



Why the breach of human rights by the Nigeria police force between calls for urgent attention

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Abstract

The abuse of human rights by Nigeria Police force between 2016 to 2020 against the citizens and foreigners in Nigeria had persisted for several decades despite the hue and cry against Human rights protections. International bodies, notably the Amnesty International, had condemned police abuses in Nigeria. This paper will uncover the actions of the police force that amounts to a breach of human rights in Nigeria. This paper will approach the problem via non-doctrinal and qualitative approach making use of legislations, international statutes, journals, newspaper and internet and relevant texts. The article reveals that despite the constitution of Nigeria, the United Nations and African Charter on Human and Peoples Right guaranteeing the human rights for all persons, the Nigeria government had not performed creditably in curtailing the incessant human rights abuses by the police force and other security agencies. Nigeria was a signatory to the international instruments against Human rights abuses, yet the legislations on human rights have not been well monitored and enforced; hence the Police take laws into their hands and killed persons extrajudicially. This paper will highlight some of the Human rights abuses and the causes of human rights abuses by the police force and make useful recommendations toward restoring sanity in the Police statutory duties and thereby guaranteeing the safety of lives and properties.

Keywords: human rights abuses, constitutional provisions, extrajudicial killings, torture

Introduction

The abuse of human rights in Nigeria has become topical, important, and perhaps notorious creating concern and disturbance for stakeholders such as the International communities, Journalists, International Lawyers, parliamentarians, political scientists, religious bodies, International observers and so on. Despite criticisms of different stakeholders, the abuse of human rights by the Police appears to be a regular part of Nigerian society. These inhuman and often unjustified extrajudicial killings and unjust arrest and detention continued to leave in their victims', great pains, anguish without proactive interventions by the appropriate authorities in Nigeria. When issues of abuse or brutality by are brought before the court, usually punitive damages are awarded against force. Many writers in the past and present have all condemned the violation of human rights in all shades of it.

Notwithstanding scholarly efforts and judicial pronouncements, it would seem that little or nothing has been achieved to stem the tide of police rascality. However, there have been condemnations of late by the Nigeria government and well-meaning Nigerians on the issue of police deviations from their rules of engagement and unprofessional conducts. For domestic citizens and international citizens to be preserved, the government has to maintain some degree of proactive actions by way of creating reorientation among the force personnel pursuant to the United Nation's Declaration. There is no gainsaying that many Nigerians and other foreigners have suffered tremendous and unquantifiable brutalities resulting from the bad eggs in the police force. The observance of the rule of law by all persons in any country is an essential ingredient for the survival of democracy, and by so doing, Nigeria will become the cynosure of Africa and gain respect among the comity of nations. This article will serve the immediate and

future needs for the Nigeria government in dealing with issues of human rights abuses.

Legal framework on killing police officers in Nigeria

The legal framework for this research on rising incidents of killing police officers in Nigeria includes the followings:

1. Nigeria Police Act Cap P19 LFN. (2018)
2. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999
3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

International statutes prohibiting on human rights abuses

Universal Declaration on Human Rights: See the provisions of article 3 and 5 of the instrument

Article 3 provides "*that everyone has a right to life, liberty and security of person.*"

Also, The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights has its provisions promoting the human right of citizens of member states.

Article 5a reads: "*Every individual shall have the right to the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man, particularly slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.*"

Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibits unlawful arrest and detention of persons. If the statute prohibits arbitrary arrest, it is an unprofessional attitude for the Police to beat up citizens who are not connected with any crimes. These International laws were also incorporated in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Nigeria Police Act also captured human rights provisions guaranteed by the International laws.

Who are the Police?

The Black's Law Dictionary defines Police, thus:

1. 'the governmental department charged with the preservation of public order, the promotion of public safety, and the prevention and detection of crimes.
2. The officers and member of this department.'

The Police Act did not define the word 'Police,' but under Part 1 of the Act, it says a 'police officer' means any member of the force.

▪ **The Police Act vis-a-viz the statutory duties of the Nigeria Police Force**

The duties of the Nigeria Police Force are spelt out in the Police Act in the section cited below

Section 4: The Police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of Crime in accordance with constitutional and statutory provisions.

The Police Act and Regulations "principle one" rules 359 para 3 provides as follows:

- The Police Force is responsible for promoting and the fundamental rights of persons in police custody as guaranteed by the relevant provision of Chapter iv of the constitution

No country in the world that does not have an agency or organisation that enforces laws and maintain order. As long as there are laws in any given society, there must also be a mechanism for enforcing the laws. There must also be a procedure for apprehending the lawbreaker and bring him to book; this is where the Police come in to perform its duties ascribed to it by the constitution of that society. Generally speaking the police force functions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria can be broken down as follows:

1. The due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged with.
2. Prevention and detection of crimes and the apprehension of offenders
3. The prosecution of suspects at the relevant court of competent jurisdiction
4. The preservation of law and order,
5. And the protection of life and property
6. And in some cases, it may perform such military duties within and outside Nigeria

as may be required of them by, or under the authority of any extant law.

The above-highlighted functions are global because the Police of every member and non-member of the United Nations perform these functions.

The sections cited above reflect the statutory functions of the police force and for which police officers are paid from the taxpayers' money monthly and annually. What it further implies is that the Police after apprehending a suspect, must within twenty fours (one day) or a maximum of forty-eight hours (two days) bring the suspect before a court of competent jurisdiction. The court is the only statutory judiciary authority to try, convict and sentence a person to any nature of punishment following the extant law. Such judicial duties had never been ascribed to the Nigeria Police Force in the present constitution or under the Nigeria Police Act or in the past constitutions of Nigeria or previous Police Act. The police force personnel do not possess the powers to intimidate, dehumanise, punish, brutalise a citizen and non-citizen in Nigeria environment during arrest and while in custody pending prosecution.

The duties entrusted to the police force under the police Act and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, are so sensitive and delicate in the sense that human beings are involved. This is the reason why the Police must not unduly maltreat or inflict bodily harm on any human being except as prescribed by relevant statutes. A human being who loses his sight through brutality cannot regain such sight no matter the amount of compensation that may be awarded for unjust treatment. A broken ankle cannot be replaced with another natural ankle. This is why the Police must exercise the utmost care in handling a suspect during investigations. No matter how grave a suspicious may seem to the Police, the Police must respect the dignity of the human person as entrenched in the constitution.

We have analysed the duties of the police force in section 4 and 7 under the police Act viz-a-viz their constitutional ascribed functions. It is also interesting to restate that the dignity of the human person is also protected by the international instruments of which Nigeria is a signatory. The question is, why do police officers maltreat citizens in Nigeria in utter disregard of the domestic statutory provisions, and in flagrant disregard to international instruments. Police officers in Nigeria flagrantly use live ammunition even for mere crowd control and in some instances kill innocent citizens and turn around to brand their victims as criminals. In the recent outbreak of coronavirus pandemic popularly called COVID 19 by the World Health Organisation, Nigeria police had at the early stage of the epidemic killed eighteen persons in their bid to enforce the stay-at-home lockdown order of the federal and various state governments.

It was reported that the police brutality against the citizens of Nigeria has continued despite the hue and cry against police misbehaviour while carting out their statutory duties in Nigeria. The coronavirus pandemic is ravaging the world, Nigeria inclusive. The federal government of Nigeria has taken several measures which included locking down the country and restricting the movement of its citizens. The Nigeria police personnel and other law enforcement agents have been empowered to enforce the movement restriction in Nigeria. It is regrettable that the Police, in the process of enforcing the stay-at home-order have been reported to have killed eighteen (18) persons who were not alleged to be criminals neither were they reported to have committed any felony warranting the Police to kill them extrajudicially. The Human Rights Commission had stated that between 30th March 2020 and 13th April 2020 the police force in Nigeria had killed eighteen (18) persons while the COVID 19 had caused the death of only ten (10) citizens. This is heartbreaking for the Police to be killing the citizens who they were meant to protect and who they were also meant to counsel on social distancing rules to safeguard their lives against the dreaded COVID 19 pandemic.

It is painful that suspects are kept in the unhygienic room during custody pending the prosecution of the suspects. The suspect is presumed innocent according to the Nigeria constitution; why then should the Police keep suspects in disease and mosquito-infested cell? We recommend that the cell should be well ventilated and spacious with a good bed for sleep. Dehumanising a suspect is a breach of human right, and such practice must stop to restore the dignity of the human person as guaranteed by the constitution.

The provision Act and Regulations in Nigeria

The force Regulations at (q) (i) & (ii) When read together simply condemns the unnecessary use of violence on any prisoner or other person with whom they come in contact within the execution of their duties or being uncivil to any member of the public.

The code and conduct for officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force state as follows:

Use of force-a Police officer will never employ unnecessary force or violence and will only use such a force in the discharge of duty, as is reasonable in all circumstances. The use of force should be used after discussion, negotiation and persuasion having been found to be inappropriate or ineffective. While the use of such a force is occasionally unavoidable, every Police officer shall refrain from unnecessary infliction of pain or suffering and will never engage in cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment of any person."

The Police Force Regulations provides as follows:

"Police officer shall not knowingly restrict the freedom of individuals whether by arrest or detention, in violation of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

The code of conduct for officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force reproduced above, shows that a policeman must sparingly apply force and not a brute force in carrying out his statutory duties during investigation, arrest and detention of suspects. He has to engage the suspect in discussion to let the suspect know why he is being arrested and persuade the suspect to follow him to the police station. If the suspect declines in cooperating with a policeman, then the policeman will apply reasonable force as appropriate in the circumstances. Every police officer about to apply force ought to have warned himself or apply caution in applying force on any citizen or non-citizen provided the suspect was not committing a violent crime or armed robbery, murder or, arson in which case, if there is no other way to apprehend the suspect, the police officer may kill the suspect, and in such a circumstance it is a lawful homicide. The gallant officer is justified and will be commended for a job well done.

Police may adduce several reasons why they use dangerous force when dealing with suspects. Some policemen may claim that the suspects are hardened criminals, and if they don't torture them, the suspects will not confess to the crimes; some misguided policemen especially the constables may say that the suspects insults the police officers and look down on the Police while on their lawful duties. Also, some officers may say that the suspects are very smart and sophisticated and so they need brute force to deal with the suspects. All these lame excuses summarise the fact that police officers feel that the suspects provoke the brutality meted to them. We submit most humbly that none of the highlighted reasons would justify the brutality of the Police against the citizens except in circumstance allowed by relevant law and regulations which we have discussed earlier. We will agree with the school of thought that posits that policemen use unnecessary violence and torture on the suspects and other members of the public for their personal ego-boosting effects and to belong to the bandwagon of pompous police officers at the expense of liberty and dignity of the citizens guaranteed under the constitution.

Prevention of the Misuse of Firearms by a police officer

A police officer may use firearms in the following circumstances

- A. when attacked and his life is in danger, and there is no other way of saving his life;
- B. When defending a person who is attacked and he believes on reasonable ground that he cannot otherwise protect that person attacked from death
- C. When necessary to disperse rioters or to prevent them from committing a serious offence against lives and property
- D. If he cannot by any means arrest a person who, being in lawful custody escapes and takes to flight in order to avoid re-arrest; provided the offence with which he is charged Or has been convicted of, is a felony or misdemeanour
- E. If he cannot by any means arrest a person who takes to flight to avoid arrest; provided the offence is such that the accused may be punished with death or imprisonment for seven years or more.
- F. Remember, the main objective is to shoot to maim or disable and not to kill

The regulation reproduced above confirms that a policeman has no right to use the arms and ammunition in his hands in a way that pleases his ego. He must act with his arms in great caution. He has no right to use the gun on a non-violent person. A policeman is entitled to use his arms when he is attacked, and his life is threatened into danger, and there is no other way to escape grievous bodily harm or he finds himself in a state of imminent death. In other words, he cannot use his arm for the mere reason that he was insulted by a passerby or by a suspect. He cannot even use horsewhip on a person because the person insulted him. He is not entitled to slap a suspect or give a fist blow when investigating or making an arrest. He could, however, apply reasonable as the situation demands. A police officer can use his rifle when he sees a person committing a felony or misdemeanour or when a suspect arrested for felony takes to heels and cannot be re-arrested without shooting at him. Even at that situation, the primary objective is to maim or disable the fleeing suspect and not to kill him; however, if the suspect dies by bullets aimed at him, it is a lawful homicide.

Factors that prompt Police to breach the human rights of the citizens in Nigeria

1. Police mental disorder: It has been noted and observed some policemen are in a state neurosis which prompts them to misbehave or act irrationally. A Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) OJOMO has written his book that some policemen are not normal; adding not all policemen are normal so that it is a hint for citizens to be careful in dealing with armed policemen at any point in time. He pointed out that in Jos South Local Government of Plateau State Nigeria, a police sergeant Moses Ishaya went berserk, shot three policemen to death and also shot himself to death. The action of the late sergeant Moses Ishaya is a clear violation of the right to life of the three deceased police officer. Sergeant Ishaya suicide is also a violation of his right to life.
2. Inadequate training of police officers in Nigeria: the majority of police officers are trained in police colleges where they spend just six to nine months in training.

The formal education given in Police College has a narrow curriculum. The course curriculum of a police college ought to include: human rights, criminology, criminal law, Nigeria Legal system, conflict management and resolution and psychology although the police academy has expanded the curriculum of police education for degree programmes. What about the training of constables who constitute the majority of the force? The constables receive only six to nine months training, a half-baked education and that is why they violate human rights of the citizens with impunity.

3. Corruption prompts abuse of human rights: when Police have the penchant for corruption, he will go to any length in actualising his quest for financial enrichment. Police officers had, on several occasions beaten up and detain innocent for refusing to offer money to the policemen. Not just the police force, Nigeria is the headquarters of corruption, Police inclusive in the bandwagon. Corruptions in the police force come by way of police officers engaging in bribery, extortion and robbery. For instance, a victim of police corruption, one Mr Dereck Triggs, a paint producer, narrated his ordeal to *PUNCH Metro* that the car he was travelling in was stopped on the highway by some policemen accused a man in the vehicle of wearing the tattoo. The Police refused to allow their vehicle to continue the journey; instead, they demanded money from the man with the tattoo inscription and went ahead to detain all the occupants and refused to release the occupant until they policemen were given the sum of twenty thousand Naira (=N=20, 000) about \$ 45.32 (US dollars) as extortion. Corruption can drive policemen in Nigeria into any length to extort money from defenceless citizens whom the Police were initially employed to protect

Examples of Police breach of human rights of persons in Nigeria

1. Some bad eggs in the Nigeria Police force engage in kidnapping citizens: There was a report that five policemen and one Naval personnel were caught in the crime of kidnapping while several arms and ammunition were recovered from the criminal law enforcement agents. The police kidnapers were arrested on 9th October 2017 in Kogi state, Nigeria. The Commissioner of Police (CP) Inkogi, Alli Janga confirmed the report and said that the two serving police kidnapers had been dismissed from the Police and prosecuted at the law court. The serving police kidnapers were corporal Isiaka Suleiman and corpora, Ibrahim James. Weapons recovered from the criminal policemen in their kidnapping operation include four (4) AK 47 riffles; three pump action riffles, assorted rounds of ammunition, a motorcycle and charms from the suspects. The offence of kidnapping carries life imprisonment in Nigeria criminal justice. If the kidnap victim dies then, offence attracts the death penalty. The Criminal Code Act prescribes a penalty of ten years for kidnapping.
2. Many Policemen terrorise and torture of citizens: there were reports that students and lecturers of Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo state Nigeria were regularly harassed, and money extorted from them before they were released from unlawful arrests and detentions. It

was reported that Mr Haliru Gwandu was posted on official duties to Edo state as the Commissioner of Police (CP). The university community reported that the said Commissioner of Police was reputed for engaging in extortion of money. This action was carried out CP by sending his Anti cultism crack team of corrupt policemen who went to the Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo state and arrest students in the examination hall while writing their semester exams. The students are bundled to the police station, accused of being members of cults on campus, and after that told to pay twenty thousand Naira (=N= 20 000.00) (\$45,317.56) before the student would regain his freedom. By this corrupt behaviour of Mr Haliru Gwandu, the university community lived in fear of police harassment and incarceration in a police cell for an offence not committed. It was reported further that cultism which the CP used as a shield, had stopped in the Ambrose Alli University for over ten to twenty years ago. Yet, the then Commissioner of Police, Mr Haliru Gwandu continued to breach the right to freedom of movement and the right to dignity of the human person guaranteed by the constitution of Nigeria. The CP did not stop at harassing and detaining students; he went further to arrest Lecturers of the university also unlawfully. The anti cultism crack team arrested, tortured one Professor Sunday Edekoat and the dean faculty of law, Ambrose Alli University, (AAU). The learned Professor Edekoat raised the alarm on the 14th day of April 2017 alleging constant abuse of the rights of freedom of movement and dignity human persons of the members of the University community. A statewide protest led by one Mr Henry Okpamen was organised against the corrupt police boss, and the protest was carried to the parliamentarians at the Nigerian capital Abuja, drawing the attention of the lawmakers to the breach of rights of the university community by the then Edo state Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr Haliru Gwandu. Inquiry into the allegation of corruption was set up, leading to the deployment of the Commissioner of Police.

Five Policemen sentenced to death for extra-judicially killing two person Five members of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad, (SARS) an outfit of the Rivers State Police Command, Nigeria have been sentenced to death for unlawfully killing one Mr Michael Akora, 28years old young man and his friend, Michael Igwe on 22nd June 2009 in a bush at Oyigbo LGA of Rivers State while going about their duties. The convicted policemen were led in their criminal act by one Assistant Superintendent (ASP) Samuel Chigbuw. The trial judge, Justice Enebeli of the River State High Court sitting in Portharcourt lambasted the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, (SARS) for arrogating to themselves the power of extra killing of innocent citizens at the prime of the lives. The Judge noted that it was a pure case of a conspiracy by the five policemen to kill the young men. Justice Adolphus Enebeli, in delivering his judgment awarded the sum of fifty million Naira (=N=50 M) (\$113,293.91) each to the family of the murdered persons as compensation and to serve as deterrent to other policemen in Nigeria. The Judge and remarked as follows "it was not coincidental that the victims were shot on the same part of their body, rushed to the Braithwaite Memorial Hospital,

BMSH where they died at the same time and were buried at the same place and time."

3. Court awarded ₦5M (\$11,329.39) against Police for unlawfully arresting Daniel Elombah and Izuchukwu Elombah

It is clear from the actions of policemen that the police force in Nigeria is composed of men and women who are power-drunk and arrogant. They feel and arrogate to themselves the unlimited powers of arrest with or without cause. Citizens homes are raided with impunity and the Police believe they can do anything and get away with it. The court, which is the last hope of the common man, had always waded in when matters of human rights abuses were brought before it. The Police sometimes do not see the need to respect the freedom of expression and the press freedom as enshrined in the constitution and the Freedom of Information Act. The constitution has a clear provision on freedom of speech as follows: *'Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference'*.

Two Journalists were unlawfully arrested and detained on the order of the former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mr Idris Ibrahim on the ground that the Journalists, Mr Daniel Elombah and Mr Izuchukwu Elombah for purportedly publishing a critical article against the IGP. The IGP got infuriated and sent men of the to arrest the two Journalists and detain them. The two Journalists were arrested on the 1st day of January 2018 at Nnewi in Anambra State. The counsel for the two Journalists, Mr Ephraim Shiho, brought an application for enforcement of their Fundamental Human Rights; consequently, Justice Jude Okeke of the Federal High Court Anambra division awarded the sum of ₦5 million damages to the two Journalists (₦5M) against the Nigeria Police Force for breaching the human rights of the two journalists. The Judge also ordered the Police to release the property of the two Journalists in the custody of the Police forthwith.

4. Security agents killed eighteen (18) persons while enforcing COVID 19 lockdown regulation

The police brutality against the citizens of Nigeria has continued despite the hue and cry against police misbehaviour while carting out their statutory duties in Nigeria. The coronavirus pandemic is ravaging the world, Nigeria inclusive. The federal government of Nigeria has taken several measures which included locking down the country and restricting the movement of its citizens. The Nigeria police force and other law enforcement Agents has been empowered to enforce the movement restriction in Nigeria. It is regrettable that the Police, in the process of enforcing the stay-at-home-order have been reported to have killed eighteen (18) persons who were not alleged to be criminals either were they reported to have committed any felony warranting the Police to kill them extra judicially. The Human Rights Commission had stated that between 30th March and 13th April 2020 the police force in Nigeria had killed eighteen (18) persons while the COVID 19 had caused the death of only ten (10) citizens. This is heartbreaking for the Police to be killing the citizens who they were meant to protect and also counsel on social distancing rules.

5. Four policemen brutalised protesters of police human right abuses in Nigeria.

The brutality meted on innocent citizens in Nigeria has taken a new dimension as some police officers took upon themselves to brutalise angry youths who were on peaceful and armless protest against what the youths described as inhuman treatment by the operatives of the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS). The Lagos state governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who expressed dismay over the human right abuses by the rascal police officers, gave the names of the policemen as follows: Inspector Bogou Michael, Inspector Ekpoudom Etop, Sergeant Nnamdi Madura and Sergeant Akinyemi Benson. The governor said the erring officers had undergone an orderly room trial, after which they would be severely dealt with according to extant laws. Governor Sanwo-Olu also set up judicial panel of enquiry, chaired by Doris Okuwobi, a retired judge of the Lagos state high court, to investigate cases of police brutality in Lagos state.

The purpose and theme of this research

The purpose of conducting this research as can be seen from the discussion is to bring out the importance of maintaining or sustaining human rights upon which the survival and happiness of mankind lies. It is disheartening to see in the glaring eyes of the public, Police brutalising and using horsewhip on the citizens even on flimsy grounds, sometimes for refusal to yield to extortion bid of police officers. It is necessary to conduct research into what promotes human rights abuses by the police officers, the rank and file in Nigeria and also proffer solutions to curb the abuse. The novelty of this research can be seen in the suggestions put forward at the recommendation section, of which if implemented will prevent future human rights abuses by the police force. Information and knowledge is power; hence this paper is meant to call upon the Nigeria government to take specified steps towards keeping the Police under checks against human right abuses

Suggestions for the safeguarding of human rights

We recommend that human rights investigating unit of the Nigeria police force be manned by only lawyers. To this end, the appointment or recruitment of lawyers should be carried out urgently. The lawyers should be lawyers with a minimum of ten years post call to bar experience with proven attestation of integrity. These lawyers would understand what respect for human rights means. With such calibre of manpower, abuse of human right will be minimal.

1. It is also a good idea in these periods of large scale graduate unemployment that the Nigeria police should enlist only graduates, especially graduates of law, Sociology and political science. These categories of graduates are grounded on matters of human rights. They are in a better position to respect human rights better than what obtains at the moment in Nigeria police force.
2. They would understand professionalism better than high school certificate holders who at the moment, dominate the population of the force.
3. The salary of the police force should be revisited and revised. The present salary of ₦43,000.00 (\$97.43) with an annual salary of five hundred and nineteen thousand, five hundred and twenty-six *Naira* and six *kobo* (₦519,526.6) (\$1,199.84) which a police constable receives as salary is actually ridiculous. Poor remuneration induces a police officer

- to demand gratification and engage in extortion. We recommend an upward review of the police salaries and allowance to a minimum salary of two hundred thousand *Naira* (# 200 000.00) (\$ 453.18) per month for the police personnel. This salary will boost the morale of police officers coupled with attractive pension package; hence the tendency to abuse human rights will be minimised.
4. The Nigeria Police Force Pension Administrators needs to be reorganised in their services to the nation. Due payments of retired police officers pension must be expeditious soon after retirement. It is because of prolonging the delay in paying the pensions and gratuity that compels police officers to collect bribes and extort huge money for investment after retirement. If they are sure that their future is secured, the tendency of corruption will decrease immensely. They will not abuse human rights as it is at the moment.
 5. Nigeria police training should be a minimum of two years. The present nine months of training given to fresh recruits is inadequate. During these two years of training at the police college, emphasis should be placed on human violation and protection. The recruitment of applicants with just General Certificate in Education Ordinary Level (GCE O'L), Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE) should be stopped. A properly educated policeman is an asset to the country, while a poorly educated police force is a disaster to human rights protection.
 6. Corruption in the Nigerian police force is not a hidden phenomenon. Police in Nigeria demand and receive bribes with impunity and also distort evidence and exhibits. We, therefore, recommend that the anti-corruption unit of the force be overhauled to reflect men of proven integrity. We recommend that dedicated lawyers be recruited to man the aspect of anti-corruption in the police force. Hundred per cent ay not be achieved, but at least corruption will be greatly curtailed. This is starting to develop a sane police force in Nigeria.

Conclusion

We are optimistic that if the federal government of Nigeria implements our suggestions holistically, the Nigeria police force will call itself to order; it will reorient its officers and the rank and file. The rampant extortion of money, oppression, intimidations, unlawful arrest and malicious prosecution of persons will be a thing of the past. The Nigerian government must be proactive in monitoring the activities of all security agents in Nigeria so that the battered image of the police force will be redeemed. It is then that the injurious masses will heave a sigh of relief, and then we can say proudly that the Police is our true friend in line with the popular slogan of the force.

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