
Addressing Police brutality as a form of Human Right Abuse in Nigeria: A study of government efforts

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ABSTRACT: *Police brutality have attracted the attention of researchers and human right stakeholders, into the causes of brutality and dimensions of manifestation. In Nigeria, as in many other countries of the world, police brutality has gone as far as taking lives, and casting a shadow of doubt on the professed responsibility of the government in protecting her citizens. In Nigeria, a case at hand is the EndSARS saga which is a consequent action of the youth to end police brutality, yet leading into more brutality and massacre. This study therefore, in addition to knowledge have explored the efforts of the government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria. The study's objectives were to ascertain the relationship between police daily routine and human right abuse in Nigeria; to assess the effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria; to evaluate the accountability of government in proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria; and to score the effectiveness of the measures employed by the government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria. Concentrating the study in Owerri, Imo State with a total population of 945,046 in 2022. The study draws a sample of 381 respondents who supplied data through a 20-item questionnaire. The collected data were subjected to descriptive analysis using percentages, standard deviation and mean scores. The study's finding shows that there is a significant relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse; there is significant effect of police brutality on the victims; the government have not been accountable to their proposed measures for addressing police brutality; and those proposed measures are therefore not effective in addressing police brutality in Nigeria. Therefore, the study recommended that government should first revamp the economy to increase standard of living of its citizens, make policies with interest in solving problems and not pleasing the public, and train and retrain the police officers especially on the UN Principle on the use of force and firearms. police brutality, human right abuse, Nigeria, government efforts*

KEYWORDS: police brutality, human right abuse, Nigeria, government efforts

INTRODUCTION

In our globalized world, the high rate of cases of police brutality is becoming worrisome, because the essence of policing is public service. According to Leonard (2021), in a democratic society, the police are guardians of public safety and are accountable to the public in the

execution of their tasks. Karumba (2020), termed “police brutality” as human rights violations by police, which include beatings, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture, indiscriminate use of riot control agents at the protest, assault, etc.

Police brutality, which is the use of torture, violence as an interrogative technique, and other wanton abuses of human rights remain some of the major flaws of the Nigeria Police Force (Ogunode, 2015). The acts of Nigerian police brutality are against international human rights treaties and the activities of the police as an institution are meant to be guided at the national and international level by conventions, standards, and treaties (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966). However, some specific provisions of human rights include freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of opinion and expression, the right against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments, the right to peaceful assembly, and the mandate of the dignity of every individual is respected.

According to Leonard (2021), Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination. Studies have shown that 80% of police agencies nationwide have created guidelines on police use of force to determine how and when it is appropriate to use force (Paoline, Terrill, & Ingram, 2012). But recent research indicates that nearly 15,000 law enforcement agencies and military in more than 40 countries have purchased nearly 448,000 Taser brand CEDs (Alpert & Dunham, 2010). In regards to this, Nigeria is yet to purchase one Taser brand CEDs, since it ENDSARS protest that attracted nationwide attention in October 2020.

Thus, in recent times the increasing number of reported videos of police brutality on citizens on social media has drawn national attention to law enforcement procedures and police misconduct. According to Amnesty International (2021), this growing number of recorded cases of police brutality, human rights violations, and abuse of power has contributed mainly to the growing incidence of citizens' resort to self-help and other informal methods of airing grievances, which was displayed during the EndSARS protest of 2020. This gruesome situation of abuse of police authority often stimulated intense public debate among lawyers, researchers, judges, and even members of the public. For example, a viral videotape on 11th September 2021 showed a police officer engaging a young lady in altercation and physical assault while on duty at a checkpoint in Obeagu Awkunanaw, along Agbani road in the State. On 21st January 2022, there was also a video clip circulating on Twitter of a police officer who assaulted a lady and opened fire on her in Edo State. According to Sunday (2021), this shows an act of unprofessionalism and disrespect to one's fundamental human rights. Reports of the torture of Shedrack Ochoche by the police force in the Mabush division in Abuja, who died after being locked up for several days in a cell captured the public's attention and raise troubling questions regarding the limits of legitimate and demanding sanctions.

However, Fall (2012) opined that police officers should not use more force than is necessary to maintain control of an incident, carry out an arrest, or protect the public and/or themselves

from imminent danger. Although the Law gives Police officers immunity from suit as long as they act within the scope of their authority. But when outside the bounds of this authority, they can be held accountable for their actions (Amnesty international 2021). In the views of the Global G.L.O.W team (2020), often police officers abuse their power by using force beyond the limit permissible by law, infringing on the rights of innocent civilians, and causing a lot of harm and pain to people.

Concerning this, the violations of human rights by police only make the already challenging task of law enforcement more difficult. This is so because when the law enforcer becomes the lawbreaker, the result is an assault on human dignity, the law itself, and all institutions of public authority (Ewang, 2021). In essence, in any country with high rates of killings by police, there is often a combination of factors including inadequate laws, insecurity or conflict, and entrenched impunity. Thus, this work intends to evaluate and ascertain the level of police brutality and its infringement on human rights in Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

The discrepancy between government reports and that of media sources, calls the attention of researchers to the effort of the government in tackling police brutality in Nigeria. According to a CNN report (2020), at least 38 persons were killed during the ENDSARS protest at Lekki Toll Gate. Although with video evidence of wounded unarmed civilians, and dead bodies at Lekki Toll Gate, even with popular Nigeria celebrity DJ Switch coming live on Instagram to report the ongoing activities, the Nigeria government have on several occasion disputed the act that law enforcement agents opened fire on unarmed citizens at the Lekki Toll gate. But since the ENDSARS protest in 2020, not much difference in police brutality has been seen, instead, videos posted online by their victims or passerby have shown an increase in such troubling acts and justifies that there is no accountability for the consequences of such actions (Segun 2021).

According to Amnesty International (2015), detainees are regularly held by the police for longer than the constitutionally guaranteed 48 hours before being brought before a judge, often waiting weeks and even months. The foregoing impediments to the enforcement of judgments in Nigeria have led to a lack of confidence in the court and the judiciary by the public and it is without a doubt that the impact is felt more strongly by the poor who usually fall victim to human rights violations and abuse (Amnesty international, 2015). Although over the years the Nigerian government has repeatedly expressed willingness to address the problems in the criminal justice system, improve access to justice and reform the NPF. Despite several review panels in recent years, which presented detailed recommendations for improvement, little has been done.

Amnesty International (2009), seems to lay the foundation of thought in this regard by examining unlawful killings and abuse of power in policing. Aborisade (2021), studied accounts of misconduct of the Nigerian Police in the enforcement of COVID 19 measures. However, not many empirical studies have been conducted in Nigeria, to detail the effects of police brutality on human rights and the efforts of the government to tackle this problem. Therefore, this study evaluates and analyses police brutality-reported cases in Nigeria, in other to ascertain how effective the measures put in place by the government in addressing this issue over time.

Objectives of Study

The main aim of this study is to ascertain the level of government commitment to addressing human rights abuse expressed as police brutality in Nigeria. Other specific objectives are to:

1. Ascertain the relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse in Nigeria
2. Assess the effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria.
3. Evaluate the accountability of the government in proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria
4. Score the effectiveness of the measures employed by the government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse in Nigeria?
2. What are the effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria?
3. How accountable is the government in its proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria?
4. How effective are the measures employed by the government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria?

Significance of the Study

This study will serve as a source of empirical literature for researchers and knowledge for both scholars, students, police institutions, and other institutions involved in crime prevention. It will also be of great significance to the government and will as well serve as a foundation on which further research can be made.

Scope of the Study

The study set out to ascertain the extent of police brutality and human rights abuse in Nigeria. The scope centered on Owerri Imo State due to the high level of police brutality reported there between 2020 and 2021 in order to ascertain how effective the measures put in place by the government in addressing this issue over time.

Literature Review

According to Nwakanma & Amaugo (2018), the systematic issue of police brutality can be traced back to its evolution and development, in which those recruited Nigerians often became over-zealous to carry out orders of their colonial masters to the letter. Thus, Nwakanma (2010) asserted that “this over-zealousness turned the police into an agent of colonial brutality; there was a massive extra-judicial killing across the country. From the brutal suppression of the Aba Women riot in 1929 to the massacre of striking coal miners in Enugu, the police were devouring like a colossus”. Sadly, this attitude of brutality dovetailed into the present police and policing, thus exacerbating some of the problems the Nigerian public has with some members of the Nigerian police force abusing their fundamental human rights.

However, the concept of Police brutality is the unwarranted or excessive, and often illegal use of force against civilians by police officers. According to Leonard (2021), forms of police brutality have ranged from assault and battery (e.g., beatings) to mayhem, torture, and murder.

Although, some broader definitions of police brutality also encompass harassment (including false arrest), intimidation, and verbal abuse, among other forms of mistreatment (Paoline, Terrill, & Ingram, 2012). In the views of Fayemi, (2015), there have also been constant and consistent reports received from lawyers, human rights activists, social analysts, and journalists about police regularly demanding bribes, stealing, extorting money, and engaging in different forms of brutality and abuse of rights.

According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the use of force is the “amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject” (NIJ, 2012). In regards to this, several factors are involved in deciding whether or not to use force, which include the location of the encounter, the type of people involved, their mental capabilities, and whether or not drugs and alcohol are involved (Taylor & Woods, 2010). Although Nigerian police are legally allowed to control a situation using the minimal amount of force required. Thus, as part of their discretionary authority, police officers are permitted by law to use the degree of force necessary to subdue a person who is under arrest. But when this reaches the level of excessive force, it is a violation of one’s human rights.

In Nigeria, Order 237 guidance in the use of firearms by the police is so broad that it permits officers to shoot protesters, whether or not they pose a threat to life (Amnesty International, 2012). According to Amnesty International (2012), the force Order also directs officers to fire "at the knees of the rioters" and explicitly prohibits firing in the air. Shooting at people, regardless of where an officer aims, is likely to result in death. It is without a doubt that this kind of law should be prohibited. Moreso, victims of police brutality have oftentimes complained that Nigeria Police officers routinely label individuals they kill as “armed robbers” or the ones who fired on police. Osborne (2020), noted that according to police statistics, all of the thousands of individuals shot and killed by police officers were “armed robbers.” With regards to this, in June of 2020, human rights group Amnesty International published a report finding SARS a police branch guilty of over 80 cases of police brutality and human rights violations between 2017 and 2020. The growing number of recorded cases of police brutality, and human rights violations has contributed mainly to the growing incidence of citizens’ resort to self-help and other informal methods of airing grievances (Awosanya, 2021).

With the current trend of people recording the act of police brutality as their fundamental human right, people now have access to these videos for public scrutiny and consumption. Access to these videos has led to unprecedented public discourse on what constitutes brutality, and what the policies put in place by the government to curtail this barbaric act (Sirry, Donna, & Rachel 2017). Certainly, excessive use of physical violence and force constitutes brutality. But as others have noted, brutality goes beyond physical force. It includes emotional and sexual violence as well as verbal assault and psychological intimidation. According to Morgan and Morgan (2020), when Police use excessive force and it results in serious injury, victims can sustain tremendous losses such as medical expenses and could lose income due to not being able to work. Bakari (2021), posits that the physical, emotional, and financial consequences of police brutality can be severe, resulting in both psychological and physical consequences.

However, in the absence of a standard definition or good data, the extent of police brutality remains difficult to quantify. And thus, it has become imperative for his study to aim at

providing an insight into the manner and systematic police brutality on individual fundamental human rights in Nigeria.

Empirical Review

According to Walter (2020), there is a consensus “that more comprehensive data on and systems for the reporting of police use of excessive force” are needed to better understand police brutality and use of force. This is so because our understanding “continues to be hindered by a lack of comprehensive, national data” (Justin, 2020). Kesic, Thomas, & Ogloff, (2012), carried out a study on the patterns surrounding fatal police shootings, findings revealed that most shootings happened in metropolitan areas and were often a result of unplanned police operations and in most situations, the police were attempting to arrest the suspect for current or alleged past crimes. Findings from the study also showed that approximately half (53.3%) of the incidents occurred in public spaces, while the other half (46.7%) happened in a private residence and the majority (73.3%) of the incidents unfolded in less than 10 minutes. Thus, in the views of Kesic et al. (2012), police implemented a variety of strategies to de-escalate these situations and all cases involved some form of verbal communication with the suspect.

Research carried out by Transparency International, 2013 and 2015 shows that two out of every three persons who encounter the police paid a bribe the police in the past 12 months. According to the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS, 2012), an estimated 1.4% of individuals who had contact with law enforcement in 2008 had force used or threatened against them. Of these individuals, 74% reported that the use of force was excessive, and 19% reported being injured during the incident. Only 12% of respondents who experienced force admitted that they disobeyed or interfered with law enforcement. Roughly 84% of individuals who reported experiencing force or threat of force felt that law enforcement acted wrongly, but only 14% of these individuals filed a complaint. It is therefore important to state that a police officer should only use force as a last resort.

Moreso, a study carried out by McElvain and Kposowa (2008), on officer shootings revealed that in similar situations, younger officers were more likely to shoot their firearms than older officers. When comparing male and female officers, the findings showed that male officers had a higher tendency to shoot suspects than female officers. Thus, in the views of McElvain & Kposowa (2008), not only do gender and age play a role in the use of force, but an officer’s education is also a contributing factor.

Aborisade & Abolaji (2017), carried out a study on human rights abuse by the Nigerian police among inmates in Ogun State Prisons, using quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The study revealed that the police relied heavily on the use of torture to elicit “confessions” from arrestees. Findings from the study of Former detainees' reported experiences revealed different kinds of ill-treatment of torture such as; being bound and suspended midair in painful positions, kicked and beaten with machetes, gun butts, boots, fists, electrical wires, animal hides, and other instruments. The lack of capacity to conduct a proper criminal investigation is responsible for the reliance of the police on torture-induced confessions and it is without that this is inhuman and is against an individual fundamental human right. This goes to affirm the position of Amnesty International (2014), in its research that detainees are often subjected to inhuman treatments in police custody which include being

bound, kicked, and beaten with machetes, gun butts, boots, fists, electrical wires, animal hides, and other instruments. Others include being shot in the leg or assaulted by police officers while in custody and suffering multiple fractures; being forced to perform impossibly painful calisthenics, and being raped.

Moreso, Amnesty International (2009), findings recorded cases of suspects who were tortured to death while in detention. Findings also revealed that in most cases, people are victims of enforced disappearance in custody, with no documentation to confirm their claim of transferring or bailing of the victim. Egede, (2007), supported this in his findings by stating that the few police officers who are suspected of extrajudicial executions are sent on training or transferred to other states instead of being prosecuted and this shows a high level of disregard for human rights is prevalent within the police force.

Although, most empirical studies have shown that torture and other forms of violent abuse can have enduring negative effects on both survivors and perpetrators, and is ineffective for obtaining reliable information in interrogation (Egede, 2007; Constanzo & Gerrity, 2009). Empirical studies have asserted that there is a high rate of abuse of human rights of detainees in custody (Alemika, 2003; Egede, 2007; NOPRIN, 2010). In the findings of Boxer, Middlemass & Delorenzo, (2009), detainees suffer severe injuries and post-detention trauma as a result of the gruesome treatments that they are made to undergo in police cells. Thus, from the findings of the DOJ (2000), the average age of an officer-involved in a use of force incident was 37 with an average of 12 years in the field.

METHODOLOGY

The study design for this work is a survey method. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2000), the survey design attempts to picture or document conditions or attitudes that exist at the moment. Both primary and secondary sources of data would be adopted for this study. Primary sources of data will be questionnaires on a 4-point Likert scale. While the secondary sources of data are books, journals, newspapers, articles, and reports, especially on cases of police brutality from 2011-2021 and other relevant documents. The study is centered in Owerri Imo state which is selected due to the high level of police brutality reported there between 2020 and 2021 (The Guardian, 2020; Saharareporters, 2021; Okeoma, 2022). Owerri Metropolis is the capital of Imo State with a population projection of 945,046 for 2022 (World Population Review, 2022). From the population, the Taro Yamane formula was employed to arrive at the sample size of 399 respondents, from among whom 381 filled and returned the 20-item questionnaire that was distributed. The descriptive statistics of means and standard deviation were used in the description of collected data, such that the weight of response as described through the mean is used in the decision on the relationship between the variables as contained in the research questions.

Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings

The data collected through the questionnaire is presented, analysed and discussed in this section of the study to show the socio-demographic data of respondents in tabular form so that percentages show the weight of response, while mean scores describe the variables according to the objectives of the research to help in answering the research questions.

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Description	Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	272	71.4
	Female	109	28.6
	Total	381	100
Age	20-29	20	5.2
	30-39	119	31.2
	40-49	153	40.2
	50yrs - above	89	23.4
	Total	381	100
	Marital Status	Married	197
	Single	136	35.7
	Widowed	22	5.8
	Others	26	6.8
	Total	381	100
Educational Qualification	O'Level or Below	44	11.5
	OND/ Equivalent	141	37.0
	B.Sc/Equivalent	156	40.9
	Post Graduate Degree	40	10.5
	Total	381	100
Religious Affiliation	Christianity	242	63.5
	Islam	90	23.6
	Traditional	25	6.6
	Other, specify	24	6.3
	Total	381	100
Occupation	Civil/Public Servants	127	33.3
	Self Employed	76	19.9
	Entrepreneur	65	17.1
	Apprentice	29	7.6
	Unemployed	84	22.1
	Total	381	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

The demographic data seen in table 4.1 shows that more of the respondents are male (71.4%) than female (28.6%). It also shows that the majority of the Owerri population are still in the active age as more of the respondents are seen in the age bracket 40-49 followed by those in bracket 30-39 (40.2 and 31.2% respectively), while 50yrs and above take the third position in the ranking of the respondents and the least is those in age bracket 20-29. On the marital status of the respondents, it is observed that more are married (51.7%), followed by the single (35.7%), others, which include the separated, divorced, celibacy and so on (6.8%) and then the widowed scored 5.8% of the respondents' population. Looking at the educational qualification, 40.9% of the respondents hold a B.Sc./Equivalent, 37% hold OND/Equivalent, 10.5% are postgraduate degree holders while 11.5% are holders O'Level Certificate or below. This signifies a high level of educational attainment by the Owerri population. Also, their religious affiliation was assessed and it is observed that true to expectation, the South-Eastern part of Nigeria is majorly Christians, so a higher percentage (63.5) of the respondents were Christians, followed by Muslims (23.6%), African Traditional Religion (6.6%) and then other religions (6.3%). Finally, the study observed that among the respondents are civil servants (33.3%), self-employed (19.9%), entrepreneurs (17.1%), apprentices (7.6%); but most interesting is

unemployed with a percentage as high as 22.1%, which may be a pointer to the high level of crime that leads to the frustration of the police and consequent brutality.

The Relationship between the Study's Variables

The analysis here shall be done with the view to answering the study's research questions as follows:

Research Question One

What is the relationship between police daily routine and human right abuse in Nigeria?

Table 4.2: The Descriptive Statistics on the relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse in Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Descriptive				
		Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remark	
The relationship between police daily routine and human right abuse in Nigeria										
1	The police at check points intimidate motorist into giving bribes	89	167	80	45	381	2.71	1.13	Agreed	
2	There is incessant use of lethal weapons by the police on unarmed civilians	105	180	62	34	381	2.80	1.14	Agreed	
3	The police arrests and detain people for days even without warrants	95	165	80	41	381	2.69	.95	Agreed	
4	The Mobile Police and SARS officers often beat up people who refuse to pay bribe	64	167	93	57	381	2.63	1.03	Agreed	
5	Torture of suspects has become the police major tool of investigation	126	164	57	34	381	3.25	1.09	Agreed	
Average							2.82		Significant	

Source: SPSS 23

LEGEND: 4.00-2.50 = Significant

2.49-1.00 = Insignificant

The result of the analysis in table 4.2 shows that the respondents agree with all the statements, that police at the checkpoint intimidate motorists into giving a bribe (mean = 2.71), There is the incessant use of lethal weapons by the police on unarmed civilians (mean = 2.80), The police arrests and detain people for days even without warrants (mean = 2.69), The Mobile Police and SARS officers often beat up people who refuse to pay a bribe (mean = 2.63), and Torture of suspects has become the police major tool of investigation (mean = 3.25). The average mean score for all the items is 2.82 showing a significant relationship between the daily routine of the police and human rights abuse in Nigeria. This implies that on daily basis, the activities of the Nigeria police as it is violates the rights of the Nigerian citizens.

Research Question Two

What are the effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria?

Table 4.3: The Descriptive Statistics on the effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Descriptive				
		Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remark	
The effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria										
6	Citizens now move in fear of the police at check points	109	177	65	30	381	2.78	1.30	Agreed	
7	Some accidents have occurred due to motorists running away from the police in fear	115	175	60	31	381	2.82	1.30	Agreed	
8	People's health is endangered as they are intimidated to walk through police checkpoints	30	71	190	90	381	2.21	1.11	Disagreed	
9	The torture on criminals is capable of hardening their heart further	95	170	76	40	381	2.73	1.20	Agreed	
10	Brutality by police results to low level of crime in Nigeria	42	77	180	82	381	2.17	1.09	Disagreed	
Average							2.54		Significant	

Source: SPSS 23

LEGEND: 4.00-2.50 = Significant

2.49-1.00 = Insignificant

Table 4.3 describes the effects of police brutality on its victims in Nigeria, and it shows that with an average mean score of 2.54, the effect of police brutality on its victims in Nigeria is significant. This decision is made based on the responses of the respondents that showed that citizens now move in fear of the police at checkpoints; Some accidents have occurred due to motorists running away from the police in fear, and the torture of criminals is capable of hardening their heart further (means scores = 2.78, 2.82, 2.73 respectively). But interestingly the respondents disagreed with the items stating that police intimidate people to walk past their checkpoints, and that brutality by police results in low level of crime.

Research Question Three

How accountable is government in their proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria?

Table 4.4: The descriptive statistics on the accountability of government in their proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Descriptive			
		Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remark
Accountability of government in their proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria									
11	The government has banned the Special Anti-Robbery Squad as promised	125	165	57	34	381	2.65	1.11	Agreed
12	Officers involved in police brutality have been brought to book	29	72	191	89	381	2.20	1.10	Disagreed
13	There have been committees of enquiry on police brutality in all states of the federation	25	61	205	90	381	2.09	1.12	Disagreed
14	In accordance with the Anti-Torture Act signed by President Buhari, erring officers are being prosecuted	29	57	195	100	381	2.15	1.12	Disagreed
15	Stop and search raids have been fully banned in Nigerian cities	31	69	190	91	381	2.17	1.11	Disagreed
Average							2.25		Insignificant

Source: SPSS 23

LEGEND: 4.00-2.50 = Significant

2.49-1.00 = Insignificant

The data analysis in table 4.4 describes the level of accountability of the government in their proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria. It reveals that notwithstanding that the government has banned the SARS as promised (mean = 2.65), officers involved in police brutality have not been brought to book (mean = 2.20), and not all states of the federation have constituted committees of enquiry on police brutality (mean = 2.09), the Anti-Torture Act have not been effective, as erring officers have not been prosecuted (mean = 2.15), and the stop and search raids have not been fully banned in Nigerian cities (mean = 2.17). Therefore, with the average mean score of 2.25, it could be said that the government has not been accountable for the proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria.

Research Question Four

How effective are the measures employed by government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria?

Table 4.5: The descriptive statistics on the Effectiveness of the measures employed by government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Descriptive				
		Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remark	
Effectiveness of the measures employed by government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria										
16	Banning of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad has reduced police brutality	34	67	185	95	381	2.12	1.11	Disagreed	
17	Prosecuting officers involved in brutality will eradicate the menace	85	175	77	44	381	2.63	1.20	Agreed	
18	The special committees of enquiry's report have been useful in ensuring human rights protection and safety of the citizens	25	76	196	84	381	2.20	1.11	Disagreed	
19	The Anti-Torture Act has been effective in the protection of citizens' rights	35	68	181	97	381	2.22	1.11	Disagreed	
20	The police still engage in stop and search raids against the governments' order	95	149	88	49	381	2.59	1.17	Agreed	
Average							2.35		Insignificant	

Source: SPSS 23

LEGEND: 4.00-2.50 = Significant

2.49-1.00 = Insignificant

Table 4.5 shows the descriptive analysis of the effectiveness of the measures employed by the government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria. The data reveals that in as much as it is believed that prosecuting officers involved in brutality will eradicate the menace (mean = 2.63), it is observed that the police still engage in stop and search raids against the government's order (mean = 2.59); therefore, banning of SARS has not reduced police brutality (mean = 2.12), the special committees of enquiry's reports have not been useful in ensuring human rights protection and safety of the citizens (mean = 2.20), and the Anti-Torture Act have not been effective in the protection of citizens' rights (mean = 2.22). Therefore, with the average mean score of 2.35, the study concludes that the measures proposed by the government to address police brutality in Nigeria have not been effective, which is not surprising judging from the fact that most of the proposed actions have not been effected as found above.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Many previous studies (Paoline, Terrill, & Ingram, 2012; Ogunode, 2015; Amnesty International, 2021) have looked at police brutality, buttressing how much it violates human rights. And in the Nigerian case, notwithstanding the country's membership and signature with many international treaties forbidding violation of human rights, it has been found by other researchers (Amnesty International, 2015; Awosanya, 2021; Ewang, 2021) that human rights violations, especially through police brutality, still goes on in Nigeria unaddressed.

Nevertheless, most of these studies have only concentrated on establishing police brutality as a form of human rights abuse (Ogunode, 2015; Amnesty International, 2021), while few others have looked at the causes of police brutality (Nwakanma, 2010; Nwakanma & Amaugo, 2018),

and others at the dimensions of police brutality (Fayemi, 2015; Leonard 2021); this study has found little or no work on the effectiveness of the measures proposed by the government in addressing police brutality, and has therefore delved into it, seeking answers to what is the relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse? What are the effects of police brutality on its victim in Nigeria? How accountable is the government in its proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria? And how effective are the measures employed by the government in addressing police brutality in Nigeria?

The study has found that there is a significant relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse. The study, in this case, observed that at the checkpoints, the police intimidate motorists into bribing them, and when any motorists fail to give a bribe, the police in some instances have resulted in the use lethal weapons. It is also observed that the police detains suspects for days without a warrant nor charging them to court, with incessant cases of torture in such custody. This goes to confirm the forms of police brutality in Nigeria as put forward by Fayemi (2015) and Leonard (2021).

Also, it has been established in this study that there is a significant effect of police brutality on its victims. This is so because, it is observed that citizens move in fear of the police, to the extent that some motorists get involved in auto-crash in a bid to avoid contact with the police officers. Meanwhile, it is also established that torture is not an effective method of investigating the truth about criminals or reforming them, as it can harden their hearts into more criminal activities, yet brutality has not reduced the level of crime in Nigeria.

Nevertheless, since establishing the relationship between police daily routine and human rights abuse and the effects of police brutality on citizens leaves us with issues begging for attention, it was necessary to further know what the government has been doing to solve this menace. Many media reports revealed proposed actions by the government in addressing police brutality, most of which have been subjected to analysis to know how accountable the government has been to these proposals. It was found that notwithstanding that the government has banned the SARS as promised, justice has not been served on officers who are involved in police brutality. Also, the injunction by the federal government that all states of the federation should constitute committees of enquiry on police brutality has not been implemented in many states. Therefore, the Anti-Torture Act as signed into law by the President Buhari administration has not been effective, as erring officers have not been prosecuted. So, it seems that because the erring officers have not been brought to book, the order to ban the stop and search raids has been ignored and officers are still engaging in stop and search raids.

On the above note, the study looked at the effectiveness of these measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria. From the findings of the study, it is concluded that the measures proposed by the government to address police brutality in Nigeria have not been effective, which is not surprising judging from the fact that most of the proposed actions have not been effected as discussed above. The study found that prosecuting officers involved in brutality will eradicate the menace; yet, it is observed that the police still engage in stop and search raids against the government's order, which could be a result of many factors including the socio-economic situation of the country leading to low pay and standard of living for the officers among other factors. Also, banning SARS has not reduced police brutality, the special committees of

enquiry's reports have not been useful in ensuring human rights protection and safety of the citizens, and the Anti-Torture Act has not been effective in the protection of citizens' rights. This goes to point out the fact that it is not enough to make policy, without background on works on how the policy can thrive.

Policy Implications

This study found no prior empirical work on the effectiveness of the measures proposed by the government in addressing police brutality as human rights abuse and has found that these measures have not been effective because, the government has not been accountable for their proposed measures in addressing police brutality in Nigeria, so, the police force has normalized brutality as their means of operation.

Therefore, there is a need for policies that will be addressing the restructuring of the Nigerian Police Force in such a manner that they will be able to execute their role of protecting human rights and not being the ones that are abusing them. Such policies should address the recruitment process of the NPF, as well as their training on the use of force and firearms. In addition, policy actions should be geared toward bringing erring officers to book following the principles of human rights abuse and the provisions of the Nigerian constitution.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Why has it been difficult for the government over years to fully restructure the Nigerian Police? Why have the erring police officers always gone scot-free?

These mind-bugging questions call for further studies as follows:

1. The relationship between godfatherism and police brutality in Nigeria
2. The implication of the Nigerian economy on the Police welfare package
3. Relationship between Police level of education and training and police brutality

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Police brutality as a form of human rights abuse is not peculiar to Nigeria as it is seen in many other countries, but its incessant manifestation in Nigeria is alarming and has called the attention of concerned citizens as was seen in the EndSARS of 2020. The causes of police brutality have been detailed by research reports to include lack of training, socio-economic, political as well psychological factors. Notwithstanding any justification given to police brutality, this study has established that the police's daily routine exposes how much they infringe on people's rights, and the effect this brutality has on the victims.

The effects of police brutality have been established to be socio-economic as well as psychological, extending to the safety of the citizens. This makes one wonder, are the police meant to protect or harm the citizens? This is why this study explored the measures taken by the government to solve the problem and has come to the conclusion that in as much as the government has detailed out actions that should be taken to stop police brutality, most of such proposals have not been implemented.

The study also concludes that the fact that some of those policies and actions proposed by the government have not been implemented, the few that are implemented lack effect at a high

level, making the whole effort of the government ineffective at large. This goes to say that police brutality still thrives because the government has not been accountable for its promises and such promises have therefore not been effective.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Most importantly, there is an urgent need at fixing the country's economy which will translate into the standard of living of her citizens including the police officers. It is believed that this will bring about a higher standard of living, as the officers will be well paid. By this, they will not have any excuse for extortion.

1. Also, the government should stop politicizing policies, but give due diligence to policy formation. Some Nigerian public policy dies from the start because they are meant only to pacify the public on the temporal ground and not targeting to solve a problem. Therefore, policymakers should target problems and follow up the policy through monitoring and evaluation to ensure it achieves its purpose.

1. Training and retraining of the police officers should be a high priority for the police service commission and other stakeholders of the security sector. The police deal with civilians on daily basis and therefore should be constantly trained on how to deal with the unarmed public with weapons at their disposal. The training should include providing them with documents on and training with the UN Principle on the use of force and firearms.

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