Communal tracking approach to insecurity in Nigeria: A prognostic contemplation on *Amotekun*, the Nigerian Southwest Security Outfit

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Abstract   Crime proliferation and insecurity represent a multidirectional broadband in social analysis. Crimes generally are outcome of carefully planned and diligently executed mischief of a belligerent group against a target. Crimes are rarely capable of sudden self-propagation. Indexes of insecurity and interest-based assaults of one group against another in the form of terrorism, banditry, kidnapping and communal/ethnic attacks scarcely manifest as entirely externallyinflicted social ills without insiders' collaboration. Terrorism, banditry and kidnapping as crimes, are at the same time living social organisms that are birthed, nurtured and resourced for attainment of some strategic social objectives. The advanced phase of armed attack manifests only at their maturity. Based on available primary and secondary data on security challenges, aside from arguing that increasing incidence of insecurity in Nigeria results more from economic and ideological roots: political, economic, cultural, religion and ethnic, this paper insists that crimes have both latent and manifest gestational traits. Therefore, it is here conjectured that before crimes attain maturity, Communal Tracking

Approach (CTA) to security stands the best strategy for early detection, avoidance and/or prevention of crimes. This paper recommends that if the objective of the new complementary security organization in the Nigerian Southwest, codenamed *Amotekun*, is to be realized, it must be built more on CTA. Given that *Amotekun* is not likely to be as resourced as the Nigerian military, and particularly with the everincreasing proliferation of arms among the belligerent elements, CTA, with its communal stance, above all alternate measures, offers a less costly strategy to securing the citizens and the nation.

Introduction

Nigeria faces complex and mounting challenges of insecurity and increasing underdevelopment arising from a growing spate of unchecked crimes. However, this challenge could not have been so intimidating if negative socioeconomic, political and technological forces have also not combined to ensure the demise of her once bolstering communal and national flora (Agbaje, 2017). One basic prerequisite for good communal existence, steady and sustainable development is security and order. Where this is lacking people get curtailed in the magnitude of dreams and work they can embark on. For where no security exists, nothing is given. Anything can happen to anyone, anywhere, and at any time. Right from the onset of human community, concern for security of life and property has been the basis of society and a *sine-qua-non* for its continued existence. Where this is threatened by any means, a society returns to Hobbesian savagery. As society plan to progress developmentally, crime rates serve as serious impediment to realization of development dreams. And judging from African existence, almost all types of crimes pose a threat to human life and his social interests. Crimes of all types – stealing, theft, armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, communal/ethnic feuds and attacks – are outcome of carefully planned and diligently executed mischief of a belligerent group against a target. Crimes are rarely capable of sudden self-propagation. All forms of crime are often well conceived and hatched by individual persons acting alone for themselves or in group for group, which could be an association, a society, and even a nation. Hence, it is here argued that terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, communal/ethnic feuds, herdsmen/farmers attacks, religious and political attacks that have become major threats to human life in Nigeria, are nothing more than interestbased attacks of one group against another.

While the forms of crimes and their interests are most times diverse, they are also sometimes intertwined. Equally, scarcely do they manifest as entirely externally inflicted social ills without insiders' collaboration. But, seeing all forms of crimes as tractable, terrorism, banditry, cultism, kidnapping, communal/ethnic clashes, herdsmen/farmers attacks and oil-induced economic sabotage are also living social organisms that are birthed, nurtured and resourced by some groups for the attainment of some strategic perfidious social, economic, political, religious or ethnic objectives. A proper capture of historical antecedents to contemporary insecurity in Nigeria will reveal all of the above forms of crimes and social threats. It is believed that the advanced phase of armed attack manifests only at their maturity. Because the reality has become such that these crimes are planned, executed, and yet, the perpetrators effortlessly escape justice, particularly in

Nigeria, this study argues that early detection by prospective crimetargeted victims could serve as a potent strategy to mitigate crime execution success rate in Nigeria. And, based on available primary and secondary data on security challenges, aside arguing that increasing incidence of insecurity in Nigeria results from two main roots, ideological and economic interests, this paper insists that crimes have both latent and manifest gestational traits that are discernible. But, owing to intertwined logic of crime, insecurity and the complexity of particularist interests in Nigeria, it has always been difficult for the central state agencies to stop certain forms of crimes that have continuously been perpetrated by some groups against others in Nigeria. The state is generally seen to be active in crime prevention and detection only when the political interests and economic stakes of the transient occupants of state functionaries are involved. From Nigerian history we can infer that very little attention is given to crimes that threaten the communal life of the people. Even when they are detected and reported, getting justice is mostly a torturous journey for an average citizen. Since every life is lived in and within community, it is only reasonable, as it is now becoming the reality in Nigeria, that the communities begin to demand for measures that will guarantee better security of their lives and properties. Arising from the discussion above, this article will seek to provide answer to the following questions: (1) How threatening has the widespread insecurity become in Nigeria? (2) Can the formation of either state or regional security outfit be a strategy towards the mitigation of rising insecurity in Nigeria? (3) To what extent should security organization like *Amotekun* be communal in orientation and strategy?

It is, therefore, here conjectured that before attaining maturity, Communal Tracking Approach (CTA) to security stands the best strategy for early detection, avoidance and/or prevention of crimes. One guess, this is the reason for the resurgence of citizens' demand for establishment of new forms of security organization that will either work with, or alongside the existing state security agencies. Citizens nationwide are of the view that the time has come for such communal-oriented security initiatives as *Amotekun* in the Southwest, *Hasbollah* in the North, and other similar moves undertaken to curtail crimes and criminal attacks in Nigeria. This paper recommends that if the objective of the new complement security organization in Nigerian southwest, codenamed *Amotekun*, is to be realized, it must be built more on Communal Tracking Approach (CTA). This optimism is anchored in the conviction that, given the fact that *Amotekun* is not likely to be as resourced as the Nigerian military, and particularly with the everincreasing proliferation of arms among the belligerent elements, CTA, with its communal stance, above all alternate measures, offers a less costly strategy to securing the economic interest and livelihood of the citizens and the nation – Nigeria as a whole.

Communal tracking approach to insecurity: Literature review and theoretical insight

In this brief theoretical consideration, our first attempt is to have a brief discussion on the concept of *insecurity*. The traditional African society was one in which the idea of "main door to the main house", not to talk of adjoining rooms, was considered unnecessary, since there was no

fear of anybody coming to behead the fastsleeping men, women, children, native and strangers, either for a ritual or other obnoxious reason (Agbaje, 2010). To the contrary, one major problem facing nations and people across the world today is rising level of insecurity, depicting "the absence of protection or safety" (Achumba et al. 2013). The concept of security and insecurity are two sides of the same coin. When one is visible, the other is rarely known. The absence of security gives prominence to the manifestation of insecurity; because insecurity reigns in an environment where security is void. Traditionally, most concerns on security have been those that emphasized the need for the state, its institutions and operators to be safe and free from external aggression and internal insurrection. Least was it previously realized that, mostly, insecurity is most threatening when it seeks to annihilate man and his interests. Equally surprising is the fact that almost all of the indices of insecurity borne out of the social milieu are human-inflicted and humanaffecting. Hence, so much emphasis is now placed on human security as the centerpiece of security concerns and analysis. According to the United Nations Developing Programme Commission on Human Security (UNDP CHS, 2003), the need for a new paradigm of security is associated with two sets of dynamics. First, human security is needed in response to the complexity and the interrelatedness of both old and new security threats – from chronic and persistent poverty to ethnic violence, human trafficking, climate change, health pandemics, crossborder terrorism, and sudden economic and financial downturns. These forms of threats are usually transnational dimensions ,thereby moving beyond traditional notions of security that focus on external military aggressions alone. Secondly, human security represents a comprehensive approach that utilizes the wide range of new opportunities to tackle such threats in an integrated manner.

It is realized lately that human security threats cannot be tackled relying exclusively on conventional mechanisms. In the opinion of the UNDP CSH, it requires a new consensus that acknowledges the linkages and the interdependencies between development, human rights, and national security. Along the same line, Vornanen, Törrönen, Niemelä and Miettinen (2012) have also pointed out that security and insecurity are broad concepts that include a variety of contexts (from close relationships to global issues). Studies have also shown that insecurity may be either contextdependent or universal (Taimalu et al., 2006, 72), localeveryday or global (Pain et al., 2010), or a somehow polarized phenomenon where some perceive either close issues or global and distant issues positively while others view them negatively

UNDP CHS x-rayed areas of human-affecting security concerns to include: economic security (persistent poverty, unemployment), food security (hunger, famine), health security (deadly infectious diseases, unsafe food, malnutrition, lack of access to basic health care), environmental security (environmental degradation, resource depletion, natural disasters, pollution), personal security, (physical violence, crime, terrorism, domestic violence, child labor), community security (inter-ethnic, religious and other identity based tensions), and political security, (political repression, human rights abuses). Whichever way it comes or manifests, it is man that bears the brunt of all forms of insecurity most. This is the reason that UNDP CHS (2003) placed maximum importance on the attainment of human security. UNDP CHS argued that, whereas state

security hitherto concentrates on threats directed against the state, mainly in the form of military attacks, human security draws attention to a wide scope of threats faced by individuals and communities. It focuses on the root causes of insecurities and advances peoplecentered solutions that are locally driven, comprehensive and sustainable. Hence, human security is seen as all that is needed "to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity" (UNDP CHS, 2003). Aside poverty and hunger, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and murder are currently the foremost challenges in Nigeria. Due to the prevalence of the acts of terrorism and other incidences of insecurity in Nigeria, numerous people lose their lives on daily basis. Despite the fact that government and the security agents claim to be on top of the matter, insecurity still persists. From all indications, the government as well as the security agencies, as presently constituted, seem to be incapable of effectively guaranteeing the security of the lives and properties of the citizenry from terrorists and other criminal incidences (see Obayori, Osai, Ahmodu, Maeba, 2018). Since it is human that is most affected by insecurity, the emphasis on human security brings together the "human elements" of security, rights and development. Growing from the CHS analysis, security is reconceptualized as "moving away from traditional, state-centric conceptions of security that focused primarily on the safety of states from military aggression, to one that concentrates on the security of the individuals, their protection and empowerment" (UNDP CHS, 2003). Since all forms of insecurity affects man the most, and man lives in community, any attempt to sideline community dimension of security will mean absence of any security at all. This has been the tragedy of security rationalization in Nigeria.

Communal Tracking Approach

Africa is currently ridden with diverse socioeconomic problems that appear not so pronounced in the traditional society. Hitherto, social welfare, social security, individual piety, productive living or hard work and communal integrity, communal vigilance and sanction were common denominators of communal life. These are values wellinternalized and taken for granted in almost every traditional African setting. In their place now, Africa is embattled with challenges of indecent living, individual greed, corruption, social insecurity, and mass poverty and underdevelopment caused by perversed cosmopolitan citizens and selfacclaimed members of emergent African social communities. Arising from undue perversion of some valuable traditional norms, no nation in Africa is spared of evils of the prevalent social ambiguities. With the rising spate of insecurity, there is no better time to reappraise the option of African communal life than now. Communal Tracking Approach (CTA) represents a framework of governance that prides itself of all the attributes of communal life. It advocates such attributes that make the traditional society

a transparent, responsible and accountable setting. CTA represents a potent strategy to create workable interface between the state and the society. Its analytic variables include: itemization, identification, information and investigation necessary to avail effective governance and social sanction for wrong doing. Itemization captures what needs to be done, identification reveals who does what, information relates to letting critical stakeholders know what is to be done and who is responsible for doing what under what circumstances. The last relates to verifying whether or not there has been strict compliance with the laid down provisions and certainty of apportion-ment of sanction for observed breach (Agbaje, 2013). Where this framework is properly applied in conjunction with the society, cases of official and social dereliction and abuse will be minimized. This preposition is well supported by the structural functionalist approach to social analysis adopted by August Comte (1798-1857), Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), Talcott Parson (1902-1979), and Robert Merton (1920-2003). The theory was later refined by Émile Durkheim (1858-1917) (Merton, 1938). The theory identified the consummate structures of the society – politics, econ-omy, religion, education, industry, technology, social order and social control with all working together in an interrelated and interdependent manner to promote solidarity and stability. His-torically, functionalists compare society with a living organism and draw analogy between them (Omonijo et al., 2017). From the analysis of this theory it follows that a flux in one part of the society causes a flux in another part. As regards social organism with its interrelatedness and interdependence of parts, communal approach to security best facilitates the interaction, interde-pendence and inter-subjectivity of community and security.

Rising incidence of insecurity in Nigeria and the desirability of alternative security paradigm: The case of *Amotekun*

Against expectation, insecurity has become a denominating factor of Nigerian life. Follow-ing the civil war, Nigeria started witnessing increasing waves of arms-related social insecurity. The most often observed then were armed robbery attacks and murders in the West. The attacks by the likes of Oredein, Oyenusi, started the race. These become more widespread as unemploy-ment and poverty increased in the 1980s, giving birth to the Anini's group, and later the notorious Benin Republicbased gang led by Tijani (allafrica/com, 2003). The onset of democratic dispensa-tion, starting with Babangida's transition, without ends birthed the waves of kidnapping for ritual killings with Otokoto saga (Uchenna, 2018). Kidnapping became widespread particularly in the eastern region of the country, initially for ritual but later for financial extortion, and from there spread to the rest of Nigeria. The emergence of pronounced political disunity and unmitigated individual ambition led to the formation of the political warboys who later metamorphosed into an insurgent group which greatly contributed to Nigeria having to temporarily lose a sizeable portion of her territory to the terrorists. Several thousands of people were abducted and seized by the terrorists since 14 April 2014, including Chibok schoolgirls. According to the BBC account, the gunmen arrived in the town late at night in a blaze of gunfire and headed for the school where they raided the dormitories and loaded 276 girls onto lorries (BBC Africa, 2017). This,

according to BBC, sparked one of the biggest global social media campaigns, with tweeters using the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls. Some of the girls managed to escape shortly after they were seized, while about 100 have been freed in exchange for Boko Haram militants, in negotiations brokered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) while the rest remain in Boko Haram custody to date, after six years of their abduction. As a result of the dastard acts of these terrorists, unimaginable thousands of people have died and are still dying, while millions were displaced from their land of birth to become refugees across the nation. Still to compound the security problem of the Nigeria came the sudden emergence of herdsmen onslaughts on communities and farmers (Alindogan, 2018; TVC News, 2016; Channels TV, 2018; Sahara Reports, 2020) which coincidentally started gaining prominence and grew up so rapidly and strongly from the same time the present administration came into power. These attacks started first in the middle belt, but gradually spread to the southern part of the country, thus completing the endangerment of the lives, money, farms, land, houses, and other properties, and consequently the livelihood of ordinary Nigeria.

Interestingly, the central security agencies were able to bring culprits to book in all previous incidences of insecurity as can be ascertained with the arrest and judicial sanction imposed on Oredein, Oyenusi, Anini, the Otokoto actors (The Port City News, 2018), Tidjani, Baddoo boys in Lagos, and the rest. But the cases of herdsmen almost defiled all logic as the state appears helpless in curtailing their activities or bringing them to book. Later, to join the queue of attacks on the hapless citizens and their livelihood, came the surge of banditry which operates with the same logic as the herdsmen. Every region in Nigeria became restless as a combined result of rising insecurity. The nation called for state, community or regional policing and security outfits, that would not necessarily take anything away from the central security outfits but be more proactive in addressing the security challenges in each region, state and community. It was on this basis the Nigerian nation saw the emergence of the *Amotekun* in the Southwest, when *Hisbah* and a few other such organisations were already in place in all the regions of the core North.

Since the new regional/state security organisations were meant to address the rising security problems of each of the regions, it became indispensable to make them, unlike the present structures, as close to the society as possible. Hence the formation of the state security organisation *Amotekun*. While similar move for state police failed in the past, the rising incidence of insecurity across the nation has made it compelling to do no other than head for the direction of state security outfit/police. To properly contextuate the emergence of such organization, most of the states in the Southwest have had their State Assemblies consider and pass relevant bills of law establishing the new security organization *Amotekun*. Only Lagos is yet to pass its own *Amotekun* Bill. This may be due to the need to see how to rationalize this with the Neighbourhood Watch that is already in place in Lagos.

The Establishment Bill passed into law by the Osun State House of Assembly, which is more or less similar to those in other states in the region – Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo – provided in Part I, Section 3, Sub-Section 1-3, among others, that:

1. There is established the Osun State Security Network Agency.
2. The Osun State Security Network Agency shall:
   a) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and common seal;
   b) have power to sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
   c) be capable of acquiring, holding, managing and disposing of properties movable or immovable, for the purpose of exercising the objectives and functions specified in this Law.
3. The Agency shall work with similar Security Network Agencies in other States of the Federation and in particular, shall collaborate with other Security Network Agencies in Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo States.

To determine further the logics that will guide the operations of *Amotekun* to become an effective organization, the Bill also in its Part I, Section 4, Sub-Section (a)-(e), and Part I, Section 5, Sub-Section 1 and 2, respectively, set the following objectives and functions for the organization:

The objectives of the Agency are to:
a) gather information and share intelligence about crime, crime in progress, suspicious activities, criminal suspects and other criminal activities;
b) collaborate with similar security network agencies, particularly in Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo States to deter kidnapping, terrorism, cattle rustling, cultism, highway robbery and other offences and to assist the Police in apprehending such criminals;
c) protect lives and property within the State;
d) ensure that all persons travelling along the highways, major roads, remote areas, hinterland, forest and inland waterways are free to participate in their normal social and economic life without fear or hindrance; and
e) assist the Police to carry out any other lawful activity for maintaining law and order in the State.

The functions of the Agency are to:
a) collaborate with and assist the Police and other Security Network Agencies in gathering information about crime, crime investigation, arrest and prosecution of persons suspected or involved in kidnapping, terrorism, cattle rustling, cultism, highway robbery and other criminal activities;
b) collaborate with and assist the Police and other security agencies in maintaining law and order within the state by:
   – making available relevant information on crime, crime in progress, crime related activities, suspicious activities and criminal suspects;
   – undertaking routine day and night patrol on major roads, remote areas, hinterland, forests and inland waterways;
   – ensuring that offenders are identified, arrested, registered and promptly handed over to the nearest Police station or post;

- giving timely report of suspicious activities and crimes in progress to aid in the effective policing of the State;
- providing the Police and other security agencies with relevant information to aid in the effective policing of the State;

c) disarm unauthorized persons in possession of arms and other dangerous weapons;

d) render prompt assistance to crime and accident victims;

e) undertake routine day and night patrols on interconnected roads and surveillance on highways, major roads, remote areas, hinterland, forests and inland waterways;

f) undertake joint operations with the Police and other security agencies in furtherance of the objects of the Agency;

g) react and respond promptly and strategically to distress calls;

h) prevent highway crimes and any other criminal activities by way of local intelligence gathering and use of technology;

i) collaborate with the So-Safe Corps or other security agencies in carrying out its duties; and

j) carry out such other directives as the Governor may expressly give to the Osun State *Amotekun* Corps in relation to security and the maintenance of public order and safety.

The Agency shall in the course of carrying out its duties safeguard the human rights of every person as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of 1999 (as amended) and other relevant human rights instruments.

This paper, therefore, seeks to ascertain the extent to which communal orientation can contribute to effectiveness of *Amotekun* in southwest Nigeria. The conclusions from the analysis show that effective interface between *Amotekun* and its operating communities will go a long way towards realization of the organisation's objective, i.e. security in the region.

Methodology

In this micro study, data were collected for the research using structured questionnaire. Giving the incidence of the lockdown and the need to be as neutral as possible, online distribution was adopted. Platforms used for distribution were a mix of interest, professional, associational, organisational outlets with the freedom of recipient to distribute to other channels. The questionnaire was on for about one month and had a total of 175 responses. The spread of the responses reflects the geographical affinity and regional concerns of the case (*Amotekun*) at hand. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics which includes the use of simple frequencies, score counts, and percentages.

Data collection, analysis, results and implications

Table 1. Distribution of socio-demographic data of questionnaire respondents

S/N	Variables		Frequency	Percentage
1	2		3	4
1	Gender	Male	119	68.00
		Female	56	32.00
		Total	175	100
2	Age	15-20 years	6	3.43
		21-30 years	85	48.57
		31-40 years	52	29.71
		41-50 years	21	12.00
		51-60 years	9	5.14
		60 years and above	2	1.14
		Total	175	100
3	Education	Primary	0	0.00
		Secondary	1	0.57
		University	157	86.71
		Other	17	9.71
		Total	175	100
4	Region	North Central	17	9.71
		North East	0	0.00
		North West	2	1.14
		South East	2	1.14
		South West	150	85.71
		South-South	3	1.71
		Unanswered	1	0.57
		Total	175	100
5	Occupation	Public servant	55	31.43
		Private sector Employee	33	18.36
		Self-employee	46	26.29
		Unemployed	40	22.86
		Retired	1	0.57
		Military personnel	0	0.00
		Total	175	100
6	Tribe	Hausa	0	0.00
		Fulani	0	0.00

1	2	3	4
	Igbo	3	1.71
	Yoruba	166	94.86
	Tiv	1	0.00
	Ibiobio	0	0.00
	Ijaw	0	0.00
	Edo	0	0.00
	Unanswered	5	2.86
	Total	175	100

Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2020.

Table 1 displays the demographic information concerning the respondents. 119 respondents (68.00%) were male while 56 (32.00%) were female. Regarding age, 6 respondents (3.43%) were between 15-20 years, 85 (48.57%) were between 21-30 years, 52 (29.71%) were between 31-40 years, 21 (12.00%) were between 41-50 years, 9 (5.14%) were between 51-60 years, while the remaining 2 (1.14%) of the respondents were 60 years old and above. This implies that the majority of the respondents were aged between 31-40 years. The majority of the respondents, i.e. were also the university graduates.

17 respondents (9.71%) were from North Central, none was from the North East, 2 (1.14%) were from the North West and the South East. 150 respondents (85.71%) were from the South West, 3 (1.71%) were from the South South, while 1 respondent opted not to disclose his/her region. The dimensions of occupation of the respondents revealed that 55 (31.43%) were public servants, 33 (18.36%) were private sector employees, 46 (26.29%) were selfemployed, 1 respondent was retired. No respondent was from military personnel. Regarding the tribe of the respondents, the majority, i.e. 166 respondents, were Yoruba (94.86%). Also, 22 respondents (16%) claimed to belong to a political party, the rest, i.e. 147 (84%) had no political party affiliation.

Based on the analysis of the research question 1, Table 2 revealed the respondents' answers to the question. Out of 175 respondents, 95 (54.29%) considered the threat of widespread insecurity as "worrisome", while 63 (36.00%) saw the situation of security in Nigeria as being very poor. From these responses it was clear that all the respondents had a clear idea of the threatening security situation in the country.

The respondents were asked to describe the level of security in their state of residence. 72 (41.14%) described it as bad, 43 (24.57%) said it was threatening, 42 (24.57%) observed that it was alarming, while 8 (4.57%) described it as extremely dangerous. According to the opinion of respondents across the country, the security situation in Nigeria is extremely bad.

However, 131 respondents (74.86%) agreed that improved security awareness by members of the public will enhance the possibility of early detection of crimes. The analysis revealed that incidences of insecurity have become a major concern across Nigeria. Hence, the people realize that there is no going back on the need to urgently improve the security system in Nigeria.

Table 2. Analysis of the research questions

Research question 1: How threatening has the widespread insecurity become in Nigeria?

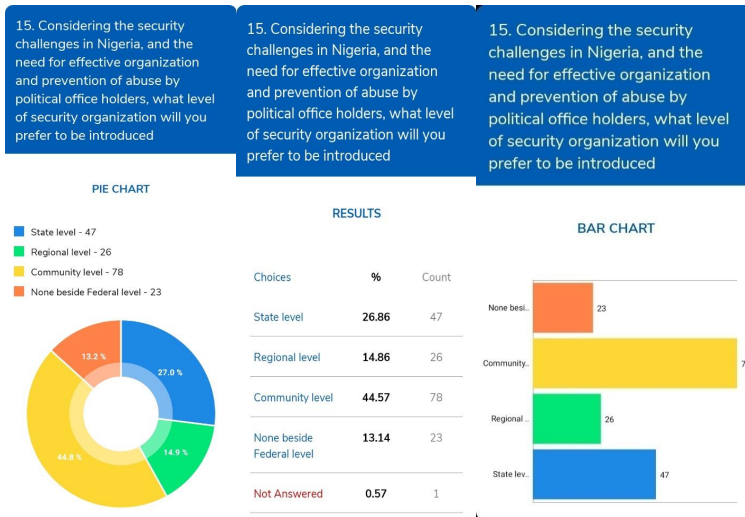| S/N	How threatening has the widespread insecurity become in Nigeria?		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	What is your view of security situation in Nigeria?	Poor	63	36.00
		Worrisome	95	54.29
		Dangerous	17	9.71
		No idea	0	0.00
		Total	175	100.00
2.	How will you describe the security in your state of residence?	Extremely bad	72	41.14
		Threatening	43	24.57
		Alarming	42	24.00
		Dangerous	8	4.57
		Unanswered	10	5.71
		Total	175	100.00
3.	If there is improved security awareness by members of the public, there is always the possibility of early detection of crimes.	Strongly disagree	25	14.29
		Disagree	7	4.00
		Neutral	11	6.29
		Agree	61	34.86
		Strongly agree	70	40.00
		Unanswered	1	0.57
		Total	175	100.00

Figure 1. Preferences of the respondents concerning the level of security organization in Nigeria

Table 3. Research question 2: Can the formation of either state or regional security outfit be a strategy towards the mitigation of rising insecurity in Nigeria?

	Can the formation of either state or regional security outfit be a strategy towards the mitigation of rising insecurity in Nigeria?		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	What level of security organization will you prefer to be introduced?	State level	47	26.85
		Regional level	26	14.86
		Community level	78	44.57
		Federal level	23	13.14
		Unanswered	1	0.57
		Total	175	100.0
2.	How do you think security can be improved in Nigeria?	Increase equipment and improve training of the security personnel	100	57.14
		Improvement in the welfare of the security personnel	52	29.71
		Decentralize the control and command structure	15	8.57
		Introduction of state and regional police for better security	8	4.57
		Total	175	100
3.	Do you think there is urgent need for improvement of security situation in Nigeria?	No	0	0.00
		Yes	175	100.00
		Total	175	100.00

The table above reveals which level of security organization to be introduced is preferred by the respondents. The majority of the respondents, i.e. 78 (44.57%), agreed that the organization should be at the community level. This explains the level at which people will want to see security improved in Nigeria. To another question relating to measures for improvement of security in Nigeria 100 respondents (57.14%) answered that better equipment and improved training of security personnel could make for a great change. Other measures considered important in order of significance are: (1) improvement in the welfare of the security personnel, and (2) decentralization of the control and command structure of the security forces. Only 8 respondents (4.57%) opted for the state/regional level. This response, compared with the preference for the community level, shows that people think security would be better felt at the closest possible level. In any case, all the respondents (100%) believed there is an urgent need for improvement of the security situation in Nigeria. Therefore, it was concluded that the formation of either state or regional security outfit is a strategy towards the mitigation of rising insecurity in Nigeria.
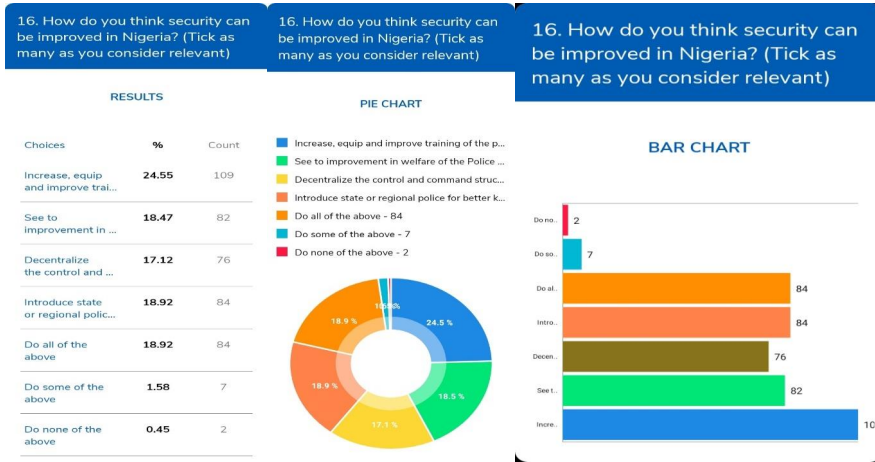
Figure 2. Respondents' preferred ways of improving the security situation in Nigeria

Table 4. Research question 3: To what extent should security organization like *Amotekun* be communal in orientation and strategy?

	To what extent should security organization like *Amotekun* be communal in orientation and strategy?		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Have you ever heard of *Amotekun* or any other state or regional security outfit in Nigeria?	Yes	165	94.29
		No	7	4.00
		Maybe	3	1.71
		Total	175	100.00
2	In your own view, is creation of regional or state security outfit a welcome development in Nigeria?	Yes	132	75.43
		No	12	6.86
		Maybe	31	17.71
		Total	175	100.00
3	*Amotekun* personnel should have good knowledge of the community in which they are to serve.	Yes	163	93.14
		No	1	0.57
		Maybe	7	4.00
		Unanswered	4	2.29
		Total	175	100.00
4.	Majority of the personnel of *Amotekun* should be recruited from the members of immediate community.	Yes	123	70.29
		No	5	2.86
		Not necessarily	47	26.86
		Total	175	100.00
5.	Being members of the community will enhance better performance by members of the security outfit like *Amotekun*.	Yes	133	76.00
		Not all	21.71	38
		Unanswered	2.29	4
		Total	175	100

The table above revealed that 165 respondents (94.29%) have heard of *Amotekun* or some other state or regional security outfit in Nigeria, leaving less than 6 percent with no clear idea. The majority of the respondents supported the creation of a security outfit that will be as close as possible to the people. As much as 163 of the 175 respondents (93.14%) supported the view that *Amotekun* personnel should have good knowledge of the community in which they are to serve. Quite a large part of the respondents, i.e. 123 (70.29%), also were of the view that the majority of the personnel of *Amotekun* should be recruited from the members of the immediate community, because being members of the community will enhance their performance. A whole 161 (92.00%) of the respondents agreed that the time has come for establishment of security outfit that will be better embedded in the community life of the people.

Conclusion and recommendations

1. More than anytime before, incidences of insecurity have become a major concern across Nigeria.
2. People have realized that there is no going back on the need to urgently improve on security system in Nigeria.
3. The present security network has failed and may not be able to sufficiently guarantee the security of lives and properties of Nigerians.
4. To ensure security, the establishment of state/regional security outfits has become a must.
5. Such security outfits which must be communal in orientation must work to complement the existing security organizations in the country.
6. There is no other way to stop the gradual descent into reign of anarchy across the country than to bring policing and security closer to the people for their active participation and involvement.
7. Organisations such as *Amotekun*, that will be properly regulated by law, have become a necessary addition to the Nigerian security network.

From the foregoing, it is incontrovertible that the security network in Nigeria needs a drastic and comprehensive overhauling. This, by necessity, will entail forming other state or regional outfit to complement the roles of the existing agencies. More important, however, is the fact that the operational modalities of the newly established security outfits, in this case *Amotekun*, must be communal. It is expected, therefore, that both the security corps members must be conversant with the community of their primary deployment. It is even preferred that the bulk of such personnel should come from willing, qualified and wellprofiled members of the community. The synergy between the members of the outfit and the community must be built on mutual trust, honesty, respect, and assistance. It has become clear that only credible and identifiable members of the community with good track of integrity should play crucial security roles. The outfit must also seek to work in synergy with the existing military, police and security agencies. Above all,

moving away from the traditional notion of state security, the orientation of the new corps must be built on the principle of human and total security.

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Cytowanie

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