunition used by our security operatives. And, let the government be more proactive in combating kidnapping. "There are places now that are recognized as dark spots for kidnapping. The government is not doing well in putting in place funds and adopting proactive measure against kidnapping.

Kidnapping began in the Niger-Delta, when people were abducted, mainly foreigners in protest for the companies not them enough of whatever they wanted from there[52]. From abduction, they moved on to kidnapping for ransom, and today it is now random, and today it is now random kidnapping. "The Kaduna case was very painful. Those guys

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have been forward thinking enough to know that being whites confers on them kidnap value. For that purpose alone, security around them should have been stepped up. That is a laxity on the government's side. On the kidnappings that take place along the Coastal States in Nigeria, there should have been Naval police around the waterways, because the kidnappers mainly use the waterways to escape with their victims. Remember that lately, a container of over 600 hedge arms was intercepted. No one can determine how many more of such ammunition is in the hands of the wrong person on the street, and they put them to use[53].

Unfortunately, they have superior fire power against our policemen. This has been the trend overtime. "One would have expected that our security agencies would have stepped-up their game knowing that they are faced with more deadly opposition-people who don't care; who are in it for purpose; who are ready to die, if need be, and that's why you confront them, they begin to kill. So, to that extent, the security agencies should change the game plan in such a way that when the kidnappers know they would be confronting police with more superior power, they would think twice[54]. What do you have? A situation where they are beating our policemen, killing our policeman even our soldiers and taking away their guns; the guns they have on ground now should be withdraw "over time, we have had increased funding for our policemen and other agencies.

If we follow the trend of what we have been reading in the media lately, such funds have been stolen or misappropriated and course diverted and not used for the purpose for which they were meant. For as long as are handing these cases; we will continue giving the criminals a field day. Kidnapping is not new in Nigeria and is one of the country's

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big challenges. Nigeria faces problems in education, unemployment, corruption and kidnapping. Facts and figures show that the kidnapping frequency in the country is high.

The kidnappings are political because politicians who are bad eggs want to destroy the leadership of President Good luck Jonathan. The attacks and kidnappings are at the same time religious because of the group's fundamentalist Islamism. The meaning of their name is "Western education is prohibited," which is why they continue to target school children. On the night of 14-15 April 2014, about 276 (16 to18-years-old Chibok school girls) were kidnapped by Boko Haram[55].

Sometimes, ordinary citizens participate in this crime in order to fill their pockets, usually youths employed by rich men who conduct kidnapping as a modern business. They target rich families and sometimes demand up to twenty million naira. A popular Christian music singer in Nigeria, Chika Okpalam lamented that kidnappers had abducted his friend in one of his songs titled "Ndi Nto" (meaning "the kidnappers"). He stated that when they were asked why they did it they said they needed money, and they did not have any jobs because of high unemployment the country[56].

The government of Anambra State in Nigeria recently made new law altering the punishment any perpetrator caught in the act of kidnapping will receive. The law was made during the leader ship of Governor Peter Obi of APGA and said that any person caught in the offence of kidnapping will be sentenced to death and anything bought with the ransom money like a house or car, will be destroyed. Statistics appear to support the views of analyst. In December 2009, police affairs minister, disclosed that 512 cases of kidnapping had been recorded from January 2008 to June 2009 against 353 recorded in 2008. Rundown of the statistics indicates that Abia state led the pack with a total of 110

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kidnapping incidents: Imo: 58,109 arrest, 41 prosecutions and one dead, Delta recorded 44 kidnap cases, 43 releases, 27 arrests, 31 prosecuted and one death, and Akwa Ibom recorded 40 kid cases,418 arrests and 11 prosecutions[57].

The report added that between July/September 2008 and July 2009, over 600 million was lost to kidnappers. But beyond statistics being available, it is known fact the most kidnap cases are never reported to the police authority for the fear of murder of the victim hence most families prefer to pay ransom to losing one of its own. For instance, in Kano, N80 million ransom was allegedly paid to kidnappers for the release of Kano based multi-millionaire businessman, without a recourse to the police authorities; an industrialist in Nnewi paid N70 million to regain his freedom from captors; another multi-millionaire businessman was kidnapped and released after he allegedly paid a ransom without recourse from the police[58].

The associated press in its report of August 27, 2008 stated that "more than 200 foreigners have been kidnapped in two years of heightened violence across Nigeria" restive south, the victims are normally released unharmed after a ransom is paid, although several have been killed during botched seizures or rescue attempts "victims are maimed, raped and manhandled in such manner that the stigma remains almost perpetually. The families and associates are knocked down by intractable trauma,"[59]. On Sunday, July 11, 2010, four journalists and in driver travelling in a convoy of buses from a conference in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State, were kidnapped in Abia State on their way back to Lagos. From their hideout, the abductors demanded a ransom of N250 million, and later reduced it to N30 million[60].

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A torrent of protests, condemnations and threats, greeted the action of the kidnappers and they were forced to let go of their victims. However, the police did not make a clear statement whether ransom was paid or not. In Idah, Kogi State, the mother of the former president of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), was also abducted. In Kano, a businessman was forcibly abducted in the presence of his family. The criminals were apparently looking for dollars; not finding it, they shot and injured his three children and still made off with him. In Akwa-Ibom where as many as ten Medical Doctors were kidnapped, staff of the university teaching hospital went on an indefinite strike following the failure of kidnappers to release their latest victim, a consultant paediatric surgeon. As a consequence, medical services at the specialist hospital were paralyzed and patients were stranded[61]. Also 26 United Kingdom nationals were kidnapped in Nigeria in between 2006 and 2007.

The oil-rich Niger-Delta region of Nigeria has seen an explosion in the number of foreigners kidnapped for financial or political gain. Seven foreigners were reported kidnapped in Nigeria in 2005. That figure increased to 72 in 2006 and 223 in 2007. This exponential increase has been largely the result of activity by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and other armed militant groups. 26 of the hostages were UK nationals. Of the 295 foreigners kidnapped in 2006 and 2007, five died as a result of injuries sustained during their abduction-including a Briton killed when the kidnappers' boat was attacked by the Nigerian navy. One Syrian hostage died of illness very shortly after his release[62]. The important thing is that we are close to accepting an unacceptable culture.

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Anti-kidnapping refers to a set of strategies, policies, and actions implemented to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the impact of kidnapping incidents. The primary goal is the protection of individuals from being unlawfully and forcibly taken captive for various reasons, including extortion, political motives, or personal vendettas[63]. To understand the nuances of anti-kidnapping, it is essential to examine the perspectives of different authors who have contributed to the discourse on this complex issue. From a legal standpoint, anti-kidnapping involves the formulation and enforcement of laws that specifically target kidnapping offenses. Legal frameworks often prescribe severe penalties for perpetrators, reflecting a societal commitment to deterrence. Legal definitions of anti-kidnapping highlight the criminalization of abductions and the necessity for a robust judicial response[64].

Law enforcement agencies play a crucial role in anti-kidnapping efforts. For them, anti-kidnapping involves proactive measures such as intelligence gathering, surveillance, and the development of rapid response teams. The emphasis is on both prevention and swift, effective responses to kidnapping incidents, often involving negotiations, rescue operations, or arrest and prosecution of the criminals involved[65]. Kidnapping is not confined by national borders, and the international community has a vested interest in combating this crime. International perspectives on anti-kidnapping include cooperation among countries to share intelligence, extradition of criminals, and the establishment of treaties and conventions to facilitate a unified response to transnational kidnapping threats[66].

While the above perspectives provide a broad understanding of anti-kidnapping, a critique of these definitions reveals certain challenges and limitations in addressing the

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complexities associated with this phenomenon. Some critics argue that an exclusive focus on criminalization may not be sufficient to address the root causes of kidnapping[67]. Merely imposing stringent penalties might not deter potential kidnappers if the socio-economic conditions that contribute to the crime are not addressed. A more comprehensive approach that combines legal measures with social and economic interventions is advocated by scholars seeking a holistic solution[68].

Traditionally, the definitions of anti-kidnapping often prioritize law enforcement actions and punitive measures against perpetrators. However, there is a growing recognition of the need for victim-centric approaches that prioritize the well-being and recovery of those who have experienced kidnapping[69]. This involves not only rescue operations but also comprehensive support systems for victims and their families. While international cooperation is crucial in addressing transnational kidnapping, challenges such as differing legal systems, diplomatic complexities, and issues of sovereignty can hinder effective collaboration. Critics argue that a more coordinated and standardized approach is needed at the global level to combat the increasingly sophisticated and interconnected nature of kidnapping networks[70].

A prominent legal scholar emphasizes the importance of a robust legal framework in the fight against kidnapping. To him, effective anti-kidnapping legislation should define specific offenses, prescribe severe penalties, and provide law enforcement agencies with the tools necessary for investigation and prosecution[71]. His argues that a clear and stringent legal framework sends a strong deterrent message and ensures accountability[72]. A human rights advocate, critiques traditional definitions of anti-kidnapping for their potential neglect of human rights considerations. The author argues that the emphasis on

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punitive measures should be balanced with a commitment to protecting the rights of both victims and suspects[73]. Additionally, she calls for a more nuanced approach that considers the socio-economic factors contributing to kidnapping, advocating for preventative measures alongside punitive actions.

An expert in international relations, highlights the importance of global collaboration in anti-kidnapping efforts. To him, the interconnected nature of kidnapping networks requires a coordinated response at the international level. He advocates for the development of standardized protocols, the sharing of intelligence, and diplomatic initiatives to foster cooperation among nations[74].

Anti-kidnapping, as a concept, evolves as society grapples with the challenges posed by this heinous crime. Definitions and perspectives vary, reflecting the multidimensional nature of kidnapping and the diverse strategies employed to combat it. A critical examination of these perspectives allows for a more nuanced understanding of anti-kidnapping efforts, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive, victim-centric, and internationally coordinated approach[75]. As the global community continues to confront the evolving threat of kidnapping, ongoing dialogue and collaboration among legal experts, human rights advocates, and international relations specialists are essential to shape effective anti-kidnapping strategies for the future.

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2.1.5 The Relationship between Anti-kidnapping and Strategic Intelligence in Nigeria

The nexus between strategic intelligence and anti-kidnapping efforts in Nigeria is intricate and multifaceted, reflecting the evolving nature of security challenges in the country. This relationship is explored from various perspectives, including the legal, law enforcement, and socio-economic dimensions, to provide a comprehensive understanding of how strategic intelligence contributes to the prevention and mitigation of kidnapping incidents[76].

From a legal standpoint, the role of strategic intelligence in anti-kidnapping efforts is evident in the formulation and enforcement of laws designed to combat this crime. Strategic intelligence is crucial for identifying legislative gaps, understanding emerging trends in kidnapping, and drafting comprehensive legal frameworks[77]. Legal scholars argue that an effective anti-kidnapping legal framework should be informed by intelligence insights into the tactics, motivations, and networks of kidnappers.

However, the legal approach is criticized for its occasional emphasis on punitive measures without addressing the root causes of kidnapping. Critics argue that a more holistic legal strategy, informed by intelligence on socio-economic factors contributing to kidnapping, is necessary[78]. This perspective underscores the need for strategic intelligence to inform legal frameworks that balance deterrence with preventative measures.

Law enforcement agencies play a pivotal role in anti-kidnapping efforts, relying heavily on strategic intelligence to prevent, respond to, and investigate kidnapping incidents.

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Intelligence gathering allows law enforcement to identify potential threats, track criminal networks, and conduct targeted operations[79]. The effectiveness of rapid response teams in rescuing hostages often hinges on the quality and timeliness of intelligence information. Despite the importance of law enforcement in anti-kidnapping, there are challenges, including resource constraints and coordination issues among various agencies. Critics argue that intelligence-sharing mechanisms need improvement to enhance the synergy among law enforcement entities[80]. Additionally, there is a need for continuous training and capacity building to ensure that law enforcement personnel can effectively utilize intelligence in their operations.

Strategic intelligence also plays a role in addressing the socio-economic factors that contribute to kidnapping. Understanding the economic disparities, unemployment, and social grievances that drive individuals to engage in kidnapping is essential for crafting effective prevention strategies. Intelligence on the conditions in vulnerable communities enables the development of targeted socio-economic interventions to address root causes[81]. However, critics argue that the socio-economic perspective is sometimes overlooked in favour of immediate law enforcement actions. They contend that a more balanced approach should involve intelligence-informed strategies that address both the symptoms and underlying causes of kidnapping[82]. Additionally, the challenge lies in implementing sustainable socio-economic reforms based on intelligence insights.

Kidnapping is not confined to national borders, necessitating international collaboration. Strategic intelligence facilitates the sharing of information among countries, enabling a coordinated response to transnational kidnapping threats[83]. Intelligence agencies collaborate to track the movement of criminal networks, share threat assessments, and

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facilitate the extradition of suspects. While international cooperation is crucial, challenges include differing legal systems, diplomatic complexities, and issues of sovereignty. Critics argue that strategic intelligence should be leveraged not only for tracking criminal activities but also for fostering diplomatic initiatives to overcome these challenges[84]. A more standardized and collaborative approach at the global level is advocated to address the interconnected nature of kidnapping networks.

The relationship between strategic intelligence and anti-kidnapping efforts in Nigeria is dynamic, influenced by legal, law enforcement, socio-economic, and international perspectives[85]. While strategic intelligence is indispensable in shaping legal frameworks, guiding law enforcement operations, and addressing root causes, there are critiques that highlight the need for a more balanced and holistic approach. Enhancing inter-agency collaboration, improving intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and addressing socio-economic factors are critical steps to strengthen the synergy between strategic intelligence and anti-kidnapping efforts in Nigeria[86]. The ongoing evolution of this relationship requires a continuous dialogue and adaptation to effectively combat the ever-changing landscape of kidnapping threats.

2.1.6 Government Efforts on the Reduction of Kidnapped Incidents

Kidnapping has emerged as a significant security challenge in Nigeria, prompting the government to implement various strategies to curb incidents and ensure the safety of its citizens[87]. In this section, the author assesses and critiques the efforts of the Nigerian government in addressing the scourge of kidnapping, examining both successes and areas that require improvement.

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i. Government Initiatives and Security Operations

The Nigerian government has undertaken security operations aimed at dismantling kidnapping networks and rescuing hostages. Military, police, and other security agencies have conducted targeted raids and operations in regions notorious for kidnapping activities[88]. These efforts reflect the government's commitment to a proactive response to curb the immediate threats posed by kidnappers. While security operations are essential, critics argue that there is a need for a more intelligence-driven approach. Overreliance on military interventions may lead to human rights concerns and potential collateral damage. A balance between robust security operations and intelligence-led strategies is crucial for sustainable success.

i. Legislative Measure

The Nigerian government has enacted and amended laws to address kidnapping, prescribing severe penalties for offenders. Legal frameworks have been designed to facilitate the prosecution of kidnappers, emphasizing the government's commitment to deterrence and accountability[89]. While legislative measures are critical, the pace of legal proceedings and the enforcement of these laws have been subjects of criticism. Delays in the judicial process and challenges in securing convictions can undermine the effectiveness of legislative efforts[90]. There is a need for judicial reforms to expedite the legal process and ensure that penalties are enforced consistently.

ii. Community Engagement

Community involvement is recognized as a key component of the government's anti-kidnapping strategy. The establishment of community policing initiatives and the

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encouragement of citizens to report suspicious activities contribute to intelligence gathering at the grassroots level[91]. Critics argue that community engagement efforts need to be more comprehensive. Building trust between communities and security forces is an ongoing challenge, and there is a need for sustained dialogue and initiatives that address the socio-economic factors that contribute to kidnapping.

iii. **International Collaboration**

Recognizing the transnational nature of kidnapping, the Nigerian government has engaged in international collaborations. This involves sharing intelligence, extradition of suspects, and participating in regional efforts to combat cross-border criminal activities[92]. While international collaboration is essential, critics contend that the Nigerian government should take a more proactive role in fostering regional cooperation. There is a need for diplomatic initiatives to strengthen partnerships with neighbouring countries and regional organizations, addressing the interconnected nature of criminal networks[93].

v. Socio-Economic Interventions

In recognition of the socio-economic factors contributing to kidnapping, the government has initiated programs to address youth unemployment, poverty, and inequality. Economic empowerment initiatives aim to provide viable alternatives for individuals susceptible to engaging in criminal activities[94]. While socio-economic interventions are laudable, there are concerns about the implementation and impact of these programs. Critics argue that the government needs to ensure the effectiveness, transparency, and

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sustainability of these initiatives to address the root causes of kidnapping comprehensively.

The Nigerian government's efforts in curbing kidnapping incidents reflect a multifaceted approach involving security operations, legislative measures, community engagement, international collaboration, and socio-economic interventions[95]. While commendable strides have been made, there is room for improvement and refinement in various aspects of the anti-kidnapping strategy. Critiques highlight the need for a balanced and intelligence-driven approach, expedited legal processes, enhanced community trust, proactive regional collaboration, and effective implementation of socio-economic interventions[96]. The evolving nature of the kidnapping threat requires the Nigerian government to adapt and refine its strategies continually. A comprehensive and collaborative effort, addressing both the immediate symptoms and underlying causes, is essential for sustainable success in curbing kidnapping incidents in Nigeria.

2.1.7 Obstacles Confronting the Nigeria Police Force in Curbing Kidnapping

Scholars have attested to the fact that there is much to be desired in the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nigeria police force in relation to combating crimes. Till date as despite the enabling statutory backing that the police have, it has rather displayed and generated a great deal of controversies with regards to the maintenance of public peace, safety, security and crime prevention and detection[97]. Various factors have been blamed as constituting challenges to effective and efficient policing in Nigeria. In fact, these challenges are cumulative and range from material to human and external.

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One of the major obstacles which greatly hinder the police in its effort to curb kidnapping in Nigeria is the widespread corruption among its rank and file (officers and men). The stigma of corruption in the Nigeria police force is damning and includes the taking of bribe from suspects as well as complainants before carrying out its statutory functions. Despite the efforts of the police to counter the corruption tag that has stuck firmly on its image, an author asserts that the issue of corruption in the police force is an undeniable fact with several evidence of their involvement[98].

Some further attested to the fact that the police connive with kidnapping offenders to help them out of police custody after collecting money from them and their relations and subsequently closing the case file or writing a report in favour of the offender[99]. Closely associated with the label of corruption that has been placed on the Nigeria police force is the poor perception the public has of it. The cankerworm of corruption has deeply affected the social image of the public as public opinion regarding the integrity of police officers is that of "dirty Harry" [100]. In his study, an author notes that the police force has been criticized for aiding and abetting kidnappers, resulting in the public being unwilling to report incidence of the crime to the police[101]. Rather, they prefer to pay the ransom to the kidnappers so that their relations or friends can regain their freedom. This very low public attitude towards the Nigeria police force is also a consequence of a historical legacy of using the police to suppress Nigerians by the colonial and post-colonial governments[131].

Regrettably, the public has therefore become unwilling to cooperate with the police in crime prevention and detection. Interestingly, without the needed information and cooperation of the public, the police cannot do much in the maintenance of security.

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Inadequate training, materials and poor remuneration for both officers and men of the Nigeria police force are notable factors that have created abysmal performance for the police in carrying out their statutory functions of crime prevention and detection[132]. The training of policemen is a sine qua non to effective performance but regrettably, there is little or none presently and where any exist, it is very poor as the men are not thoroughly exposed to modern policing[133].

Besides, there is a paucity of equipment. The few ones which are available are obsolete, crying for replacement and yet have none in sight. A major equipment that has handicapped the police in its quest to curb kidnapping in Nigeria, is its lack of tracking devices and as such, they are not able to track down kidnappers. To worsen the situation is the very uncooperative attitude of the GSM operators who are either unwilling to give call details of suspected kidnappers or claim that their equipment is faulty[134]. This unwholesome situation has greatly impacted on the performance of the police in relation to the curbing of kidnapping.

The saying, "a hungry man is an angry man" plays out very well in the performance of the police. The salary of the average police is nothing compared with that of the politicians and their contemporaries in other parastatals. The welfare is quite inadequate and there is no motivation from the government and any other quarter[135]. The policeman puts his life on the line when chasing kidnappers and other criminals, gets hurt and in some cases killed with no insurance scheme or provision for his wife, children and dependents[136]. Such a situation leads to apathy, indifferences and unwillingness to put in one's best in the service to the nation.

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Agreed that generally, Nigeria is still witnessing the effect of economic recession, and there has been the underfunding of government agencies, it has however remained a recurring decimal in the annals of the Nigeria police force. The various barracks across the country need a facelift, the police colleges are in a sorry state, equipment and materials are constantly unavailable or in short supply[137]. An author has maintained that cases of an entire police division having only one police van which in some cases is not serviceable or an entire station not having at all abounds. These issues remain unsolved without adequate funding; the state of preparedness of the police to carry out its constitutional functions of prevention and detection of crime particularly the now very attractive kidnapping is near zero especially as coordination of their activities is made more difficult[138].

It is therefore glaring from the preceding paragraph that the conclusions which many scholars have reached with regards to the fact that the police have a bad image in the eye of the public as well as that it is most inefficient and effective in curbing crimes, kidnapping inclusive is not far from the truth[139].

2.1.8 Intelligence Gathering

The word intelligence has various definitions. In its simplest conceptual form, the concept can be defined as the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge. Intelligence is a very general mental capability that among other things, involves the ability to reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly and learn from experience; the ability to learn facts and skills and apply them especially when this ability is highly developed[140]. Intelligence is the most complex practical property of mind, integrating numerous mental abilities, such as the capacities to reason, solve

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problems, think abstractly, comprehend ideas and language, and learn[141]. It is defined as information that meets the stated, understood, needs of policy makers and has been collected, refined and narrowed to meet those needs. Nations require intelligence about their immediate environment and that of other nations. This is necessary because, in order to preserve their security, they need to keep track of internal and external threats[142].

Intelligence gathering, as a critical tool of statecraft provides the necessary warning about imminent threats policy makers in order to protect a nation from being subjected to surprise military attacks. Intelligence as an organization is able to avert imminent threats to a country by providing timely, processed information to national security decision makers. Intelligence gathering (information), which is important to national security, is collected, analysed and disseminated for use to support action[143].

In Nigeria, there is no link between the producers of intelligence and users of intelligence. The value of intelligence is in the eyes of its users, not its producers; intelligence is at its best when it is fully integrated with its users. Hence, effective collaboration between intelligence and security agencies is germane in order to provide quality national security[144]. Nigeria has had to grapple over the years with the challenge of inadequate intelligence sharing among its security and law enforcement agencies. Intelligence is necessary for nations, hence, the need for establishment and maintenance of national intelligence organizations among the agencies of the Federal Government of Nigeria which are shouldered with intelligence activities such as, Department of State Services (DSS) also known as SSS, Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the National Intelligence Community (NIC).

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Modern intelligence gathering relies essentially on both human efforts and electronic gadgets. It transcends mere stealing of someone's secret and it is operated strategically in a comprehensive environment and more often than not covertly[145].

2.1.9 Intelligence Gathering and Its Effect on the Security of the State

Nigeria as a country has had too many of violent upheaval over the years, often resulting in enormous loss of lives and property and even posing threats to the nation's corporate existence. No doubt, the combined effect of these crises has been catastrophic on the nation's image and economy. There is positive relationship between the effective intelligence gathering and state of security. Similarly, ineffective or inaccurate intelligence often produce insecurity[146]. The impact of intelligence gathering and sharing is always felt in terms of provision of timely, reliable and effective information to assist the users (all law enforcement agencies) in carrying out their duties promptly.

Unfortunately, the security challenges that the country has faced since the dawn of the twenty-first century especially since the uprising in the terrorist activities of the Boko Haram Sect since 2011 seem to give the impression that the intelligence community has gone to sleep. This is regrettable because the continuity of killings has been experienced in the recent past portends nothing possible but grave danger to the Nigeria nation-state[147]. When intelligence gathering is properly deployed and harnessed, it enables the government to be able to forecast and appropriate enough resources to capture all angles of security needs equipment and both soft and hard can be stationed where appropriate to a good idea of planners of terror attack and contained such before execution[148].

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With use of products of intelligence gathering threat to critical infrastructures can easily be assessed, guide and guard against. The raw information obtained on organized crime perpetrators will be studies and areas that of critical concern to the government will be taken care of. Intelligence gathering gives a good ideas and direction in getting the trends in crimes and criminal acts. It affords the government the timely action of rejigging repositioning and creation of needful units to take of emerging trends as distilled from the information obtained from such[149].

Channels of communication among agencies are significantly improved to allow better and faster exchange of information thereby fostering greater cooperation, particularly when focusing on criminal activities and other security breaches. The lack of information sharing between the law enforcement and intelligence communities was highlighted as failure for the kidnapping of over 200 Chibok girls by the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria[150]. An author posits that Nigeria has had to grapple over the years with the challenge of inadequate intelligence sharing among its security and law enforcement agencies.

The non-effectiveness of the intelligence support of security operations in Nigeria are attributed to inadequate human and technical intelligence capabilities. The lack of real time intelligence and lack of analytical skills to predict incident accurately before, during and after they occur as well as intelligence as a product being unreliable during operations, are some of the issues that have created doubt in the quality of intelligence available[151]. Most of the security agencies operations are not timely to actions even when adequate and timely intelligence are provided as a matter of golden hour (i.e. the period

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between which an incident is reported and a quick response of action is taken). This is due to inherent problems associated with the security agencies in Nigeria.

The State Secret Service and other national intelligence agencies in their collective capacity, remain as the main eyes protecting various essential blind spots in our society as they relate to the safety and wellbeing of our citizens, everyone and everything representing the government's interest[152]. Yet the security and safety situation are at despair and depressing to the extent that in the face of hard-knock and fearless attacks from the violent Islamic sect, militants' group, The security agencies have failed to pre-empt security breaches in Nigeria. In particular, the failure of the intelligence services to contain the recurring security breaches.

Effective counter insecurity prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts depend on timely, accurate and achievable information about who the enemies are, where and how they operate, the targets of the enemies into attack they use. Terrorism, organized crime, ethnic-religious crisis, kidnapping, military arms smuggling are serious challenges confronting Nigeria[153]. The Law enforcement agencies have an important sometimes central role in combating each of these threats.

Despite the challenges of intelligence gathering and inter agency synergy remain the best and greatest counter measure against terrorism as well as other security breaches and crisis situation[154]. One of the problems identified as problem in intelligence gathering, is intelligence sharing, most of the intelligence gathered are not shared among the security agencies in Nigeria. Intelligence sharing arrangements cover an array of potential activity between governments including, inter alia, information sharing, operational cooperation, facilities and equipment hosting, training and capacity building, and technical and

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financial support[155]. The purpose of sharing ranges from protecting people from violent threats, finding and apprehending suspects.

2.1.9 Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG)

Strategic intelligence gathering is a multifaceted concept that plays a crucial role in decision-making processes within various domains, including government, military, business, and academia. The term encompasses a wide range of activities aimed at collecting, analysing and interpreting information to gain a competitive advantage or inform strategic planning[156]. Different authors and scholars offer varied perspectives on what constitutes strategic intelligence gathering, reflecting the diversity of its applications and the evolving nature of the field.

The Military Perspective of Strategic Intelligence Gathering

One of the earliest and most traditional contexts in which strategic intelligence gathering has been applied is the military. In military terms, strategic intelligence involves the collection and analysis of information to support national security objectives. A renowned military theorist posits that intelligence is the "discovery, by means of reconnaissance, of the enemy's dispositions, movements, and intentions." From this perspective, the emphasis is on acquiring knowledge about the adversary to develop effective military strategies and tactics[157].

A Chinese author in his ancient Chinese treatise "The Art of War," also highlights the importance of intelligence, stating, all warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive[158]. This underlines the strategic nature of intelligence, where information is not

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only collected but also employed to manipulate perceptions and gain a psychological advantage. While the military perspective provides a clear framework for the application of strategic intelligence, critics argue that it may lead to a narrow focus on adversarial elements, potentially overlooking broader contextual factors that influence strategic decision-making[159].

The Business Perspective

In the business world, strategic intelligence gathering is often referred to as competitive intelligence. It involves the systematic collection and analysis of information about competitors, customers, and the business environment to support decision-making and gain a competitive edge[160]. A prominent figure in the field of competitive intelligence, defines it as the legal and ethical activity of systematically gathering, analysing, and managing external information that can affect your company's plans, decisions, and operations[161].

From a business perspective, intelligence is not limited to military-style reconnaissance but extends to market trends, consumer behaviour, and technological advancements. Companies engage in competitive intelligence to anticipate market shifts, identify opportunities and threats, and enhance their overall strategic agility. Some critics argue that the corporate focus on competitive intelligence might lead to unethical practices, such as industrial espionage or the misuse of proprietary information. Striking a balance between gathering relevant information and maintaining ethical standards remains a challenge[162].

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Government and National Security

Governments engage in strategic intelligence gathering to safeguard national interests, assess potential threats, and formulate policies. In this context, intelligence agencies play a pivotal role in collecting and analysing information related to political, economic, and military developments. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) defines intelligence as "the information and analysis that provides the understanding necessary for decision-makers to make informed choices[163]. The government's perspective on strategic intelligence is broad, encompassing not only external threats but also internal challenges, such as economic stability and social unrest[164].

The intelligence community collaborates with various agencies to provide a comprehensive picture that aids policymakers in crafting effective strategies. Critics often raise concerns about the potential misuse of intelligence for political purposes, leading to controversial decisions or actions. The balance between national security imperatives and individual privacy rights is a persistent ethical dilemma in this context[165].

Academic and Analytical Perspectives

In academic circles, strategic intelligence gathering is examined from a theoretical and analytical standpoint. Scholars considered the father of intelligence analysis, emphasize the importance of structured analysis in transforming raw information into meaningful intelligence. He defines intelligence analysis as the process of transforming raw information into a form that will fulfil the intelligence needs of its users[166]. Academic perspectives delve into the methodologies, cognitive biases, and ethical considerations

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inherent in intelligence gathering. Researchers explore the impact of technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence and big data analytics, on the evolution of strategic intelligence practices[167]. While academic perspectives contribute valuable insights, some critics argue that the theoretical nature of academic discourse may not always align with the pragmatic challenges faced by intelligence practitioners. Bridging the gap between theory and practice remains a key challenge[168].

Strategic intelligence gathering, with its diverse applications across military, business, government, and academia, is a dynamic and evolving concept. The perspectives offered by different authors reflect the complexity and multifaceted nature of intelligence activities[169]. From the military's focus on adversary analysis to the business world's emphasis on competitive advantage, each perspective brings unique insights and challenges. Critiques of these perspectives highlight ethical concerns, potential misuse of information, and the need for a balanced approach that considers both national security imperatives and individual rights[170]. The academic discourse surrounding intelligence adds depth to the understanding of methodologies and cognitive processes involved in intelligence analysis but may struggle to bridge the gap between theory and real-world application.

A comprehensive understanding of strategic intelligence gathering requires an appreciation of its varied definitions and applications. As the field continues to evolve, addressing ethical dilemmas, embracing technological advancements, and fostering collaboration between different sectors will be essential for the effective and responsible practice of strategic intelligence gathering in the future. Strategic intelligence involves

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the collection, analysis, and interpretation of information to guide decision-making at the highest levels of government[171].

In Nigeria, the role of strategic intelligence is critical in anticipating, preventing, and responding to security threats. The country's intelligence agencies, including the State Security Service (SSS) and the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), are tasked with the responsibility of gathering intelligence on a wide range of issues, from terrorism and insurgency to economic crimes and political instability[172]. One of the key challenges facing strategic intelligence in Nigeria is the need for improved coordination and collaboration among various intelligence agencies. The lack of seamless information sharing has often resulted in intelligence gaps, hindering the government's ability to respond effectively to emerging threats. Enhancing inter-agency cooperation and communication is imperative for a more robust and efficient intelligence apparatus.

One of the most pressing security concerns in Nigeria is the insurgency led by the extremist group Boko Haram. The group, which seeks to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, has been responsible for a series of brutal attacks, kidnappings, and suicide bombings. Strategic intelligence is instrumental in understanding the group's motivations, recruitment patterns, and operational tactics[173]. To address the Boko Haram insurgency, strategic intelligence must go beyond conventional military approaches. It requires a nuanced understanding of the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to the group's resilience. Additionally, intelligence efforts must focus on countering radicalization and addressing the root causes of discontent in marginalized communities where Boko Haram often finds recruits.

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Nigeria's diversity, while a source of strength, also poses challenges, particularly in the form of ethnic and religious tensions. Strategic intelligence must navigate the complex web of inter-group dynamics to identify potential flashpoints and pre-emptively address issues that could escalate into violence. The clashes between farmers and herders, often framed along ethnic and religious lines, underscore the need for intelligence that goes beyond traditional security concerns[174]. Understanding the socio-cultural factors that contribute to these conflicts is essential for developing strategies that promote coexistence and address the underlying causes of tension.

In an interconnected world, security threats often transcend national borders. Nigeria shares borders with several countries, and effective strategic intelligence requires collaboration with neighbouring nations to address cross-border challenges. Transnational issues such as arms smuggling, human trafficking, and the movement of extremist groups necessitate regional intelligence-sharing mechanisms[175]. Strengthening ties with countries in the West African region is vital to creating a collective security framework that can effectively counter threats that extend beyond Nigeria's borders.

2.1.10 Sources of Illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria

Sources of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are varied and many. However, an author classified them into three. Namely, internal, cross border smuggling, and security black racketeering.

i. Internal Manufacturing

Most of the legitimate and illicit small arms in circulation within the country are locally manufactured. The government of Nigeria established the Defence Industries

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Corporation of Nigeria (DICON). This Corporation is legally empowered to produce arms and ammunitions in the country, mainly for use by the military and the police. Given the legal status of its mandate, this does not constitute a significant source of illicit small arms. Other internal sources of small arms are the unlicensed local craftsmen found across different parts of the country[176]. This group of individuals produce a substantial quantity of illicit guns in circulation in the country. The clandestine nature of their activities negates due diligence, transparency, and regulation as required by international standards. It also makes products difficult to trace and makes the SALW position of Nigeria opaque.

ii. Cross Border Smuggling

Cross-border smuggling constitutes a major source of SALW proliferation. Even though, Nigeria procures arms from other countries for her legitimate use in connection with state security obligations, Nigeria is yet vulnerable to illicit SALW infiltration from abroad because of her geographical location[177]. Reportedly, the three most notorious arms smuggling frontiers are Idi Iroko and Seme in the South Western States of Ogun and Lagos; the Niger Delta regions, and the border post in the north-eastern region, are seen as aiding smuggling. The increased number of potential suppliers arising from the end of the cold war, and weak international controls of armament flows, are contributory to the spread of SALW[178]. These factors have created opportunities for militant groups and other private actors to access sophisticated SALW previously accessible only by members of the armed forces.

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iii. Security Black Racketeering

A large number of illicit firearms consist of leakages from members of the armed forces and the police both serving and retired. This includes the remnants from the Nigerian Civil War and leakages from returnees of peacekeeping operations.

Types of Arms Market

With respect to the sale and acquisition of armament, there are three types of markets, known as white, grey (mixture of black and white), and black markets.

i. The White Market

The white market corresponds to the sale and acquisition of arms by authorized private manufacturers or government-owned arms manufacturing companies. Thus, both the purchase and sale, as well as, the final destination of these arms is legal.

ii. Grey Market

In the grey market, the initial sale and distribution is carried out through legal channels, by a government company or a private company authorized to make the sale. However, the final destination may be an illegal or illegitimate organization or actor. Characteristic of grey market transactions, and specifically of these two cases, is that they usually involve the acquisition of high volumes of weapons[179]. The weapons are usually purchased from government companies or from the armed forces for whom it is inefficient to negotiate and carry out transactions for smaller quantities of armament and ammunition. The grey market transactions involving the acquisition of arms manufactured by government companies, or derived from the arms surplus of those

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countries, indeed are an important source of weapons for the illegal armed groups in Nigeria[180].

iii. Black Market

The black market is that in which the whole transaction, that is the sale, distribution, and final destination, is carried out illegally, whether it is done among unauthorized actors, or whether it takes place outside the legal channels. The main source of illegal armament for the subversive groups in Nigeria is the black market. This implies that the main suppliers of arms to those groups are illegal arms traffickers. Within the black-market weapons there may be different sources, even if they end up being sold by illegal dealers[181]. With this in mind, it is important to distinguish between the international black market and the domestic black market. In the first case, members of the illegal armed groups or their support networks contact international arms traffickers, whether in Nigeria or abroad, to begin the negotiation process.

The main source of illegal armament for the subversive groups in Colombia is the black market. This implies that the main suppliers of arms to those groups are illegal arms traffickers. Within the black-market weapons may have a different source, even if they end up being sold by illegal dealers. With this in mind it is important to distinguish between the international black market and the domestic black market. The grey market and, especially, the black market are the major sources for the acquisition of armament, accounting for close to 80% of the total of illegal arms that enter the Nigerian market every year[182].

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The Implications of SALWs on Security in Nigeria

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) around the world and particularly in Africa had over time developed at an alarming rate which has put the security and sustainable development of the entire continent in jeopardy. SALWs proliferation has created a culture of violence and an upsurge of criminal activities that is threatening the peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria[183]. The development of illicit arms in conflicts prone areas aggravates their intensity and gruesomeness and their impacts are felt not only by the victims but by the society as a whole. Possession of firearms can provoke the temptation to commit heinous crimes such as rape, robbery, kidnapping, cultism and culpable homicide thereby increasing the scale of premeditated violence through the use of firearms[184].

The widespread availability and access to illicit arms often results in massive population displacement, uprooting millions of children and families from their homes and making children more susceptible to disease, violence, military recruitment and sexual assault. As a result of recurrent violent conflicts, Nigeria is faced with the herculean task of responding to a fluctuating but always sizeable number of internally displaced person (IDPs). The destruction of properties and communities including deprivation of sources of income and right to family is resulting in considerable psychological trauma and creation of large number of refugees depend on humanitarian aid are all direct effects of conflicts and violence involving (SALWs)[185].

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Civil war, communal violence, ethno-religious conflicts and social unrests involving the use of illicit weapons have directly inflicted deep human and material wounds on Nigeria. The impact of these conflicts on vulnerable groups such as children and women is particularly destructive. Also, illicit weapons typically have the potential to challenge the very existence of the state. It was noted that in a democratic policy like Nigeria, where resources tend to be scarce and state capacity relatively weak, illicit SALWs provide ethnic warriors with the means and power in criminal activities and in the process severely undermine the rule of law[186].

The proliferation of SALWs threatens the consolidation of democracy and security in Nigeria which is necessary for sustainable development. For the past two decades, Nigeria has particularly been overwhelmed with violent conflicts as well as inter and intra-communal clashes, ethnic conflicts, inter-regional tensions, political conflicts, etc. For example, agitations from the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Niger Delta Avenger, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), etc and more recently the activities of the Boko Haram sect and Fulani Herdsmen/Farmers conflicts Nigeria has become a huge market for local, regional and international arms dealers and syndicates; a primary destination of small arms and light weapons flows and centre of illegal trafficking[187].

The foregoing challenge has become a continued cause for concern and worry in spite of concerted efforts at the regional and international levels to assuage it, culminating in the loss of many lives and destruction of properties in many African states. The government's inability to provide adequate security has culminated in people resorting to self-help by taking up arms and consequently driving the largest proliferation and use

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of small arms and light weapons[188]. Thus, the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons no doubt threatens individual security, contributes to human rights violation, undermines social justice and weakens good governance, national security and sustainable development.

The Magnitude of SALWs Proliferation in Nigeria

Big arms and heavy weapons are super expensive and have high economic shrinking ability that takes a big toll on national income and development. This reality makes SALW not only cost effective but desirable by state and non-state actors. Other features that make SALW proliferation attractive ranges from simplicity, durability, low cost, wide availability, portability, ease of control, and ability to cause lethal impact[189]. The magnitude SALWs proliferation in Nigeria cannot be accurately quantified, as so many of the effects is hard to measure such as fear and want. However, there is no dispute that small arms have had a devastating effect on development, governance and everyday life for the citizens of the Nigeria[190]. There is rough estimation of one to three million SALW in circulation in Nigeria, mostly in civilian possession that is obtained illegally.

Nigerian state is at crossroad on security concerns and the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons has had a dramatic impact on peace and security in Nigeria, threatening not only the existence of the state, but also the livelihoods of millions of people across the 36 states of the federation. Across the country, even cultists in Nigerian tertiary institutions are now using fire arms in their rival conflicts and political groups in their quest to influence their election results. Even Nigerian security agencies have been victims of illicit weapon trade because armed robbers in recent times have confronted them in gun battle[191].

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The porous nature of Nigeria's borders with its neighbours plays a significant role in the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Unmanned border crossing point and widespread corruption facilitates illicit trafficking of small arms[192]. Despite the ending of many conflicts in the sub-region, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia Chad etc, smuggling and the illicit trade of small arms are reported to be on the increase. Consequences of small arms and light weapons in the 21st century Nigeria The epileptic crisis in the Niger delta makes arm race between militant groups likes Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Coalition for Militant Action in the Niger Delta (COMA), Joint Revolutionary Council JRCO, Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force NDPVF inevitable, leaving violence in a roller coaster state of affairs, that is besides increasing level of kidnapping, reduction in national oil production, loss of oil revenue, resource and environmental degradation[193].

Many Nigerians today, especially from the North-eastern part are internally displaced from their homes due to SALW proliferation resulting either from communal clash, ethno-religious violence, terrorism, militancy, or electoral violence in many parts of the country leading to loss of lives and properties, while facilitating criminal conducts such as kidnapping, bank robbery, oil bunkering and illicit mining. Borno state government while signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the state government, Fadama and the World Bank, the real victim's Boko haram insurgency are women and children[194]. So far, the results of such activities have generated 54, 911 widows and 52, 311 orphan. The crux of the matter is that the lifeline of boko haram insurgency is the availability of small arms and light weapons proliferation[195]. Proliferation and misuse of SALW has pernicious effects on the rule of law in the broadest sense and human rights,

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and manifest in more ways than one. Though firearms are not the root cause of crime, it is generally agreed that the deployment of illicit small arms in conflicts and crimes aggravates their gruesomeness and impact not only on the victims but also on the wider society[196].

Owed to small arms and light weapons proliferation in Nigeria, an estimated 30,000 barrels of oil are stolen daily. It is reported that Nigeria has lost about $100 billion to oil theft between 2003 and 2008, and at least 50% percent of the stolen oil and funds were exchanged for arms and ammunitions[197]. The link between corruption or ill-gotten money and small arms and light weapons proliferation can be unpacked within the environment of such criminal activities it supports, as many traffickers or kidnappers who fund criminal activities and proliferation of arms simply do so as business, and mysteriously such ill gotten money are also smuggled into the mainstream economy[198].

Indeed, the fact that weapons are available in the hands of rebels and combatants, impedes the alternative conflict resolution strategies and increase insecurity and further protracted conflict in the country as well as frustrates efforts of peacekeeping peace building operations in building and reconstructing of the societies that have been devastated by conflict[199]. Another area that is affected by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the 21st century is the tourism industry that was booming in many parts of the country in the 20th century, as foreign tourist has become the most desired target in the kidnapping industry[200].

In brief, the proliferation of SALW in 21st century has witnessed the increase use of these available small arms by terrorist, militants, killer herdsmen, and criminal gangs to engage in political, economic and socio- cultural benefits. Besides the high level loss of

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lives and properties, it also witnessed an increase in sexual violence from raping of innocent victims, sexual slavery to forced marriage. SALW proliferation in Nigeria today, creates a negative perception of security, preventing foreign direct investments, puncturing the notion of ease of doing business, while increasing lack of confidence in government and its security apparatus[201].

2.1.10.1 Gap in Intelligence Sharing and the Refusal of the Citizens to Share Information

Information sharing is different from intelligence gathering. Information is shared the same methods of distributing intelligence but it requires going through critical evaluation of the content and the sources that must pass the rigors of the intelligence cycle[202]. The information gathered from the members of the public supposed to be raw materials for creating valuable and achievable intelligence but in Nigeria, situation is quite different because; members of the public are afraid of being indicted by law enforcement agencies especially the police; linking information to the criminal or suspect by the bad eggs in the agencies[203].

Generally speaking, the citizens should play very critical roles in generating intelligence but, they are unwilling to provide information to the law enforcement agencies. In Nigeria, citizens are not willing due to the following factors.

1. Loss of Confidence in the Government. The continuous mis-rule and economic deprivation of the people leading to the worsening social welfare made the people to keep away from having anything to do with government. People protect system that is responsible which cater for their needs. Lack of

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transparency and good service delivery on the part of government makes the citizens unwilling to cooperate in the area of information sharing[204].

2. Lack of Professionalism. It is not understatement to conclude that lots of officials do not even know and practice professional ethics. Sensitive information are messed up and exposed. The identities of those who volunteer to give information are sometimes exposed to crime gangs for pecuniary motives.
3. Corruption. It has affected virtually all sectors of the society. Sometimes when sensitive information is given about people or event but because of corruption and selfish reasons, this information is distorted and it is not useful for intelligence gathering[205].
4. Ethnic and Religious reasons. In Nigeria, many people have total allegiance to their religious leaders, so that they will refuse to give any relevant information concerning any criminal activities of their leaders or the group. Ethnicity and religious bigotry have worked negatively in the area of information between the citizens and law enforcement agencies. Citizens are more comfortable in holding information or even misleading the government officials even by planting fake information to cover up vital information just because it involves their tribe or religion[206].

2.1.11 Some Causes of Kidnapping in Nigeria

This study argued with previous studies of some scholars on the issues triggering kidnapping in Nigeria. The present study found that the negligence of the government to address the root-causes of kidnapping such as youth unemployment, corrupt politicians,

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quick money syndrome, and hard-drug influence is the vital forces igniting heinous crimes including kidnapping in the country.

i. Consistent Unemployment

To a scholar consistent unemployment problem is one of the driving factors deteriorating kidnapping, as always, the wise saying "an idle mind is the devil's workshop." In Nigeria, many youths search for non-existing jobs out of frustration. This author acknowledges that negative alternatives often develop on the mind of the individuals affected with such threat, which also couple with mounting responsibilities to tackle, they are also poverty afflicted and usually find comfort in heinous crimes such as kidnapping in the sense that numerous non-disabled individuals, school drop-out and graduates roam around the streets both unemployed[207].

ii. Proliferation of Corrupt Politicians

A scholar affirmed that the politicians hired idlest persons for political-thuggery and left them with unfulfilled promises. Affectedly, the used and dumped frustrated armed youths will have to figure out how to survive by abducting the relatives of their masters and vulnerable peoples as revenge[208]. Relatively, the evolvement of oil in the 1970s ignites heinous crimes incidences in Nigeria, between the political office holders astonishing the resources and others who are excluded from the juicy government contracts, engage in kidnapping as an alternate illicit share of the "national cake"[209].

iii. The Quick-Money Syndrome

An author scrutinizes that the syndrome of "get-rich-quick" and "moral decadence" had been identified as a causative factor of kidnapping. Also, some authors claimed that

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nobody investigates how people acquire their wealth in Nigeria, a poor person today might show up rich the next day, and unquestionably free in the society that was craving for quick-fortune. Boldly enough, such people get rewarded with chieftaincy titles in their communities, thereby instilling immoral decisions as transparent to the Nigerian youths, and such image triggered the youths to think that one can elevate respect from illegal earnings[210]. Hence, they embark on heinous crimes such as kidnapping to portrayed and reflect the government officials that boldly looted the country's treasure. They can also perpetrate above the law and kidnap and secure ransom without fear, which had turn disastrous that foreigners, businessmen, and successful people shadowing under the government umbrella suffers the menace[211].

iv. The Influence of Narcotic Drugs

Excessive consumption and trafficking of hard drugs also ignite the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria[212]. The author also illustrates that Abia State contributed significantly to the Nigerian economy due to its commerce and flourishing entrepreneurs. Besides, the state emerges as a notorious drug zone in eastern Nigeria in trafficking and consuming. The drug lords ensured ready served drug supply in Abia and its neighbouring states, The extensive illegal drug usage especially between teenagers, ignite heinous crimes such as armed robbery and kidnapping within Abia and the rest of the country, through Numerous sales joints where the criminal act is planned, perfected and executed[213].

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2.1.12 Banditry in Nigeria: Demand for Ransome and Collection Technique

Kidnapping for ransom, or hostage taking, is defined in the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages: as any person who seizes or detains and threatens to kill, to injure or to continue to detain another person in order to compel a third party, namely, a state, an international intergovernmental organization, a natural or juridical person, or a group of persons, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of hostages[214].

From 1970 to 2010, kidnapping incidents represented a small portion of all terrorist attacks (6.9%); however, through 2016, the percentage of kidnappings jumped significantly to 15.8% of all terrorist attacks[215]. In 2017, the total number of terrorist attacks (8584 worldwide) decreased by 23%, and the number of casualties due to terrorist attacks decreased by 27%, compared to 2016. The number of kidnapping victims and hostages recorded in 2019 was more than 8900, which signifies a 43% decline from 2016 and a notable shift from previous years, which saw sharp increases in this figure. Globally, bombings and explosions accounted for 47% of attacks in that year.

Armed assault was the next most common form of attack, accounting for 22%, followed by facility/infrastructure attacks (12%), hostage taking (10%), and assassinations (8%)[216]. Nasser Al-Wuhayshi, the former leader of Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, called kidnapping "an easy spoil… a profitable trade and a precious treasure"[217]. The commander of the Mali-based Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), noted in a newspaper interview: that "lots of Western countries are paying enormous sums to the jihadists. The source of our financing is the Western countries[218]. They are paying for jihad".

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Scholars explore the dominant narrative of ill-governed or ungoverned and unkempt territories in the northern region of Nigeria where informality and socioeconomic deficit fashioned the mannerism of everyday life. The phenomenon of territorial isolation and community exclusion from governance system, especially the large-sized domain like the north eastern part of the country, precipitates growth of criminal-armed groups usually premised on false ideology with criminal and political motivation/undertone[219].

Some argued that the primordial negligence of ungoverned areas with limited state surveillance or unharmonized state presence, controlled by informal networks and hybrid arrangements, creates an enabling environment for warlordism, religious fanaticism, and tribal self-defence forces. It further demonstrates that governance failure in these regions stimulates illegal movement of arms and ammunition, the raw material for bombs, illegal drugs and foreign machines, and abodes for armed groups[220].

A scholar reported that part of the land belonging to Tanko Salihu Islamic School, Tegina, in the Raf Local Government Area of Niger State, was sold to raise N50m ransom in two batches, which was paid to the bandits that kidnapped 136 students from the school. The parents of the students, after spending 79 days in captivity, said they have exhausted every available means to get the children released from captivity[221]. Stepping up territorial governance is the antidotes in curtailing excesses of terrorists, Fulani militancy, and banditry. An author advocated for good governance that transcends ethnic chauvinism as a veritable weapon in conquering multilayered security quagmires facing the giant of Africa[222].

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2.1.13 Institutional Responses to Victim Plight

Negligence, bias, ill will, corruption, religious and ethnic bigotry, ill-informed elitist ideas, and so on, subsumed in politics and political power acquisition quest, which political leaders believed is the quickest access to public funds, are the bases for the weakened state security architecture. This scenario can be best described as political elite infiltration into the security architecture of the nation, thereby occasioning compromises at several fronts[223]. A situation whereby religious and ethnic chauvinism dictates institutional headship and direction of state affairs weakens institutional functioning capacity and objectivity in decisions as well as responses to individual and societal needs.

For instance, there are incidences of kidnapping that has kept victims in captivity for over 8 years, where victims are massacred with video footages, military formations, and personnel attacks/killings that the authorities concerned failed or refused to show convincing capacity and will in doing the needful. Amount of state investment on capacity building and infrastructure is a key determinant in shaping the behavioural dispositions of majority of its people[224]. Capacity building, beyond enhancing efficiency and proficiency in productivity prowess, information, and orientation components are also germane.

No individual or nation has attained greatness and sustained success through the act of violence, criminality, or harbouring insecurity in this modern day. State authorities led by informed and courteous people are embodiment of the goals of knowledge acquisition and knowledge-driven society[225]. To some school of thoughts, scarcity of resources necessitating struggle by more hand's breeds cutting of corners and corruption, while corruption, on the other hand, hampers equitable and fair distribution of available

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resources. The Nigerian case will, for a while, remain a peculiar reference because, in the last few decades, leaders with value addition and wealth creation potentials have been scarce at the corridor of power[226].

Surprisingly, kidnapping and ransom taking have transcended the levels of kidnappers and victim family's negotiations to institutions and state negotiation and payment of ransom to adductors. Currently, in June 2022, the negotiator for the release of the remaining Abuja-Kaduna-bound train kidnapped victims that occurred since March 28, 2022 cries out that the victims are in a bad situation, some bitten by snakes and may likely die soonest should government fail to meet the demands of the kidnappers[227].

2.1.14 The Need for Confidence Building

Every society with responsive authority and functional institutions crave toward averting conflicts, especially life-threatening conflicts. In ensuring the realization of this goal, steps such as timely sharing of space, national security, defence policies, bilateral visits during important, defence-related occasions, and even bilateral and multilateral military exercises testing the potential interoperability of deterrent space capability efforts and will must be placed. The Schriever Wargame series could serve as a useful template for such military-to-military exchanges[228].

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) entails a comprehensive process, development, and use of both formal and informal practices and principles associated with the cooperative development of CBMs[229]. Task planned and delivered through various institutions which must be functional are established for specific purpose. Institution is any structure or mechanism of social order and cooperation governing the behaviour of

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a set of individuals within a given human community[230]. Social institution is an interrelated system of social roles and social norms, organized around the satisfaction of an important social need or social function. They are organized patterns of beliefs and behaviour that are centred on basic social needs.

The study by some scholars discovered the essence of social and traditional institutions and individuals, namely, family, elders, palace, women, and age grades, as agents of confidence building and sustainable cooperation. The author noted that these institutions and persons remain essential and formidable in peace processes because they serve as influence and unifying factor in bringing about love, trust, hope, and peaceful co-existence between individuals and groups who may have any form of cleavages[231]. Put succinctly, must be aimed at pursuing steps that embed further understanding and cooperation among concerned parties.

2.1.15 Insecurity

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety. Insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection[232]. However, insecurity can be seen from two different perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortun[233]. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this research, insecurity is

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defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to wanton destruction of lives and property.

The term "insecurity" encapsulates a complex and nuanced concept that extends across various domains, impacting individuals, communities, and nations. From an individual standpoint, insecurity is often characterized by feelings of vulnerability, fear, and a lack of confidence in one's safety or well-being. Psychologists have explored how personal insecurities can stem from unresolved developmental conflicts or unmet basic needs, influencing an individual's sense of identity and belonging[234]. On a societal level, insecurity manifests in broader terms, encompassing economic, political, and social dimensions. A Sociologist in his work on liquid modernity, describes how rapid societal changes can lead to a sense of insecurity, as traditional structures and norms dissolve, leaving individuals and communities with a sense of instability and uncertainty[235].

Economists often associate insecurity with financial instability, job insecurity, and economic inequality. Researchers like Amartya Sen emphasize that economic insecurity is not merely about absolute poverty but also about the lack of capabilities that enable individuals to lead a fulfilling life. Unemployment, underemployment, and income disparities contribute to a pervasive sense of economic insecurity[236].

Insecurity is often linked to the threat of violence, conflict, and geopolitical instability. Scholars like Barry Buzan highlight the role of the state in providing security to its citizens and examine how factors such as interstate tensions, terrorism, and failed states contribute to a sense of insecurity at both national and international levels[237]. In the era of globalization, scholars discuss the concept of "risk society," where global

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interconnectedness introduces new risks and uncertainties. In this context, insecurity extends beyond traditional boundaries, encompassing environmental concerns, pandemics, and the potential consequences of transnational issues[238].

Critics argue that an exclusive focus on individual psychological factors neglects the impact of structural and systemic issues on insecurity. While personal insecurities are valid, broader societal factors such as economic inequality, discrimination, and political instability contribute significantly to the overall sense of insecurity[239]. Perspectives on insecurity may vary across cultures, challenging the universality of certain definitions. What may be considered a source of insecurity in one cultural context might not hold the same significance in another. Critics highlight the importance of cultural relativity in understanding and addressing insecurity[240].

Insecurity is dynamic and evolves with changing circumstances. Traditional definitions may not adequately capture the complexity of contemporary challenges, such as those arising from technological advancements, climate change, and global interdependence. Critics emphasize the need for flexible and adaptive conceptualizations of insecurity[241].

Critics argue that isolating economic, political, or individual dimensions of insecurity oversimplifies a highly interconnected reality. Economic insecurity, for instance, is intertwined with political decisions, while individual insecurities can be exacerbated by societal structures and policies. A more holistic understanding requires acknowledging the interplay between these dimensions[242]. Some critiques highlight power dynamics as a crucial aspect of insecurity. Insecurity is not uniformly experienced; marginalized groups may face heightened vulnerabilities due to systemic inequalities. An

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intersectional perspective that considers factors such as race, gender, and class is essential to grasp the nuanced nature of insecurity[243].

The definition of insecurity is inherently complex, encompassing a range of individual, societal, economic, political, and global dimensions. Different authors provide valuable insights into these facets, shedding light on the diverse ways insecurity manifests. However, critiques underscore the importance of a nuanced and adaptive understanding that considers cultural variations, power dynamics, and the dynamic nature of contemporary challenges. By synthesizing these perspectives, we can develop more comprehensive approaches to address and mitigate the multifaceted realities of insecurity in our increasingly interconnected world.

2.1.16 Forms and Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity has become a hydra headed monster which security agents in Nigeria appear incapable of handling vis-a-vis its multifaceted manifestations like bombing, kidnapping/hostage taking, destruction of property, creation of fear, to mention but a few.

i. Political Factor

The unexpected power shift from the northern hegemony to a minority geo-political zone of South-south, as a result of the death of President Yar'adua could be linked to the high tempo of insecurity. That is, the death of President Yar'adua resulted in an alteration of the northern perpetual claim on political power in Nigeria. In addition, the refutation of the North-South agreement on rotational presidency within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) is also another major factor, thus the death of Yar'Adua and the ascendancy

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of Goodluck Jonathan as the president upset careful political arrangement[244]. Other forms of insecurity include politically related assassinations. In addition to this is the continuing rancour among political leaders even within same party and rancour between the ruling party and the opposition.

There are also several economic related assassinations all over the nation which creates danger to the nation's economy. Furthermore, there is the power play and over-ambition of politicians who wilfully encourage the procurement of weapons in order to pursue their inordinate political ambition[245].

ii. Leadership Factor

The Nigerian state for some time now has not had the benefit of being administered by good leaders as most of the political leaders are in office for pecuniary gains. Often, sadly, these crops of political leaders oppress the citizens with the looted money, train thugs and hooligans who later turn to robbers or engage in other forms of crime when they are dumped by the politicians after elections thus constituting a major threat to the security of the nation[246].

iii. Unemployment Factor

An idle hand, they say is the devil workshop so as the rate of unemployment continues to rise so does the wave of crime and its attendant effect. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) puts unemployment in Nigeria at 27.1 per cent and still raising[247]. These unemployed people now employ themselves by engaging in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, bunkering, and other nefarious activities.

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iv. Jobs Racketeering Factor

Today in Nigeria, jobs are for sales and only for the highest bidders. Jobseekers to this extent have continued to suffer great losses, as often a lot of money has been collected from them without getting the promised jobs. For instance, recently job seekers filled online application for recruitment into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and were asked to pay certain amount of money into designated bank accounts or cash to some persons who claimed to be consultants to the Corps[248].

On job racketeering also, the erstwhile Comptroller-General of Immigration (CGI), Mrs. Rose Uzoma, was sacked over alleged job racketeering at the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS). This has brought to the fore the shady deals that permeate recruitment exercises in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria. Reports had it that the recruitment scandal was blown open when a House of Representatives Committee probed the CGI for carrying out a recruitment exercise without advertising it in the media as was usually the practice[249].

The Senate Committees on Federal Character and Inter-governmental Affairs has noted with dismay the irregularities which pervade employment at the Nigerian Immigration Services, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies in Nigeria. Other reasons may include- growing poverty, poor infrastructural facilities, high illiteracy level (especially in northern Nigeria), social dislocation as a result of rural/urban migration and the breakdown of societal values, community unrest and the inefficient and ineffective security agents which are saddled with the responsibility of guaranteeing security to the citizens[250].

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2.1.17 Level of Insecurity and Security Degeneration in Nigeria

Insecurity paranoia is continuing to haunt all inhabitants of Nigeria as it is already fast dawning on them that government cannot effectively guarantee the security of lives and properties. The state security agents who are saddled with the responsibility for the security of life and property which include- the police, state security agencies, the military, immigration, and prison service have all performed abysmally in the discharge of their duties. The level of insecurity in Nigeria is multifaceted as such one cannot accurately categorize the patterns of insecurity.

The nature of insecurity in Nigeria that at different times in the past, these different groups have held the Nigerian nation to ransom. In each of these different times, the groups reigned, the nation's security agencies were unable to deal with them or quell their lawless conduct through superior fire power. The government has always reached a form of settlement with these organizations. The trend is that each time the government reached a compromise with these lawless groups, it became weaker and new groups emerged to use violent means to extract a commitment from government[253].

In a typical behaviour of a nation that thrives on a rent economy, the government has always sought to buy peace and always ended with the peace of the graveyard like the current situation in the Niger Delta where former militants have been transformed into either top-level government contractors or emergency crude oil refiners in the creeks or kidnap merchants, despite an amnesty programme that still costs the government billions of Naira every year[254].

There are different forms of insecurity in Nigeria. For example, in the South-West geo-political zone, armed robbery is prevalent especially in cities like Lagos, Ibadan, Akure

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and Abeokuta; in the South-South and South-East which is the oil base of the nation, kidnapping is rampant and the activities cover every part of the zone with victims of all ages and all walks of life; in the North, robbery across the border coupled with Boko Haram insurgence is the security challenge. The menace of the Boko Haram for some time now has constituted a thorn in the flesh of Nigerians; from the first time they struck in Borno State part of Nigeria in 2009, over 4000 people including Nigeria citizens as well as expatriates has been killed in violent deadly attacks targeting Christian churches, police, a few mosques, military installations, Western-type educational institutions with innocent students and even children[255]. They have also carried out a series of deadly and costly bombing campaigns in the country - the Independence anniversary bombing, the bombing of the United Nations office in Abuja, the bombing of the Police Headquarters in Abuja, the bombing of the military base in Kaduna.

2.1.18 Efforts of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) in Tackling Kidnapping

Kidnapping has become a pervasive security concern in Nigeria, demanding proactive and targeted efforts from law enforcement agencies. This essay critically examines the efforts of the Nigeria Police Force in tackling the issue of kidnapping, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and the potential role of strategic intelligence in reducing kidnapping incidents, particularly in Oyo State.

i. Operational Responses

The Nigeria Police Force has undertaken various operational responses to combat kidnapping. This includes the deployment of special anti-kidnapping units and tactical teams equipped to respond swiftly to reported incidents. The emphasis on operational

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readiness is aimed at deterring potential kidnappers and rescuing victims promptly[256]. While operational responses are essential, there are concerns about the capacity and resources of the police force. Limited resources may affect the effectiveness of rapid response teams, necessitating continuous investment in training, equipment, and personnel to enhance the force's operational capabilities[257].

ii. Legislation and Prosecution

The Nigeria Police Force has collaborated with legislative bodies to enact and enforce laws specifically targeting kidnapping offenses. Legal frameworks provide a basis for the arrest and prosecution of kidnappers, sending a strong message of deterrence. Delays in the legal process and challenges in securing convictions remain areas of concern[258]. The Nigeria Police Force should work collaboratively with the judiciary to streamline legal proceedings, ensuring that the legal framework acts as a robust deterrent and a means of accountability for perpetrators.

iii. Community Policing and Public Awareness

Recognizing the importance of community involvement, the Nigeria Police Force has initiated community policing programs to enhance cooperation between law enforcement and local communities. Additionally, public awareness campaigns educate citizens about the dangers of kidnapping and encourage them to report suspicious activities[259]. Community policing is a positive step, but there is a need for sustained efforts to build trust between communities and the police force. Addressing historical grievances and ensuring that communities feel heard and supported are critical for effective collaboration.

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iv. Intelligence Gathering

The Nigeria Police Force engages in intelligence gathering to identify and track criminal networks involved in kidnapping. The information collected is used to plan and execute targeted operations against these groups. While intelligence gathering is crucial, there is room for improvement in the integration and analysis of intelligence data. Strategic intelligence, which involves a more comprehensive and forward-looking approach, could enhance the police force's ability to anticipate and prevent kidnapping incidents[260].

2.1.19 The Nigerian Police Force and the Role of Strategic Intelligence in Oyo State

Strategic intelligence can provide the Nigeria Police Force with a deeper understanding of the local dynamics in Oyo State. This involves analysing socio-economic factors, community relationships, and historical patterns to identify potential kidnapping hotspots and assess the risk factors specific to the region[261]. By leveraging strategic intelligence, the police force can develop early warning systems that identify emerging threats before they escalate. This proactive approach involves monitoring indicators such as increased criminal activities, suspicious movements, or patterns that may indicate an impending kidnapping incident.

Strategic intelligence enables the police force to conduct targeted operations based on a thorough analysis of criminal networks and their modus operandi. This information is invaluable for allocating resources effectively, ensuring that personnel and equipment are deployed where they are most needed. Strategic intelligence facilitates collaboration not only within the police force but also with other relevant agencies[262]. Sharing intelligence with agencies involved in border control, immigration, and customs can

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enhance the overall security apparatus, preventing kidnappers from exploiting weaknesses in the system[263].

Strategic intelligence can inform community engagement strategies that address the unique challenges and concerns of the Oyo State population. By tailoring initiatives to the specific needs of local communities, the police force can build trust and strengthen its collaboration with residents[264]. The Nigeria Police Force's efforts in tackling kidnapping in Nigeria are commendable, but there is a need for a more nuanced and strategic approach. Strategic intelligence, with its emphasis on a comprehensive understanding of local dynamics, early warning systems, targeted operations, collaboration, and community engagement, can significantly enhance the effectiveness of anti-kidnapping efforts in Oyo State and beyond[265].

Critiques of the current efforts point to challenges such as resource limitations, delays in legal proceedings, and the need for improved community trust. Addressing these concerns, alongside the integration of strategic intelligence, can contribute to a more robust and adaptive strategy for curbing kidnapping incidents in Nigeria. Continuous investment in training, technology, and inter-agency collaboration is essential to build a resilient and intelligence-driven approach to counter the evolving threat of kidnapping[266].

2.2 Theoretical Framework

A theory is a systematic framework of concepts, principles, or ideas that seeks to explain and predict phenomena. In research, theories provide a structured foundation for understanding relationships, making predictions, and guiding investigations. They offer a lens through which researchers can interpret data, formulate hypotheses, and derive

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meaningful insights[267]. The importance of theories in research lies in their ability to organize and unify knowledge, offering a conceptual roadmap that aids researchers in framing questions, designing studies, and drawing meaningful conclusions.

Theoretical frameworks not only enhance the rigor of research but also contribute to the cumulative growth of knowledge within a particular field. The researcher employed four basic theories to examine the strategic intelligence gathering and the role of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF).

2.2.1 Community-Based Intelligence Theory

The Community-Based Intelligence Theory is a paradigm that underscores the pivotal role of local communities in intelligence gathering, with a particular focus on enhancing the Nigerian Police's ability to uncover kidnap cases in Oyo state. This theory finds its roots in the belief that fostering strong ties between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve is essential for effective strategic intelligence gathering (SIG) and crime prevention. Proponents of the Community-Based Intelligence theory argue that communities possess unique insights and knowledge about local dynamics, individuals, and activities[268]. This theory is often associated with community policing advocates, who emphasize the importance of building trust between law enforcement and residents. Some scholars have contributed significantly to the development of community policing concepts, which align closely with the principles of Community-Based Intelligence theory.

The core tenet of the theory lies in the idea that the community serves as an invaluable source of information that can aid law enforcement in preventing and solving crimes,

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including kidnappings. The Nigerian Police in Oyo state, to effectively implement this theory, should prioritize establishing strong relationships with local communities. This involves not only responding to incidents but actively engaging residents in dialogue, understanding their concerns, and involving them in the process of intelligence gathering[269].

Community-Based Intelligence theory emphasizes the importance of proactive measures, encouraging law enforcement to be present in communities, participating in local events, and collaborating with community leaders. The theory recognizes that when individuals feel a sense of trust and partnership with the police, they are more likely to share information about criminal activities, including potential kidnapping threats[270]. The theory is highly applicable to the context of kidnapping cases in Oyo state due to several reasons. Firstly, local communities often have intricate knowledge of their surroundings, allowing them to identify unusual activities or individuals who may be involved in criminal enterprises such as kidnapping. Secondly, communities can act as a collective surveillance network, providing law enforcement with real-time information about suspicious behaviour or movements[271].

In Oyo state, where the terrain can vary widely and criminal elements may exploit local knowledge gaps, the Community-based Intelligence theory becomes especially relevant. Leveraging the insights of the community can assist the police in navigating complex landscapes and understanding the specific challenges associated with kidnapping in the region[272]. Moreover, the theory promotes a collaborative approach, suggesting that the police should work hand-in-hand with communities to develop tailored strategies for intelligence gathering. By involving residents in crime prevention initiatives and

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awareness campaigns, the Nigerian Police can create a shared responsibility for security, making it more challenging for criminal networks to operate undetected.

Despite its merits, the Community-based intelligence theory is not without criticism. One notable concern is the potential for biases and the uneven distribution of police resources. Critics argue that in communities where trust between residents and law enforcement is low, or where historical tensions exist, implementing this theory may be challenging[272]. Additionally, there is a risk of relying too heavily on community input, as it may lead to profiling and discrimination based on local prejudices.

Another criticism revolves around the scalability of the theory. While it may work effectively in smaller communities with close-knit relationships, implementing the theory in larger, more diverse urban areas can pose significant logistical challenges. Maintaining consistent community engagement becomes more complex as the scale increases, potentially limiting the theory's applicability in densely populated regions[273]. Community-based intelligence theory offers a promising approach to enhancing SIG for uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state. By recognizing the community as a valuable partner in crime prevention, the Nigerian Police can harness local knowledge and build trust to create a more resilient and responsive security apparatus. However, addressing the criticisms of potential biases and scalability is crucial for ensuring the theory's effective and equitable implementation.

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2.2.2 System Theory

System Theory, developed in the mid-20th century, has been championed by influential thinkers such as Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Anatol Rapoport, Kenneth Boulding, and Ervin

Laszlo. An Austrian biologist, was a key proponent, emphasizing the need for a holistic perspective when studying complex systems. These theorists laid the groundwork for understanding systems as interconnected entities with emergent properties[274]. Central to system theory is the principle of holism, which asserts that a system should be studied as a whole, with emphasis on the interactions and relationships between its components. In the context of Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: A Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, encourages an examination of the entire system involved – from local communities to law enforcement agencies, and the broader social, economic, and political context[275].

System theory introduces the concept of hierarchy, emphasizing the organization of elements within a system into levels or layers. In the context of SIG, the hierarchy within the Nigerian Police and its collaboration with other security agencies, local law enforcement, and community structures becomes crucial. Understanding these hierarchical structures helps in identifying key nodes for information flow, decision-making, and resource allocation[276]. Feedback mechanisms are inherent to system theory, emphasizing the dynamic nature of systems. In this study, the Nigerian Police's role in uncovering kidnap cases, feedback loops can be observed in the information exchange between different levels of law enforcement, collaboration with communities, and the adaptability of strategies based on the outcomes of investigations[277].

System theory proves highly applicable to the study of SIG and the Nigerian Police's role in uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state due to several reasons. The holism of system theory aligns with the interconnected nature of SIG efforts. Strategic Intelligence Gathering involves the collaboration of various entities, including the Nigerian Police,

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local communities, intelligence agencies, and potentially international partners[278]. Understanding these entities as interconnected components within a broader system allows researchers and law enforcement to appreciate the ripple effects of actions and decisions on the overall effectiveness of SIG.

Examining the Nigerian Police and its collaboration with other security agencies through the lens of hierarchy aids in identifying key decision-makers, communication channels, and potential bottlenecks in the SIG process. Recognizing the hierarchical structures within the police force and its relationships with other entities provides insights into the distribution of responsibilities, resources, and decision-making authority[279]. The dynamic nature of SIG, characterized by constant adaptation to emerging threats, aligns with the feedback mechanisms of System theory. Feedback loops in the form of information exchange between the Nigerian Police and other stakeholders, including communities, play a crucial role[280]. This feedback informs the adaptation of strategies, resource allocation, and the overall responsiveness of law enforcement to the evolving landscape of kidnap cases.

While system theory provides a valuable framework, it is not immune to criticism. Critics argue that System Theory tends to be abstract and might oversimplify complex social phenomena. In the study of SIG and the Nigerian Police's role in Oyo state, applying abstract concepts may not fully capture the nuanced and multifaceted nature of criminal activities, community dynamics, and the socio-political landscape. The risk is that oversimplification may lead to inadequate prescriptions for addressing real-world complexities[281].

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The abstract nature of system theory can make it challenging to operationalize in practical terms. Critics contend that the theory, while providing a conceptual framework, may lack specific guidelines for implementation. In the context of SIG, law enforcement agencies may find it difficult to translate the theoretical concepts of holism, hierarchy, and feedback into actionable strategies without clear operational guidance[282]. Some critics argue that System Theory may not sufficiently address power dynamics within systems. In the context of SIG, understanding power structures and dynamics within the Nigerian Police and its relationships with communities is crucial. Critics suggest that the theory might overlook how power imbalances can influence information flow, decision-making processes, and the effectiveness of intelligence gathering[283].

2.2.3 Institution Theory

Institutional Theory, as applied to organizational studies, has been advanced by scholars. These theorists have contributed to the understanding of how institutions, both formal and informal, shape the behaviour and actions of organizations within a given environment. One key concept within institutional theory is institutional isomorphism, which refers to the process by which organizations within a field become structurally similar over time[284]. This is driven by the pressures to conform to institutional norms, rules, and expectations. There are three main forms of isomorphism: coercive (organizations conform to external pressures), normative (organizations adopt practices to gain legitimacy), and mimetic (organizations imitate successful practices)[285].

Institutional theory also posits that organizations seek legitimacy, which is essential for their survival and success. This legitimacy is often gained through adherence to institutional norms, values, and practices. Organizations may engage in behaviours that

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are perceived as legitimate within their institutional environment to maintain social approval and support[286]. The theory emphasizes the concept of organizational fields, which are sets of organizations that, through their interactions, contribute to the establishment of shared meanings, practices, and norms. Organizational fields create the context within which institutions operate and influence the behaviour of organizations within those fields[287].

Institutional Theory is highly applicable to the study of Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the role of the Nigerian Police in uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state. Within the realm of intelligence gathering, formal institutions such as legal and regulatory frameworks play a crucial role. Institutional Theory helps explain how the Nigerian Police, as an organization, is influenced by and responds to legal structures governing intelligence activities[288]. The adherence to legal norms and regulations shapes the behaviour of the police in terms of what information can be gathered, how it can be shared, and the boundaries within which intelligence operations operate.

The theory is applicable in understanding how normative pressures shape the behaviour of the Nigerian Police in their intelligence-sharing practices. Professional standards, ethics, and norms within law enforcement institutions can drive the decision-making process concerning the sharing of sensitive information[289]. Adhering to established norms helps maintain the legitimacy of the police force and fosters trust with other agencies involved in intelligence gathering. Mimetic isomorphism is particularly relevant when examining how the Nigerian Police may imitate or model their intelligence practices after successful or perceived legitimate approaches used by other law enforcement agencies[290].

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In the context of SIG, mimetic isomorphism can drive the adoption of best practices, technologies, and collaboration methods that have proven effective in similar contexts or jurisdictions. The legitimacy-seeking behaviour of institutions, as highlighted by Institutional Theory, is crucial in the context of community-based intelligence. The legitimacy of the Nigerian Police within local communities is a determinant of the willingness of residents to share information. By understanding and aligning with the institutional norms and expectations of the community, the police can enhance their legitimacy and, consequently, the effectiveness of intelligence gathering[291].

Critics argue that institutional theory tends to overemphasize stability and conformity, potentially neglecting the dynamic and evolving nature of organizations and their environments[292]. This may limit the theory's ability to explain rapid changes, innovations, or disruptions within institutions. Some scholars contend that Institutional Theory overlooks the role of individual agency and decision-making within organizations. The theory often assumes that organizations passively conform to institutional pressures without considering the influence of leaders, managers, or key decision-makers who may actively shape institutional practices[293].

Institutional theory may not adequately address power dynamics within institutions and how these dynamics influence the establishment and maintenance of norms. The theory might not fully capture how certain actors or groups within an organization can shape or contest institutional structures and practices[294]. Critics also argue that Institutional Theory may not sufficiently account for the variability of institutions across different contexts and sectors. What works as a norm in one setting may not necessarily apply universally, leading to potential limitations in the theory's generalizability[295].

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In summary, institutional theory provides valuable insights into the study of Strategic Intelligence Gathering and the role of the Nigerian Police in uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state. It offers a lens through which to analyse the impact of legal frameworks, normative pressures, and the quest for legitimacy on intelligence-sharing practices. However, addressing criticisms related to its stability-focused approach, neglect of individual agency, and limited consideration of power dynamics is essential for a more comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between institutions and intelligence gathering in dynamic environments.

2.2.4 Structural Functional Theory

Structural Functional theory, also known as functionalism, has roots in the works of early sociologists such as Emile Durkheim and Herbert Spencer. While the former was focused on the functional integration of social structures, the latter contributed to the idea that society is an organism with interconnected parts, each serving a specific function[296]. Later sociologists, including Talcott Parsons and Robert K. Merton, expanded on these ideas, solidifying the foundations of Structural Functional Theory.

At its core, structural functional theory posits that society is a complex system composed of interrelated parts, each with specific functions. These structures contribute to the overall stability and cohesion of society. Social institutions, such as family, education, and government, are viewed as essential components that work together to maintain order and fulfil various functions necessary for the survival of the social system[297]. The theory distinguishes between manifest functions, which are the intended and recognized outcomes of social structures, and latent functions, which are unintended and often

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unrecognized consequences[298]. Understanding both manifest and latent functions is crucial for comprehending the multifaceted nature of social structures.

Structural Functional Theory suggests that societies naturally seek equilibrium and stability. Changes or disruptions in one part of the social system can trigger adjustments in other parts to restore balance. The theory emphasizes the idea that social structures exist because they fulfil essential functions, contributing to the overall well-being and survival of the society. Structural Functional Theory can be applied to the study of Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the role of the Nigerian Police in uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state, shedding light on various aspects[299].

The Nigerian Police, as a social institution, plays a central role in maintaining order and security within society. Applying Structural Functional Theory to SIG involves recognizing the manifest function of the police force, which is the intended purpose of preventing and addressing criminal activities, including kidnappings[300]. Additionally, latent functions may include fostering a sense of safety and trust within communities. SIG is a multifaceted process that involves the integration of various social structures, including law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and local communities[301]. Structural Functional Theory can help analyse how these structures work together to achieve equilibrium in the face of security challenges. For instance, the manifest function of intelligence sharing is to prevent kidnappings, while latent functions may involve fostering collaboration and mutual support among different security entities.

The theory's emphasis on equilibrium and stability is relevant when studying the role of SIG in Oyo State. Kidnapping incidents disrupt the social equilibrium, and the Nigerian Police, through intelligence gathering and law enforcement activities, aims to restore

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stability by addressing the root causes and preventing future occurrences[302]. Understanding the interconnected functions of different social structures helps in developing comprehensive strategies for maintaining societal order.

Applying Structural Functional Theory to SIG involves recognizing the importance of manifest and latent functions in the relationship between the police and the community. The manifest function is the explicit provision of security, but the latent functions may include the establishment of trust, a sense of shared security responsibility, and community collaboration in intelligence gathering[303]. Critics argue that Structural Functional Theory has a conservative bias, as it tends to emphasize the stability and equilibrium of existing social structures. This bias may limit the theory's ability to explain social change, conflict, or the potential dysfunctions within a society. In the context of SIG, this criticism may be relevant when addressing the need for adaptation and innovation in response to evolving security challenges[304].

Structural Functional Theory has been accused of neglecting issues of conflict and social inequality. Critics argue that the theory may overlook power imbalances and the potential negative consequences of certain social structures. In the study of SIG, this criticism may be pertinent when considering the impact of power dynamics on intelligence sharing and the potential disparities in access to security resources[305]. The theory has been criticized for presenting a static view of society, failing to account for dynamic changes over time. In the study of SIG, where the security landscape is subject to rapid changes and emerging threats, a static perspective may limit the ability to understand and adapt to evolving intelligence needs[306].

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Critics argue that Structural Functional Theory has a deterministic outlook, implying that social structures inevitably fulfil specific functions. This determinism may oversimplify the complex and contingent nature of social phenomena. In the context of SIG, a deterministic approach may not adequately capture the strategic and contingent nature of intelligence gathering in response to unpredictable criminal activities[307]. To conclude, Structural Functional Theory offers valuable insights into the study of SIG and the role of the Nigerian Police in uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state. By recognizing the police as a social institution with manifest and latent functions and understanding the integration of various social structures, the theory contributes to a holistic understanding of the complex dynamics involved in intelligence gathering. However, addressing criticisms related to conservatism, neglect of conflict, a static view of society, and determinism is crucial for a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of SIG in a rapidly changing security landscape.

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

Studies showed that organized crime such as kidnapping and an organized mafia were disincentives to investment in the Southern region of Italy. Their argument is that crime in the region reduced its attractiveness[308]. In 2017, another scholar also showed that organized crime negatively affected firms' productivity growth. To these scholars' crime reduces trust among people, hinders competitiveness, weakens the established local industrial structure, and harms the existing market relationships among local firms. All of which increases the cost of business operations.

Some also found that the impact of crime, as captured by the homicide rate, had a negative relationship to investment in financial management and real estate services[309].

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It is on this basis that a scholar also found out that crime, such as robbery and extortion, reduced income growth among microenterprises in Mexico. The findings were attributed to the fact that crime serves as a disincentive for investment[310]. A study was also conducted to investigate the effects of drug-related crimes on labour productivity across 32 sub-national entities of Mexico. Their study concluded, overall, the negative and statistical effect of crime on labour productivity[151]. One of the arguments provided in support of the findings is that crimes are associated with panic, which could have a negative impact on economic activity through the temporal or permanent closures of businesses and other related activities. The negative impact of crime in South Africa was also emphasized in a study. Theft, robbery, arson, and vandalism had a negative impact on the activities of firms.

2.3.1 The Nigeria Police: Mitigating Abduction in Nigeria

Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution as amended state that, the Nigerian Police was set up as the only Police Force for the Country. By statutory provisions to it is assigned various duties and roles the most important of which is the protection of lives and property, which hostage-taking and kidnapping threatens. From this arises the duty of crime prevention, its investigation and prosecution in court. The Force has a significant role to play in checking criminal activities in the country[311]. This statutory provision notwithstanding has not hold water in its realization.

It is in line with this slackness that the Statesman Editorial once noted that, 'whatever the case may be, apart from few cases of gallantry, the Police and security agencies have responded poorly to the scourge. Indeed, it seems as if there is no Police in the land whereas, in most cases, these heinous activities happen within metres of Police Stations.

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All the handicaps of the Police and excuses in this world will not stop the next robbery or kidnap[312]. What will is a strategic response by the Police, a new approach to policing'. It further noted that the first response from the Police High Command was 'to introduce those ugly roadblocks which are mere tollgates. This is the unintelligent answer to the problem.

We have had cases where robbers stop at such checkpoints and massacre the officers' that they found to be sitting ducks. The Statesman Editorial suggests that, 'a more preventive approach, increased undercover activities and working with all the stakeholders like the community vigilance groups, etc, to identify the hoodlums in our midst[313]. The bad guys are actually easy to identify especially for the trained eyes of detectives'. Similarly, by means of combating such peculiar crimes and devising solvent strategies out of the log-jam of hostage-taking and kidnapping in Nigeria, the former Inspector-General of Police, in July 2009 ordered the Police Chiefs in a close-door meeting ordering the Commissioners of Police of to be ruthless in dealing with the situation and to devise stern measures to stem the rising trend in kidnapping in Nigeria[314].

Based on all that has been discussed so far, it is evident that a Police officer posted to a new place of assignment must first study the social environment; uncover the rules of social interactions of the society. How the members of the very society negotiate new social order and values. By so doing, the officer undergoes a psychological orientation, training and rehabilitation that is constantly censured by the general functional ideals of the Force[315]. What this further entails is orientation: Socially, culturally and psychologically. This will help the Force in facing up to the mounting challenges that

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organised crimes as hostage-taking and kidnapping pose to the Nigeria Police and to Nigeria as a country.

The stress in these challenges therefore is on the nature, construction and execution of the regular techniques to be used by the Police as a social actor, in order to understand and match fittingly to the challenges of security and order in the given society where one is posted. Active policing is action packed, and only real actors in the field attain efficient delivery and plausible results[316]. Attainment of this activeness is possible when the Police as social actors negotiate relativised roles in the new environment they are serving and partaking in order to create that safety-security-peace-ordered living, as well as render their behaviour accountable and imitable to others in the collectivist functional perspective of the Nigerian Police Force.

Because crime peculiarities are ethnographic, deviant behaviours that the society abhors and imposes sanctions on, tend to generate smarter methods that make for professionalism (and specializations). The criminals' operational strategies change speedily for reasons of ensuring continuity of subsistence and operations. Like the social changes, the speed of change in peculiar crimes such as hostage-taking and kidnapping in the Nigeria vary from glacial (or redundant and cold operational approach) to mercurial (unexpected reactions and changes), and this varying speed of alterations becomes as well variations in the rules of social interactions in the society, which the Police as a social actor negotiates new social order and values as well as invent modes of subsistence and survival, efficiency and fitness in service delivery[317].

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2.3.2 The Social Implications of Kidnapping of School Children in the Northwestern Nigeria

Regardless of the type and motive for its perpetration, kidnapping has serious social implications on victims, especially when such victims are school children. The psychological effect on the school children is quite devastating as they are traumatizing and feeling constantly depressed owing to the ugly ordeal they experience in the hand of their abductors. The children who are kidnapped are subjected to emotional trauma such as rape, child marriage, slavery and torture. In such instance, these school children may become dependent on drug and alcohol, feeling suicidal and being unable to function properly[318].

Another social implication of kidnapping of school children in Northwestern Nigeria is the increase in members of children dropping out of schools. Studies posited that education in the North part of Nigeria which has been historically lower than the Southern part of Nigeria Owing to reasons such as religion, cultural practices and the perception that western influenced education is contrary to the Islamic belief has been worsened by increasing causes of kidnapping. For some school children, the educational prospect in the region where one-third of primary-age children already do not go to school is at stake[319]. The spate of attacks on schools signals a double assault on education in the region because no parent would want to endanger his or her child's life simply because of education on the face of constant attacks on schools and kidnapping of school children.

These frequent kidnapping of school children has seen the attendance in school drop as a result of fear of such event[320]. Disruption of academic activities and prolonged calendar

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has social implications in the region. Authorities in Kano and Yobe states ordered more than 20 schools shut because of insecurity while some schools were recently closed in Zamfara state[321]. For region with a high-rate of out of school children, the massive gain that has been recorded in recent years from the school feeding programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria to lure school children in Northwestern Nigeria back to school is being seriously threatening by constant disruption in school calendar and activities as a result of incessant kidnapping of school children.

The attacks on school can discourage attendance in formal education and help increasing the scourge of Almajiri syndrome which the Northern, Nigeria has been battling with over decades. Apart from the psychological trauma on the victim and the disruption of academic activities in the region, kidnapping of school children is also accompanied with huge financial implications in form of ransom paid for the release of the victims. The huge amount allegedly paid as ransom by Government both State and Federal could have been used in provision of social amenities for poor communities in Northwestern region[322]. The Kastina State Government paid #30 million (about $76,000) to recover the school boys kidnapped from Government secondary school Kankara, by Bandit Group in 2021[323].

Report by SB Morgen (SBM) intelligence, a Lagos-based political risk analyst firm said that, at least $18.34million was paid to kidnappers as ransom-mostly by families and the government between June 2011 and March 2020. Such huge amount of money could have provided social amenities such as hospitals, pipe-borne water, road and construction of schools in poor rural communities in Northwestern Nigeria and help provide succour

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for rural people who had been facing serious social problems occasioned by poor governmental policies, lack of job opportunities and insecurity[324].

A report stated that more than 309,000 people have been displaced by kidnapping crisis in north-west as of 30 June, 2020. Rapid displacement of people by kidnapping crisis in the region also disrupts peoples' livelihood activities. The incessant kidnapping of school children has forced parents to leave their place of abode to another location thereby disrupting their economic activities. This may force displaced people to resort to any means to survive increasing social problems associated with displacement[325].

Efforts made by the Government to Curb the Menace Kidnapping is on the increase in Nigeria and it is prevalent across the six geopolitical zones. It aggravates the level of insecurity in the country. Both past and present government administrations have never relented in their effort to fight and reduce kidnapping in Nigeria. Though kidnapping takes different forms and names ranging from human trafficking, political assassination to other forms of abduction. "Kidnapping is not new in Nigeria and it is one of the country's major challenges". Nigeria faces problems of unemployment, bribery and corruption. But facts and figures show that the kidnapping frequency in the country is high[326].

In fighting the menace, Nigeria is not alone; both national and international bodies are coming together to see if the incidence can be reduced[327]. Looking at the increasing nature of kidnapping in Nigeria, one begins to wonder if the government is truly fighting kidnapping and other acts of terrorism in the country. Whatever the programme of the government is to fight the menace, it has not yielded tangible results. The anti-terrorism programme that was set up to combat all forms of terrorism has been silenced as there

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are still cases of Boko Haram insurgency, Fulani herdsmen and Niger Delta militants overpowering the government[328]. Recently, the inspector general of police announced on the television that a special squad has been trained to face kidnapping in the country.

Even the army chief of staff assured the entire country on television that their special anti-terrorism squad has dealt mercilessly with Boko Haram terrorists and there are no hideouts for them anymore. But it has been found out that some of that news are fake. They were designed to impress the masses and to maintain their pride as soldiers. Most of the soldiers sent to Borno and other Boko Haram zones were overpowered and killed in the desert by those hoodlums[329]. Many military personnel may soon be afraid to confront the Boko Haram terrorists. It is on record that thousands of soldiers have been wasted by Boko Haram and Niger Delta militants, who also specialize in kidnapping the foreigners sent for oil exploration in that region.

Unless the government addresses the issue of unemployment, their efforts will be in vain. The unemployed youths must be engaged, otherwise they will continue to be tools in the hands of corrupt politicians. From the look of things, it appears that unemployed graduates are increasing day by day, and this portends grave danger to the society. These youths invariably look for alternative means of survival. The issue of employment now is for politicians and other political heavyweight champions. Until factories and industries are built all over across the nation, employment opportunities will be a mirage[330].

An author posited that poverty has caused many Nigerians to accept kidnapping as a lucrative business. The poverty alleviation programme set up by President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2004 should have settled the case of poverty but it was abandoned along the

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way. That should have been a grassroot measure to settle the masses living on the mercy of God. Out of self-aggrandizement, each regime has its agenda or programme; hence, the old ones are abandoned. There is no continuity of project execution. This is leadership failure and loss of societal value. In a nutshell, it can be deduced that the effort of the government is only on paper and not in practice since there is no evidence to confirm their efforts[331]. One thing is to make policy but the policy implementation matters a lot. Some of the policies on terrorism are yet to be implemented and the release of kidnappers after being arrested creates suspicion about who to trust in the country.

2.3.3 Intelligence and Psychological Theories of Crime/Kidnapping

A scholar postulates that there exists a link between intelligence and crime. There is a common belief that criminals and delinquents possess low intelligence and that this low intelligence causes criminality. As criminological research has advanced, scholars have continued to suggest that the Holy Grail is causality. The ability to predict criminals from noncriminal is the ultimate goal. The ideology or concept of IQ and crime has crystallized into the nature versus nurture debate[332]. Furthermore, a scholar also argued that the nature versus nurture debate is a psychological argument that is related to whether the environment or heredity impacts the psychological development of individuals. The nature versus nurture debate addresses the issue relating the postulation that individuals share the DNA of their parents, for example, some people have short fingers like their mother and brown eyes like their father.

However, the question remains: Where do individuals get their love of sports, literature, and humour from. With respect to the nature side, stated that research on the prison population has consistently shown that inmates typically score low on IQ tests.

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Moreover, a reputable scholar reports that in the early decades of the 20th century, researchers administered IQ tests to delinquent male children. The results indicated that close to 40% had below-average intelligence[333]. The study reveals that one criticism of this perspective is the failure to account for free will. Many individuals in our society believe in the ability to make choices. There are many individuals who have a low IQ but refrain from committing crime. The study acknowledges that the advocates of nurture theory maintained that intelligence is not inherited.

There is some recognition of the role of heredity; however, emphasis is placed on the role of society that is the environment. They agreed that parents are a major influence on their children's behaviour. At an early age, parents read books; play music; and engage their children in art, museum, and sporting events. Some parents spend no quality time with their children, and these children are believed to perform poorly on intelligence test[334]. Other groups important in a child's nurturing are friends, relatives, and teachers. Ultimately, the child who has no friends or relatives and drops out of school is destined for difficult times. Research has demonstrated that the more education a person has, the higher his or her IQ.

Nevertheless, some scholars suggested that low IQ increases the likelihood of criminal behaviour through its effect on school performance. Their argument is that a child with a low IQ will perform poorly in school. In turn, this school failure is followed by dropping out. Given the poor school performance, a child is left with very few options and this ultimately leads to delinquency and adult criminality[176]. Some scholars conducted nature versus nurture study and suggested that individuals with a lower IQ are more likely to commit crime, get caught, and be sent to prison. Importantly, these authors

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transport the IQ and crime link to another level. Specifically, they suggested that prisons and jails are highly populated with inmates with low IQs; however, what about those criminals who actions go undetected? Through self-reported data, the researchers discovered that these individuals have a lower IQ than the general public. Thus, research concludes those criminal offenders who have been caught and those who have not have an IQ lower than the general population[335].

2.3.4 The Intelligence Process

The intelligence process is the direct collection, collation, evaluation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence. The collection of data is an act of gathering information that produces intelligence, the collection of raw data is an important function in the intelligence process and requires understanding[336]. The study notes that it is necessary to collect adequate and valuable information for an effective intelligence process. The intelligence process relies on the ability to obtain and use data. However, the first and most basic problem to overcome lies with the collection and storage of these data, which come in many forms, from electronically retrievable to hard copy.

Some warned that care should be taken at the early stage to avoid overloading and overlooking of data because these data may or not be used later. The issue of planning all the activities in the intelligence process is particularly significant in the collection phase. In both operational and strategic intelligence analysis, the scope of the analysis should be clear before considering further actions to be undertaken. A collection plan is required and identified, also the means of acquiring information should be laid out to ensure orderliness and precise collection of relevant information[337].

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The study argues that the collection plan should include information categories, possible sources of information and sources to be contacted by specific requests, and a timetable to indicate when the information was requested and when it is needed to avoid chaos, a structured collection plan approach where the analyst is proactive, imaginative and explores all avenues to gain vital information and specific data items required to conduct the analysis and the analysis[338].

Three types of sources of information are open, closed and classified. Open source (OSINT) is information that is publicly available. One notable subset of open source information is so called grey literature. It can consist of research, technical, economic reports, white papers, conference documentation, dissertations and theses, discussion papers, subject-related newsletters, etc. One of the difficulties in working with this type of source is the evaluation as information available in the public domain can frequently be biased, inaccurate or sensationalism[339]. Closed source includes information collected for a specific purpose with limited access and availability to the public. Closed source information is found in the form of structured databases.

In the context of criminal intelligence analysis, these databases will largely include personal data collected as part of an ongoing targeting operations, or broader criminal records, vehicle registration data, weapons licencing. Classified information sources include information collected by covert means including use of human and technical (image and signals intelligence) resources. Use of classified information can significantly enhance the quality of an analytical product, as it is highly accurate; however, it can also make an analytical product significantly less actionable due to restrictions on dissemination[340].

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2.3.5 The Use of Crime Threat Analysis in the Intelligence process

Crime threat analysis involves the reviewing of data and the comparison with the crime threat existing in a specific geographical area. Analysis provides a vital link between intelligence and investigation analysis is the tool that provides steering in support of the operational directions. It is the primary goal of intelligence to provide the profiles of the person involved in crime. Profiling provides direction to what type of profile that is needed e.g. financial profile is required for suspected embezzlement[341]. Once data have been collected, evaluated and analysed, it is then packaged into intelligence product that is used by the client or the decision makers. Intelligence is an art of gathering and giving meaning to information, when examining the role of intelligence in the investigation. In this regard, the primary purpose of investigation needs to be understood. The purpose of investigation is to gather evidence to link a perpetrator to a crime. It is crucial to note that in order for intelligence to support investigation and add value to the investigation, there need to ascertain that intelligence would support investigators in obtaining evidence[342].

The study notes that the purpose of intelligence in crime investigation is to discover evidence as a result of intelligence provided. The final stage of intelligence analysis is to convert the product of intelligence process into evidence. Furthermore, the function of intelligence is to assist investigators in obtaining evidence related to offender's involvement in criminal activities and deter them from victimizing members of the society[343]. It is necessary that when dealing with serious organised crime in Nigeria, the motivation of the criminals needs to be understood by the Nigeria Police investigators. The Nigeria Police should understand the extent of the criminal networks, the suspects

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or perpetrators link with other organisations, perpetrators interdependence to individuals and criminals need to be established, so that their strength and weaknesses could be identified[344].

In relation to the above argument, the study suggests that the method of operations and types criminal businesses and their position within the market place need to be understood by the police, police officers should stay up to date with developing investigative tactics in an attempt to deter the criminals. Furthermore, the study gathers that organized crime can be effectively tackled, if the threat is understood, intelligence allows one to get a clearer understanding of crime and criminality, it identifies active criminal and the crime they have committed, and where they can be found. The importance of intelligence is that it helps the police better understand the object of perpetrator or suspect and to shed light on the previously unknown fact influencing the investigation[345].

In order to evaluate the role of intelligence in the investigation, a scholar noted that investigation process seeks evidence, while the intelligence process seeks useable information; intelligence process compliments the investigation process by gathering data, and processing it to produce intelligence. In other words, intelligence can be used in the investigation process by directing the investigator where the evidence could be obtained. The role of criminal analysis process consists of data collection, data screening, the pattern of crime trend, analysis, dissemination of information and evaluation[346]. Crime intelligence analysis is the process of collection, collation, analysis, dissemination and evaluation.

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2.4 Conceptual Model

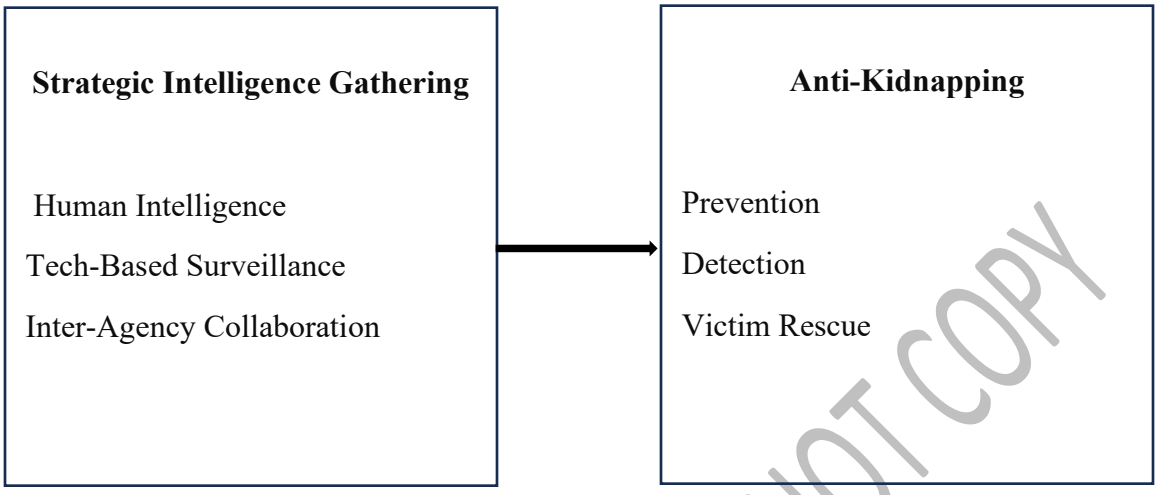


Fig 2.1: Conceptual Model on Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: A Study of Oyo State, Nigeria

Source: Author's Compilation, 2023

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Law enforcement in Nigeria is a crucial component of maintaining public order, ensuring the rule of law, and safeguarding the security of citizens. The Nigeria Police Force, alongside other security agencies, plays a pivotal role in upholding the nation's legal framework and protecting the well-being of its inhabitants. Law enforcement in Nigeria refers to the collective efforts and activities carried out by government agencies to ensure compliance with laws, maintain public safety, and prevent and investigate criminal activities[347]. It involves the application of legal processes, the protection of human rights, and the promotion of a secure environment for individuals and communities.

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria. Its primary responsibilities include maintaining public order, preventing and investigating crimes, enforcing laws, and protecting lives and property. The NPF operates at the

federal, state, and local levels, with a hierarchical structure that facilitates coordination and efficiency[348]. One of the primary roles of the Nigeria Police Force is to prevent and detect criminal activities. This involves patrolling communities, conducting investigations, gathering intelligence, and implementing strategies to deter criminal behaviour. The NPF is tasked with ensuring the safety of citizens by proactively addressing security threats.

The NPF plays a crucial role in maintaining public order and safety during events, protests, or gatherings. Through crowd control measures and adherence to established protocols, the police contribute to a peaceful and secure environment for citizens to exercise their rights while preventing disruptions to public order[349]. One significant critique of the Nigeria Police Force relates to its capacity and resources. Inadequate funding, limited personnel, and outdated equipment have been longstanding challenges that hinder the force's effectiveness. Addressing these resource constraints is crucial for enhancing the capabilities of the NPF[350]. Cases of police misconduct, corruption, and human rights abuses have been reported, raising concerns about the professionalism and accountability of the Nigeria Police Force. Efforts to strengthen internal oversight mechanisms, improve training, and enforce disciplinary measures are essential to address these issues and enhance public trust[351].

The NSCDC is another significant security agency in Nigeria. While primarily responsible for civil defence and protection of critical infrastructure, it collaborates with the NPF in addressing security challenges. Critiques include the need for clearer delineation of roles and improved coordination between the NSCDC and the police. The DSS focuses on intelligence gathering, internal security, and counterintelligence. Its role

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complements that of the Nigeria Police Force, but concerns arise regarding the potential for overlap and the need for transparent collaboration to avoid duplication of efforts[352].

The Nigerian Armed Forces, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force, are involved in addressing internal security threats, especially in regions facing insurgency and terrorism. Critics highlight the importance of maintaining a balance between military and civilian law enforcement and ensuring that the military operates within legal frameworks[353].

Law enforcement in Nigeria, spearheaded by the Nigeria Police Force, is essential for maintaining order, preventing crime, and protecting citizens. While the NPF plays a central role, there are critical areas for improvement, including addressing resource constraints, enhancing professionalism, and ensuring accountability. Collaborative efforts with other security agencies are vital for a holistic approach to national security. As Nigeria navigates evolving challenges, a commitment to strengthening law enforcement institutions and promoting effective coordination will be key to fostering a secure and just society.

2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed

The literature review on Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the role of the Nigerian Police in uncovering kidnap cases in Oyo state revealed several gaps in existing research. Firstly, there is a notable dearth of comprehensive studies specifically focusing on the intricate dynamics of intelligence gathering in the context of kidnapping within Oyo state. Existing literature tends to offer generalized insights into intelligence

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practices, often lacking the nuanced understanding required for the unique challenges posed by kidnappings.

Moreover, the reviewed literature emphasizes the importance of community involvement in intelligence gathering, yet there is a scarcity of in-depth investigations into the effectiveness of community-based approaches in the Oyo state context. Specific factors influencing community participation, such as trust in law enforcement, cultural considerations, and socio-economic dynamics, require further exploration. Additionally, the conceptualization of kidnapping in the literature often lacks specificity regarding the local variations and modus operandi prevalent in Oyo state. Tailoring intelligence strategies to the distinctive characteristics of kidnapping in this region is crucial for effective prevention and intervention.

Furthermore, the reviewed literature tends to focus on technological aspects of intelligence gathering without sufficiently addressing the human and social dimensions. Investigating the role of interpersonal relationships, communication channels, and collaboration among different law enforcement agencies is essential for a holistic understanding of SIG in the context of kidnapping in Oyo state. In summary, the gaps identified in the literature underscore the need for targeted research that delves into the specific challenges and opportunities associated with SIG and the role of the Nigerian Police in combating kidnappings in Oyo state. A more nuanced and context-specific exploration is imperative for the development of effective intelligence strategies tailored to the local dynamics of this region.

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Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The study used survey and descriptive research design to gather data in examining Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, 2014-2024. The research design served as the foundational framework or blueprint that delineates the structure, methodological procedures, and overall strategy used in the execution of the investigation[1]. It elucidates that it functions as a comprehensive framework for the systematic gathering and examination of data in order to address particular inquiries or accomplish predetermined goals. Descriptive research design is suitable for the study because it provides an unbiased and detailed snapshot of existing practices, enabling researchers to document, analyse, and understand current strategies, trends, and patterns within law enforcement, without intervening in ongoing operations[2].

3.2 Population of the Study

The research drew the population for this study from the Nigerian Police, Ibadan Oyo State. The reason for the choice of this region is because there has been rampant kidnappings and killings of innocent members of the communities in the region. Specifically, the respondents would cut across the following:

i. The Anti-kidnapping Unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)
ii. The Constabulary Unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)

The population of a study such as individuals, case, element and so on are important in research because these define the scope of the research ensuring that the findings are applicable and relevant to the group under study[3].

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3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size of the study are two units in the Nigeria Police Force directly in charge of kidnapping cases in Oyo State. These units are The Anti-kidnapping Unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the Constabulary Unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). Selecting an appropriate sample and employing suitable sampling techniques are vital to ensure the study's representativeness, minimize bias, and enhance the ability to generalize findings. Purposive sampling is a deliberate and non-random technique in research where specific individuals or cases are chosen based on their relevance to the research question. In the context of the study, purposive sampling allows researchers to select key informants, experts, or individuals with direct knowledge of Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) practices, ensuring that the sample represents those with the most relevant insights, thereby increasing the study's depth and accuracy.

3.4 Description of the Research Instrument

The instrument employed in the study for the generation of data was semi-structured interviews. It is appropriate for this study since it included a mix of closed and open-ended questions and follow-up questions[3]. Also, the semi-structured interview allowed the researcher to collect detailed information in a conversational style. In addition, the study allowed oral questions based on the interview guide, which allows the researcher to ask broad questions in any order considered appropriate and help the study probe for more specific answers. The interview guide was designed to collect data that enhanced clear views and comprehension of respondents' positions. In addition to the interview guide, secondary data were collected from various sources such as government documents,

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newspaper articles, published research and internet sources in order to triangulate the data collected from the Key Informants and achieve the objectives of the study.

3.5 Validity of the Research Instrument

The researcher employed appropriate data collection instruments and maintained objectivity throughout the study. Secondly, the researcher ensured that the items in each of the instruments were relevant to the objectives of the study. Thirdly, the researcher also ensured that the questions are in simple words and are not ambiguous with the objectives of the study. The instrument, was also given to professionals and experts including my supervisor for scrutiny and advice to ensure valid measurements of the objectives of the study.

3.6 Reliability of the Research Instrument

The researcher ensured that the instrument was consistent, clear, and well-structured. The researcher also ensured that the instrument aligned with the research objectives and carefully designed to avoid bias or misleading responses. Evaluating reliability ensures that the data collected through interviews can be consistently replicated, enhancing the study's trustworthiness and the validity of the findings regarding SIG practices and their impact on kidnap cases.

A pilot test was carried out among the security personnel of Lead City University, Ibadan on maintenance of law and order within the campus. This helped to ascertain the reliability of the semi- structured interview guide which was obtained at a value of 0.83.

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3.7 Administration of the Research Instrument

A letter of introduction was submitted to the Nigeria Police Force, Eleyele, Ibadan. This enabled appointments to be scheduled for the interview. The session was done at the convenience of the personnel which made it to be free of interruption and distraction. Each session was recorded and done separately from one another.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

The data used for carrying out this study would be obtained from two major sources. These sources are the primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of would be from interview guide. The interview would be conducted with the Anti-kidnapping unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Constabulary unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and members of the local community.

Secondary sources of data collection for the study on Kidnapping, SIG and the Nigerian Police: Study of Oyo State, Nigeria refer to existing data, reports, documents, or academic literature such as journals which are relevant to the topic. These sources included police records, government publications, academic studies, and news articles. Utilizing secondary sources complements primary data collection, providing historical context and additional insights into SIG practices and their effectiveness in combating kidnappings.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

The method of data analysis this research intends to use is both thematic and content analysis. Descriptive analysis are well-suited methods this study. Descriptive analysis is suitable for this study because it allows for the systematic and detailed examination of

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Kidnapping, SIG methods employed by the Nigerian Police in Oyo State. It enables the researcher to describe the various components of SIG, such as data collection methods, information processing, and dissemination strategies. Descriptive analysis also helps in outlining the role of the Nigerian Police in uncovering kidnap cases, providing a clear picture of how SIG contributes to law enforcement efforts.

3.10 Ethical Consideration

Ethical Principles:

- **Informed Consent:** Respondents were fully informed about the research objectives.
- **Anonymity and Confidentiality:** Respondents anonymity and data confidentiality was ensured throughout the research process. This includes anonymising responses in reports and publications.

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Endnotes

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Chapter Four

Data Presentation and Discussion of Findings

This chapter presents the results of the qualitative data collected in the course of the research. Interviews were conducted with members of the Nigerian Anti-Kidnapping Unit, Oyo State, The Commanding Officers Operations, Nigerian Police, and the Head of Intelligence Unit, Force Headquarters, Abuja. Members of the Constabulary unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) were also interviewed. In the course of the research, about ten interviews and four focus group discussions were held to collect data on the role of strategic intelligence gathering on curbing kidnapping in Oyo State. The chapter also included a discussion of findings.

4.1 Demographic Analysis

For security reasons, the specific details of the respondents cannot be provided. However, participants in the study included, the following:

i. CO, Intelligence, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)
ii. COs, Operations, Oyo State Command of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)
iii. Members of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the Nigeria Police Force
iv. The Constabulary unit of the Nigeria Police Force

Each of the respondents were interviewed separately except the focus group discussion for the Members of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the Nigeria Police Force and The Constabulary unit of the Nigeria Police Force.

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4.2 Presentation of Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the various techniques adopted by the Nigeria Police to combat and resolve kidnap cases in Oyo State, Nigeria?

The response to this question was obtained through interviews and focus group discussions. The analysis of the responses shows that the Nigerian Police, particularly the Anti-Kidnapping Unit, relies so much on human intelligence (HUMINT). It was revealed that, despite the advancement in technology, human intelligence has proven to be the most accurate tool in fighting kidnapping in Oyo State. The NPF is encouraged to make use of human intelligence for various reasons;

As indicated by Interviewee 3,

> ‘’The Nigerian Police is the first line of internal security in Nigeria. It has its officers across the nooks and crannies of the country and all of this access constitutes the largest body of intelligence gathering you can thing of”

Interviewee 4 added that;

> “The Nigerian police has so many units; there is the mobile unit, traffic officers at every corner, dog units, secret police, criminal investigation division (SCID) and others who are always on the beat, interacting with people and gathering intelligence which always comes in handy to prevent or solve crimes”.

In addition to this,

> ‘There is the constabulary unit who are the ad-hoc police men tasked with community policing and local peacekeeping. These officers live in the grassroot and operate at flexible hours to maintain law and order in the community. In their daily interactions with the people, the see, hear, or become informed about events that might have security implications. This they pass to the appropriate authorities who analyse

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> the data and share with appropriate units in the Police force including the anti-kidnapping unit'.

The strategic intelligence gathering was supported by Interviewee Two who affirmed that the Nigeria Police has structures and guidelines in place for intelligence management. All intelligence gathered at the street level are passed on to the central database where analyst work on them to visualize patterns, make predictions and devise tangible solutions. The intelligence is also shared with various regional, state and local commands as appropriate.

This spread of the Nigerian police has made human intelligence so cost effective and easy to do. In addition to this, the NPF collaborate with the Department of State Security (DSS). The DSS, saddled with the responsibility of gathering intelligence about all security issues in Nigeria often rely on the police to make arrests and prosecute criminals. In line with this, whenever the DSS has an intelligence related to kidnapping, it passes it onto the Anti-Kidnapping unit. This has gone a long way in strategic intelligence gathering for combating kidnapping in Oyo State.

Another insight revealed by Interviewee 1 and 2 as well as during the focus group discussion is that police officers and units also maintain a string of informants who feed intelligence to police officers including those at the anti-kidnapping unit. As revealed by Interviewee 1:

> "Any office would have some informants who provide him/her with useful intelligence. Some of the informants are sanctions by police commands while some works directly with police detectives. Some informants get paid while others are just doing it for the protection they get from the police"

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Further discussion revealed the nature of the informants. Some of the informants are petty criminals with access to the criminal world who are able to gather information that may not be easily available to police officers. Some informants on the other hand, are just people who are familiar with the 'going on' in their communities and who can easily spot useful information that can be of help to security agencies. It was revealed that the NPF has clear guidelines on how to deal with informants and the duration of running an informant before they are let go.

One other strategy of gathering strategic information is through community policing. The anti-kidnapping unit often make use of connection within the Police Community Relation Committee (PCRC) that has been established in each community across Nigeria. In addition to this, the police have built relationships with local vigilantes, hunters, farmers and rural dwellers who are often briefed on what to look for when gathering intelligence for the police. At some time, the police just encourage the people at the grassroots to share any information they have and leave the police to determine which is useful and which is not.

Overall, the techniques used by the anti-kidnapping units for strategic intelligence gathering include, relying on the large number and spread of police formation and officer across Nigeria, partnering with other organisations such as the DSS, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Police Constabulary, the Military, informants and community policy.

Research Question Two: How effectively do technological advancements and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies enhance the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence for combatting kidnap cases in Oyo State?

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The responses revealed that, despite the fact that NPF finds human intelligence highly useful, the integration of technology such as geolocation, satellite imagery and wiretapping has energized strategic intelligence gathering in the fight again kidnapping in Oyo State.

According to Interviewee 1:

'Technological advancements and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies significantly enhance the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence in addressing kidnapping cases in Oyo State. For instance, the installation of closed-circuit cameras otherwise knowns as CCTV cameras in strategic locations helps in monitoring and tracking movements, providing real-time data and post-incident analysis, especially when the crime occurs in urban areas'.

As revealed by Interviewee 4, the police also make use of drones.

> "Drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and thermal imaging can cover vast areas quickly, especially in terrains that are difficult to access by foot or vehicle."

The use of data analytics also allows for the analysis of large datasets from various sources such as local informants, social media, phone records, and financial transactions, helping in identifying patterns and predicting potential kidnapping hotspots. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) help police visualize crime trends and deploy resources more effectively. Furthermore, digital communication tools facilitate real-time information sharing and coordination among different units and agencies, while mobile applications enhance responsiveness and situational awareness by allowing officers to access databases and reports on the go. In instances where the police lack these technologies, it collaborates with other sister agencies.

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According to interviewee 6;

> "All security agencies in Nigeria are defending the same flag. So, we call each other sister agencies. Any resources that we need to solve a case, if it is available to a sister agency, we request and the usually grant out request. Even the telecommunication companies have been cooperating with us".

Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies plays a crucial role in enhancing the ability of the NPF to prevent or solve kidnaping cases. Interagency cooperation such as using the databases of DSS and other related agencies increase the pool of data available for analysis by sharing criminal records, information on missing persons, and vehicles of interest. In addition to this, Interviewee 5 revealed that;

'Whenever there is need to rescue kidnapping victims from kidnappers' hideouts, it is not only the job for intelligence unit such as the anti-kidnapping unit. Rather, there is always a joint task forces which usually include mobile police and the army.

> "The operation is usually centrally planned and many agencies are often involved. We may go with mobile unit, dog unit, military, even the ambulance unit, in case we have injured officers or victims. Even in many instances, with have gone into operations with local hunters, farmers, vigilantes and trackers who are familiar with the terrain. So, it is usually a joint effort."

The collaboration ensures a more comprehensive approach to investigations by pooling resources and expertise. Regular joint training programs improve skills in areas like negotiation, and intelligence analysis, while exchange programs allow officers to learn best practices and new techniques from their counterparts in other regions or countries. Collaboration also provides access to specialized units such as technology experts, and hostage negotiators, which may not be available within the local police force. Sharing

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equipment like helicopters, advanced forensic labs, and communication tools enhances the overall capability to respond to and resolve kidnapping cases.

Strategic intelligence utilization is critical for effective policing. Regularly updated intelligence helps in assessing risks and deploying preventive measures in potential kidnapping zones. Community engagement, an essential part of intelligence-led policing, includes working with local communities to build trust and encourage the sharing of information on suspicious activities. Advanced communication and coordination tools enable a rapid response, allowing for the swift mobilization of resources and personnel to kidnapping incidents. Intelligence on the kidnappers' profiles and motives aids in negotiation strategies, increasing the chances of a peaceful resolution. Post-incident analysis and collaboration with other agencies help in understanding what worked and what didn't, leading to continuous improvement in strategies and tactics. Strategic intelligence also informs policy decisions, ensuring that laws and procedures are up-to-date and effective in combating kidnapping.

Overall, the integration of technological advancements and enhanced collaboration with other law enforcement agencies significantly boosts the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence in Oyo State. This multifaceted approach leads to better prevention, more efficient response, and higher success rates in resolving kidnapping cases, ultimately ensuring greater safety and security for the community.

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Research Question Three: How do local residents and individuals who have been kidnapped, rate the police's response to and prevention of kidnapping incidents?

The respondents were also asked about the perception of the general public and past victims of kidnapping regarding the activities of the anti-kidnapping unit. The major response was that, while there have been some positive responses from freed kidnapped victims, the anti-kidnapping unit often face hostilities and lack of cooperation from members of the public. Majority of the interviewees recounted instances where kidnappings were not reported to the police because the victims' families were either too afraid or do not trust the police to free their loved ones.

> "Once the kidnappers contact some family, they will start making moves to pay ransom and free their people. Even in cases where the police got wind of the matter and have started working, the relatives would still ask that the police do not get involve for fear that the kidnappers will kill their person"

Indeed, there have been many instances where the police were not involved at all until the kidnapped issue is resolved, either successfully or otherwise. It was also revealed that, even when the victim is successfully freed from kidnappers by police, they rarely acknowledge the role played by the police. Only a few of the rescued victims publicly praise the police for a job well done. The respondent cited the case of Professor Adigun Agbaje, a scholar who was kidnapped but rescued by the police. It was revealed that the Professor came back to thank the police and also give press interviews to praise the role of the police in securing his release from the kidnapper's den.

The respondents believe that such act is rare with majority of the people preferring to show the police in bad light which does not really reflect the state of things in the country.

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Research Question Four: What are the key challenges and barriers that the police face in gathering and utilising strategic intelligence to address kidnapped incidents in Oyo State?

The respondents outlined various challenges that have affected strategic intelligence gathering and effective rescue of victims. These challenges include lack of cooperation from victims' families, lack of political will, funding, unfriendly terrain, low morale among the officers and occasional inter-agency rivalry.

In the focus group discussion, the officers and men of the anti-kidnapping unit revealed that families of the victims are often not cooperating with the police. They often fail to reveal useful information to the polices. As one of the officers revealed "majority of the families prefer to speak to the media instead of the police and whenever they report a case of kidnap, they would want to see their family member rescued immediately."

In addition to this, any rescued victim is a source of information for the police to prevent further incidents. However, "many rescued victims cut off the police at the first opportunity. One of the respondents also added that;

> "When we rescued someone, the first thing is to ensure that they get medical attention. They are checked and evaluated by various medical personnels and therapist to ensure they are in good condition. At this point, we often leave them alone. The problem is, after the medical treatment, they simply disappear without giving the police any information that might be useful in preventing further attacks"

Some of the officers also spoke about lack of political will from the government. Although significant efforts are being made to end kidnapping in Nigeria, there are some activities such as going after sponsors and moneybags that should be intensified. Rather

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the focus is on the foot soldiers who can easily be replaced. One of the respondents captured the frustration that has been expressed by others;

> "The rank and file, who often have to face the firepower of the kidnappers, feel that the powers that be are not interested in eradicating kidnapping as there seems to be lack of appetite to go after big shots. We know that many of the kidnappers are reporting to some kingpins but investigations are often bungled when there is no support from the top"

Another challenge that was identified in the course of the study is the issue of bad eggs among the officers. it was revealed that some police personnel are easily lured by kidnapping kingpins. This people often collaborate with criminals by revealing police strategies and leaking details of ongoing investigation which usually ensure that the criminals are always one step ahead of the law. The respondents frowned against these officers but they also conceded that the condition of service in the police is often discouraging and making weak minded officers prone to corruption.

> "You can imagine a situation where wounded officers are pay thirty-thousand Naira compensation. The insurance they did for us; it is only when a policeman dies that they will pay his family. It makes one feel like a sacrificial lamb; you have to die before your family enjoys and you will not be there to enjoy with them".

Furthermore, the analysis of the responses showed that there may be an underlying rivalry between the NPF and the NSCDC as the rank-and-file interview suggested that the NSCDC often keep intelligence it has gathered to itself with the aim of solving cases that should be handled by the NPF themselves. The general impression given by the respondents is that the NSCDC is encroaching on the tasks meant for the Nigerian police.

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As one of the respondents observed;

> "They started with protecting critical infrastructures, now they are saying they have an anti-cultism unit, a financial crime unit and others. Is that not a duplication of effort?"

Another respondent observed;

"They (the NSCDC) do not even open on weekends while we (NPF) are always on duty. Who do you think will be more effective?"

All of these responses shows that the challenges facing strategic intelligence gathering to curb kidnaping in Nigeria is multifarious and it would require a comprehensive intervention to solve

4.3 Discussion of Findings

Overall, the techniques used by the anti-kidnapping units for strategic intelligence gathering include, relying on the large number and spread of police formation and officer across Nigeria, partnering with other organisations such as the DSS, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Police Constabulary, the Military, informants and community policy. The responses suggested that the officers prefer human intelligence (HUMINT) to the use of technology.

The preference for human intelligence (HUMINT) in preventing and solving kidnappings, as found in the study, aligns with the broader literature on law enforcement practices in Nigeria and similar contexts. Human intelligence, which involves the collection of information through interpersonal contact, informants, and undercover operations, is considered invaluable in addressing complex and sensitive crimes like kidnapping[20]. Several studies underscore the importance of HUMINT in law

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enforcement. A report highlights that in many parts of Nigeria, where technological resources may be limited, the reliance on human sources of information is crucial. HUMINT allows for real-time, context-rich information that can be critical in understanding the dynamics of criminal activities and locating victims and perpetrators[21].

Furthermore, the effectiveness of HUMINT in kidnapping cases is well-documented. Kidnappings often involve intricate networks of individuals, including planners, executors, and financiers. Human intelligence can provide insights into these networks, revealing relationships and operational details that might not be accessible through other means. For instance, a study found that in several high-profile kidnapped cases in Nigeria, critical breakthroughs were achieved through information provided by informants within the community or the criminal network itself[22].

However, relying on HUMINT also comes with challenges. The quality of human intelligence is highly dependent on the trustworthiness and reliability of the informants. In environments where fear of retaliation is prevalent, as discussed earlier, obtaining accurate and timely HUMINT can be difficult. Moreover, maintaining and managing a network of informants requires significant resources and expertise, which may be constrained in some police departments. The preference for HUMINT also reflects a practical response to the limitations of other intelligence-gathering methods. While technological advancements like electronic surveillance, data analytics, and forensic tools are transforming law enforcement globally, their adoption and effectiveness in Nigeria can be limited by resource constraints, lack of training, and infrastructural deficits. Studies, suggest that while technological tools are increasingly available, their integration into daily policing practices remains uneven[23].

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Moreover, HUMINT's effectiveness is often enhanced when combined with other forms of intelligence. For example, integrating human intelligence with signals intelligence (SIGINT), which involves intercepting communications, can provide a more comprehensive understanding of criminal activities. The combination of HUMINT and SIGINT has been shown to be particularly effective in counter-terrorism efforts[5].

Community policing models further support the use of HUMINT by fostering closer relationships between the police and the communities they serve. Community policing initiatives, such as those implemented in Lagos and Anambra States, have demonstrated that building trust within the community can lead to more effective gathering of human intelligence. When communities trust the police, they are more likely to provide valuable information that can prevent and solve crimes, including kidnappings[6].

In conclusion, the preference for human intelligence in preventing and solving kidnappings, as revealed by the study, is well-supported by the broader literature on policing in Nigeria. While HUMINT remains a vital tool due to its context-specific and actionable nature, it also requires careful management and integration with other intelligence methods to maximize its effectiveness. Addressing the challenges associated with HUMINT, such as informant reliability and resource constraints, is crucial for enhancing its utility in combating kidnappings and other complex crimes

According to a study the adoption of technology such as Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and drone surveillance has significantly improved the capabilities of the Nigerian police in crime detection and prevention. The study highlights that in urban areas like Lagos and Abuja, the implementation of these technologies has led to a noticeable reduction in kidnapping incidents due to increased surveillance and real-time

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monitoring[24]. This finding is particularly relevant to Oyo State, where similar technological interventions could yield comparable results in enhancing public safety and reducing the incidence of kidnappings.

Moreover, a report by the emphasizes the importance of big data analytics and geographic information systems (GIS) in modern policing. The report discusses how the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) has begun to integrate these technologies to analyse crime patterns and predict potential kidnapping hotspots. By leveraging data from various sources, including social media and mobile communications, the police can develop more effective strategies for deploying resources and preventing crimes. This approach aligns with global best practices and suggests that further investment in these technologies could enhance the strategic intelligence capabilities of the police in Oyo State[25].

The role of inter-agency collaboration is also well-documented in the literature. A study highlights the benefits of collaborative efforts between the Nigerian Police Force and other security agencies, such as the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). The study found that joint task forces and shared intelligence networks have led to more coordinated and effective responses to kidnapping cases. For example, in regions where these collaborations are robust, there has been a marked improvement in the resolution rates of kidnapping incidents. This suggests that enhancing inter-agency cooperation in Oyo State could similarly bolster the police's ability to address such crimes more efficiently[26].

Furthermore, a study found that community engagement is a critical component of successful intelligence-led policing. The study emphasized the need for law enforcement

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agencies to build trust and foster collaboration with local communities, which are often the first to observe and report suspicious activities[27,28]. In states like Oyo, where community-police relations may be strained, improving these relationships could lead to more effective gathering and utilization of strategic intelligence. This finding is supported by international experiences, where community policing models have been shown to significantly enhance crime prevention and resolution.

In addition, the integration of advanced forensic techniques and biometrics, as discussed by another scholar, has proven crucial in identifying perpetrators and resolving kidnapping cases. The report notes that the use of DNA analysis, fingerprinting, and facial recognition technology has led to higher conviction rates and quicker resolution of cases. These technologies can be particularly beneficial in Oyo State, where traditional policing methods may fall short in addressing the complexities of modern criminal activities[29].

Further examining the impact of technological advancements, researchers emphasise the role of mobile technology and digital communication in modern policing in Nigeria. The study found that the integration of mobile applications for reporting crimes and suspicious activities has empowered citizens to actively participate in crime prevention. These mobile platforms provide real-time data to law enforcement agencies, enhancing their ability to respond swiftly and accurately to kidnapping incidents[30]. In Oyo State, implementing such mobile solutions could bridge the gap between the community and the police, fostering a collaborative environment where information is readily shared and acted upon.

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Additionally, a report by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) highlights the critical role of telecommunications in combating crime. The NCC's report points out that the use of mobile phone tracking and interception technologies has been instrumental in locating and apprehending kidnappers. The ability to trace calls and messages has provided invaluable intelligence that has led to the rescue of victims and the dismantling of kidnapping syndicates. For Oyo State, leveraging such telecommunications technology could significantly enhance the strategic capabilities of the police, allowing them to track and apprehend criminals more effectively[31].

Inter-agency collaboration is further supported by findings from the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). A 2019 WANEP report underscores the importance of regional cooperation in addressing cross-border kidnapping activities. The report highlights successful collaborations between Nigerian law enforcement and their counterparts in neighbouring countries, which have led to the capture of notorious kidnapping gangs operating across borders. These regional collaborations facilitate the sharing of intelligence and resources, creating a more formidable response to the kidnapping menace. For Oyo State, strengthening ties with neighbouring states and countries could enhance the effectiveness of local policing efforts, providing a comprehensive approach to tackling kidnapping.

The role of training and capacity building in enhancing the capabilities of law enforcement cannot be overlooked. A study by the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) in 2021 reveals that continuous training in modern investigative techniques and the use of advanced technology has significantly improved the proficiency of the Nigerian police. The NDA study found that officers trained in forensic science, cybercrime, and

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intelligence analysis were more successful in resolving complex kidnapping cases. In Oyo State, investing in the professional development of police officers could ensure that they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to leverage technological tools and inter-agency partnerships effectively.

Moreover, the impact of social media on law enforcement's ability to gather intelligence has been highlighted in research. The 2020 study discusses how social media platforms have become critical sources of information for law enforcement agencies. By monitoring social media activities, the police can identify potential threats, track the movements of suspects, and gather evidence for ongoing investigations. For Oyo State, establishing dedicated social media monitoring units could enhance the police's ability to pre-empt and respond to kidnapping threats.

Lastly, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in crime analysis is a growing area of interest. Studies in Western nations are exploring the application of AI in predicting and preventing crimes in urban areas. The study found that AI algorithms could analyse vast amounts of data to identify patterns and predict potential kidnapping hotspots[32]. Implementing AI-driven solutions in Oyo State could provide the police with predictive insights, enabling proactive measures to prevent kidnappings before they occur.

In summary, the findings from various studies in Nigeria underscore the significant role that technological advancements and inter-agency collaboration play in enhancing the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence for addressing kidnapping cases. By adopting mobile technology, leveraging telecommunications, strengthening regional cooperation, investing in training, utilizing social media, and integrating AI, the

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police in Oyo State can significantly improve their operational effectiveness. These strategies provide a multifaceted approach to combating kidnapping, ensuring a safer environment for the residents of Oyo State.

Overall, the integration of technological advancements and enhanced collaboration with other law enforcement agencies significantly boosts the police's ability to gather and utilize strategic intelligence in Oyo State. This multifaceted approach leads to better prevention, more efficient response, and higher success rates in resolving kidnapping cases, ultimately ensuring greater safety and security for the community.

The study also found a mixed perception among the general public regarding the efforts of the anti-kidnapping unit. The major issues issue is the withholding of intelligence from victim's families and even successfully freed kidnapping victims. The finding of mixed perceptions among the general public regarding the efforts of the anti-kidnapping unit in Oyo State highlights significant challenges in the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the community they serve. One of the primary issues identified is the withholding of intelligence from victims' families and even successfully freed kidnapping victims. This practice can have far-reaching implications for trust, cooperation, and overall effectiveness in addressing kidnapping cases.

Withholding useful intelligence from the police during kidnapping cases poses a significant challenge that undermines law enforcement efforts to effectively combat and resolve such incidents. Various factors contribute to this issue, including fear of retaliation, lack of trust in the police, and concerns over privacy and safety. Understanding and addressing these factors is crucial for improving cooperation between the public and law enforcement agencies.

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One of the primary reasons individuals withhold information from the police is fear of retaliation from the kidnappers or their associates. In communities where kidnappers have established a presence, people might worry that providing information to the police could make them targets for violence or retribution. This fear is especially pronounced in areas where law enforcement lacks the resources or presence to offer adequate protection to informants. Trust is a foundational element in the relationship between the community and law enforcement. When people do not trust the police, they are less likely to come forward with valuable information. This distrust can stem from various sources, including perceived corruption, ineffectiveness, or previous negative experiences with the police. Studies in Nigeria have shown that communities with higher levels of trust in their police force are more willing to cooperate and share intelligence[33].

Individuals may also withhold information due to concerns about their privacy and safety. They may fear that their identities could be exposed, leading to unwanted attention or threats. Ensuring confidentiality and protecting the identities of informants is critical for encouraging people to share what they know without fear of personal repercussions. In some cases, cultural and social norms might play a role in the reluctance to share information. In tightly-knit communities, there might be a cultural inclination to handle matters internally rather than involving external authorities. Additionally, social stigma associated with interacting with the police can discourage people from coming forward[34].

A study highlights the importance of community engagement and trust-building in overcoming the reluctance to share intelligence. The study found that community policing initiatives that involve regular interactions between police and community

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members can help break down barriers and foster a more cooperative environment. These initiatives include town hall meetings, community patrols, and the establishment of community liaison officers[35]. similarly, scholars have emphasized the role of effective communication in building trust. The report emphasizes that when police are transparent about their actions, outcomes, and the protection measures in place for informants, it encourages more people to come forward with valuable information. Establishing anonymous tip lines and community outreach programs can also play a significant role in enhancing cooperation[36].

To address the issue of withholding intelligence, several strategies can be implemented. Enhancing police-community relations through consistent, positive interactions can reduce fear and suspicion. Community policing strategies, where officers are assigned to specific neighbourhoods to build relationships, can be effective. Ensuring confidentiality and protection by establishing robust mechanisms for protecting the identities of informants, such as anonymous tip lines and witness protection programs, is also essential[37].

Educating the community about the importance of their role in crime prevention and the measures in place to protect them can encourage more people to come forward. Regular community meetings and public awareness campaigns can be valuable tools. Addressing corruption and misconduct within the police force is essential for building trust. Transparent investigations into allegations of police wrongdoing and holding officers accountable can improve public perception and willingness to cooperate.

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

This chapter concludes the research. It presents the synopsis of the study on Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: A Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, 2012-2024. The chapter is divided into sections such as; summary of findings, conclusions recommendations and suggestion for further studies.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The most adopted technique for kidnapping, strategic intelligence and the Nigeria Police: Study of Oyo State, Nigeria, is the use of human intelligence comprising of police officers, informants, community partners and sister agencies. However, the use of technology also compliments human intelligence gathering.

The study found that technology advancement has enhanced strategic intelligence gathering, especially in the course of solving kidnapping cases. However, the respondents revealed certain limitation to the use of technology due to Nigerian terrain and the limited spread of communication network in Nigeria. A mixed perception among the general public regarding the efforts of the anti-kidnapping unit was another concern in the study. The major issue is the withholding of intelligence by victims' families and even successfully freed kidnapped victims.

In term of challenges, the study found that low morale, lack of cooperation from the public and poor funding of the police are the main impediment to effective strategic intelligence gathering in the fight against kidnapping. Other challenges include the issue

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of corrupt police officers and interagency rivalry which often prevent intelligence sharing.

5.2 Conclusion

The study highlights that the Nigeria Police, Oyo State, Nigeria, predominantly relies on human intelligence (HUMINT) for strategic intelligence gathering in the fight against kidnapping. This includes contributions from police officers, informants, community partners, and sister agencies. Technological advancements have complemented these efforts, enhancing the effectiveness of intelligence gathering despite limitations posed by Nigeria's terrain and communication infrastructure. However, there are mixed public perceptions about the anti-kidnapping unit's efforts, primarily due to the withholding of intelligence from victims' families and freed kidnapping victims. Key challenges identified include low morale among police officers, lack of public cooperation, inadequate funding, corruption within the police force, and interagency rivalry.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are deemed relevant;

1. To improve the effectiveness of human intelligence, it is crucial to provide specialized training for police officers and informants. Regular workshops and seminars on advanced HUMINT techniques, coupled with psychological support, can boost morale and skill levels. Establishing a network of trained community partners and leveraging their local knowledge can further strengthen intelligence efforts.

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2. The Nigerian government should prioritize investments in expanding and upgrading communication networks, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas. This includes providing modern technological tools such as surveillance equipment, data analytics software, and secure communication channels. Ensuring that police officers are trained to use these technologies effectively will enhance their ability to gather and analyse intelligence.
3. To address the mixed public perceptions, the police must adopt a transparent approach in their operations. Regular updates to victims' families and the general public about ongoing investigations and the status of kidnapping cases can build trust. Implementing community policing strategies and engaging with local leaders and organizations can foster a cooperative environment and encourage the public to share valuable intelligence.
4. The Nigeria Police Force needs to tackle internal issues such as low morale, corruption, and interagency rivalry. This can be achieved through increased funding to ensure adequate resources and better working conditions for officers. Establishing clear protocols for interagency cooperation and incentivizing officers for ethical behaviour and successful intelligence gathering can mitigate these challenges. Anti-corruption measures, including strict enforcement of penalties for corrupt activities, should also be a priority.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

This study is limited to the role of strategic intelligence gathering on curbing kidnapping so it has its limitations. Further research should explore the following areas;

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1. Impact of specific technological tools on intelligence gathering effectiveness in various regions of Nigeria.
2. Long-term effects of community policing initiatives on public trust and cooperation with law enforcement.
3. Factors affecting morale and the efficacy of anti-corruption measures, would provide deeper insights into improving overall strategic intelligence capabilities.

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Appendix

Interview Guide Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF)

1. Could you describe the role of the Anti-kidnapping unit in Oyo State and how it contributes to uncovering and resolving kidnapping cases?
2. How does the Anti-kidnapping unit gather strategic intelligence to enhance its operations?
3. Can you provide examples of successful operations where strategic intelligence played a crucial role in resolving kidnapping cases?
4. How does the unit collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to gather and utilize strategic intelligence effectively?
5. What technological advancements have been instrumental in improving the unit's ability to combat kidnapping cases?
6. How do you ensure the accuracy and reliability of the intelligence gathered?
7. What challenges does the unit face in gathering and utilizing strategic intelligence, and how are these challenges addressed?
8. How has the collaboration with other agencies and technological advancements improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the unit in combating kidnapping cases?
9. How do you assess the impact of strategic intelligence gathering on the overall success rate of resolving
10. How does the Anti-kidnapping unit ensure that gathered intelligence is used effectively to prevent and combat kidnapping activities in Oyo State?

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Interview Guide for Constabulary Unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)

1. How do local communities in Oyo State perceive the role of the police in responding to and preventing kidnapping cases?
2. What are some common challenges faced by local communities in reporting kidnapping incidents to the police in Oyo State?
3. How do kidnapping victims perceive the police response to their cases in Oyo State?
4. Can you discuss any specific instances where the police response to kidnapping cases in Oyo State was perceived positively by the community or victims?
5. What are the key challenges and barriers that the Constabulary unit faces in gathering intelligence on kidnapping cases in Oyo State?
6. How do these challenges impact the Constabulary unit's ability to prevent and combat kidnapping incidents in Oyo State?
7. How does the Constabulary unit engage with local communities to gather intelligence on kidnapping cases in Oyo State?
8. What strategies does the Constabulary unit use to build trust and cooperation with local communities in Oyo State?
9. How does the Constabulary unit ensure that information provided by local communities is utilized effectively in addressing kidnapping incidents in Oyo State?
10. What support or resources does the Constabulary unit need to improve their intelligence gathering and response to kidnapping cases in Oyo State?

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Interview Guide for the Citizens and Local Residents

1. How do you perceive the effectiveness of the police in uncovering and resolving kidnapping cases in the Oke Ogun region of Oyo State?
2. Can you provide any examples of successful police operations against kidnapping in your community?
3. How do you think technological advancements have helped the police in gathering intelligence on kidnapping cases in the Oke Ogun region?
4. Have you noticed any improvements in the police's ability to respond to kidnapping cases due to collaboration with other law enforcement agencies?
5. What are some challenges you believe the police face in gathering intelligence on kidnapping cases in the Oke Ogun region?
6. How do these challenges affect the police's ability to prevent and combat kidnapping incidents in your community?
7. How do you perceive the role of the police in responding to kidnapping cases in your community?
8. Have you or anyone you know been a victim of kidnapping in the Oke Ogun region? If so, how was the police response perceived?
9. Do you think the police effectively utilize intelligence gathered from the community to address kidnapping incidents?
10. In your opinion, what support or resources do the police need to improve their effectiveness in addressing kidnapping cases in the Oke Ogun region?

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Bio-data

A, Personal Data

Full Name:	Oluwasegun OJO
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E-mail:	oluwasegunojo1510@yahoo.com
Phone number:	08023311315
Date of birth:	15th October, 1982
Place of birth:	Lagos State
Nationality:	Nigeria
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B. Educational Background with Qualification and Date

PhD International Relations (PCS)	2025
MSc Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution (NOUN)	2017
MA Philosophy, University of Lagos	2014
BA Philosophy, University of Lagos	2008

C. Working Experience with Date

Nigeria Police	2012 – Date
MTN	2010

D. Awards and Fellowships (if any)

Nil

E. Membership

Member, Society for Peace Studies and Practice, SPSP

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F. Publications

1. Olusegun Ojo & Modupe Albert, (2025), *Harnessing Technology and Inter-Agency Synergy in Strategic Intelligence Gathering Against Kidnapping in Oyo State.* **Journal of Innovative Social Science and Humanities Research,** 9(6). https://doi.org/10.70382/hujisshr.v9i6.010

2. Olusegun Ojo, & Modupe Albert. (2025). Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Fight against Kidnapping in Oyo State. *Journal of Innovative Social Science and Humanities Research*, *8*(6). https://doi.org/10.70382/hujisshr.v8i6.005

G. Major Conferences Attended with Dates

Nil

H. References

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The University Compliance Certification

This is to certify that, this thesis written by Oluwasegun OJO with matriculation number LCU/PG/003163 in the Department of Politics and International Relations in the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan is in full compliance with the approved University format and style.

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Signature **Date**

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