Certification

This is to certify that this thesis titled 'Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police: Study of Oyo State (2012-2024)' was carried out by Oluwasegun OJO with matriculation number LCU/PG/003163 in the Department of Politics and International Relations under my supervision in the Faculty of Management and Social Science, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria and has not been previously submitted.

Dr Modupe Albert **Date**
Supervisor

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Head of Department

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my late mother.

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Acknowledgement

My sincere gratitude goes to the management and staff of Lead City University, Ibadan for providing the needed support and a conducive learning environment during the course of my study and in conducting this research. My appreciation also goes to The Nigeria Police Force, for sharing vital information with me during the course of this study. I also express my appreciation to the Anti -Kidnapping Unit, State office, Iyaganku, Ibadan, for their contribution to the completion to this study.

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I thank God for surrounding me with family, friends and relations who have more faith in me than I have in myself, and these have urged me to proceed on this academic sojourn. Also, I want to appreciate my lovely siblings for their support morally and financially, the Lord bless you richly. I will not forget my loving wife, Adebanke Ojo and lovable children, you all shall attain greater heights in life in Jesus mighty name.

Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, I stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in the work.

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Abstract

This study critically examines the role of Kidnapping, Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) to uncover and resolve cases in Oyo State, Nigeria, from 2012 to 2024. In recent years, Nigeria has witnessed a disturbing increase in the rate of kidnappings, particularly in its southwestern region, with Oyo State emerging as one of the most affected areas. The trend not only threatens public safety and national security but also challenges the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, particularly the Nigerian Police, in combating organized criminal activities. Against this backdrop, the study investigates how the Nigerian Police have deployed strategic intelligence mechanisms—both human and technological—in their attempt to address the growing menace of kidnapping within the period under review. Strategic Intelligence Gathering refers to the systematic process of collecting, analyzing, and applying information to support security operations and policy decisions. This study explores various SIG methods employed by the Nigerian Police, including surveillance, informant networks, undercover operations, electronic monitoring, and collaboration with local communities. Through qualitative data obtained from police records, interviews with law enforcement personnel, community stakeholders, and security experts, the research reveals both the strengths and limitations of the intelligence infrastructure available to the police in Oyo State. It further identifies the contextual challenges such as inadequate funding, poor logistics, political interference, weak inter-agency collaboration, and insufficient training, which have hampered the efficient use of intelligence in resolving kidnapping cases. From 2012 to 2024, the Nigerian Police in Oyo State recorded hundreds of kidnapping incidents, with varying degrees of success in uncovering and prosecuting perpetrators. The findings show that while the introduction of SIG improved the response time to kidnappings and aided in the identification of criminal syndicates, inconsistencies in data management and lack of community trust often undermined police efforts. The study also highlights notable case studies where the use of SIG directly led to the successful rescue of victims and dismantling of kidnapping rings. However, the persistent recurrence of kidnapping incidents suggests the need for more robust intelligence strategies, stronger community policing frameworks, and increased public-private partnerships. This research concludes that Strategic Intelligence Gathering is a critical tool in the Nigerian Police's arsenal for combating kidnapping in Oyo State. It recommends a comprehensive overhaul of the intelligence architecture of the Nigerian Police, investment in modern surveillance technology, continuous capacity-building of personnel, and the institutionalization of community intelligence networks. The study contributes to the broader discourse on internal security in Nigeria and offers policy-relevant insights for enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement in addressing violent crimes. By focusing on a decade-long period, this study offers a longitudinal perspective on the evolution and impact of SIG in the fight against kidnapping, providing valuable lessons for other regions facing similar security challenges.

Keywords: Strategic Intelligence Gathering (SIG), Nigerian Police, Kidnapped Cases, Oyo State.

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islam Magheb
CBMs	Confidence Building Measures
CGI	Comptroller General of Immigration
CIA	Central |Intelligence Agency
CNN	Cable News Network
COMA	Coalition for Militant Action in the Niger Delta
DIA	Defence Intelligence Agency
DICON	Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
IYC	Ijaw Youth Council
JRCO	Joint Revolutionary Council
MBAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBS	Nigeria Bureau of Statistics
NDPVF	Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force
NFF	Nigeria Football Federation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIC	National Intelligence Community
NIS	Nigerian Immigration Services
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
PCRC	Police Community Relation Committee
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons

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SIG	Strategic Intelligence Gathering
SSS	State Security Service
UAVs	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UBEC	Universal Basic Education Commission
UNIMAID	University of Maiduguri, Borno State
WANEP	West African Network for Peacebuilding

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