

MEDIA COVERAGE OF KIDNAPPINGS IN ABUJA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

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Abstract

Nigeria just like many Countries all over the world has had its share of several security issues and kidnapping has been one of them. Kidnapping like a cankerworm has been eating up and destroying the structure of Nigerian governance and has become a national threat to the well-being of the Country's good governance. The rampant kidnapping and other insecurity challenges have impacted negatively on the Country, discouraging investment, reducing productive activities, and public revenue as well as increasing poverty and unemployment. The state of insecurity in Nigeria has become an alarming occurrence of various anti-social acts prevalent in the Nation which in the past years were unthinkable and could not be associated with the Country. The study aims to explore kidnapping and its implication on Abuja Residence as a case study while looking at the media coverage and solution, the study applied the functionalism theoretical assumptions and employed the qualitative analysis (QDA) based on the previous studies review conducted on kidnappings such as current literature, media reports, and Newspapers to figure out the gap and come up with new findings on the cause of the menace and how the media has contributed its quota in mitigating the problem especially in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The study found out that at some point the government became reluctant to address kidnappings and that has served as a force igniting the heinous crime in the Country. The study



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discovered that it is due to the negligence of the Nigerian government to address the root – causes of the phenomenon such as youth unemployment, quick money syndrome, hard drug influence, and others. The study also suggests some measures taken by the media in mitigating this menace, such as frequent reportage on the issue, and following up stories associated with the issue, the study also recommends some other measures such as public awareness programs, A synergy approach between the security forces and community police, appropriate sanction, tracking registered sim-card used for crimes, quit ransom payment and job creation.

Keywords: Security, Kidnapping, Good Governance, Media Coverage.

Introduction

The recent phase of insecurity in the country has caused a huge problem for the country's good governance and its security architecture. The duplication of banditry and terrorist (kidnapping) attacks in Nigeria has not only placed a huge financial burden on fiscal policy but has also forced an increment in the national government's security expenditure, Nwangwu & Ononogbu, (2014) Kidnapping according to Ngwama, (2014) is a security concern which is not new in Nigeria, and its ubiquity has been exacerbated by the strain on security. Insecurity in the country has taken on a national dimension, because kidnappings are now reoccurring in every region of the country including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) threatening both investment, lives and the future of the Nigerian governance, in recent times the federal capital Abuja (FCT) which was once most secured place in the country and the safest amongst residence and visitors alike has become a living hub for kidnapers' and their activities. The issue of poverty, low level of education, lack of employment opportunities and the rising cost of living, quick money syndrome amongst the youth have contributed immensely to the



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increased number of kidnap cases because many have turned to kidnapping as a means of survival. Kidnapping is taking place everywhere in Nigeria and it is a national problem that has eaten so deep into the fabric of the country (Dodo, 2010), For example, on January 5th 2024 a man and his six daughters were kidnapped in a home in the Bwari area of the FCT, the kidnappers released the man and ordered him to pay 50 million naira for his children, sadly one of the sisters was killed by the kidnappers despite the payment of ransom. Similarly in the same month of January 2024, 30 people were abducted along the Abuja -Kaduna highway at dogon fili in NorthWestern Kaduna State, on 7th of January 2024 kidnapers dressed in army uniforms well-armed invaded Sagwari layout Estate in Dutse, also Bwari area council, Abuja at about 7.30pm and abducted nine persons a mother and her four children within the last three years Abuja has recorded close to 50 kidnapped cases involving over 200 persons (Premium Times). on May 8th, Anambra state police discovered a kidnapped Imo businessman dead after paying the N10 million ransom; also on May 11th, an APC presidential campaign council member was shot and killed; while, gunmen operating in Plateau State kill 29 people, (Punch News Online May 16th, 2023). As the case of kidnapping increases cutting across every individual irrespective of work, age, social status or gender such as government leaders, business owners, the rich, the poor, and even students, there is a need for firsthand information about kidnapping cases in Nigeria to media stations to enable them perform some of its functions that includes information dissemination and making use of agenda setting theory to make it a national issue for necessary actions to be taken by the government to sustain good governance.

In relation to the above, Ehuwueme and Obayi (2012) cited in Obaje (2017) explain that media coverage affects how the public learns,



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understands or thinks about an issue. It is pertinent to understand that the effect media messages have on the behavior of the public in safeguarding their lives and properties cannot be overemphasized. In essence there is a need for communication between the media and the public and also the government or policymakers because an informed public is a safe community.

Communication according to Asemah (2009), is the process of sharing information, ideas and attitudes. This means that both the sender which is the media in this context and the receiver (the public) are actively working together for a common understanding. Communication is simply intended to influence one another and is an essential aspect of human life which can be the basic essence of life that it revolves around (Asemah 2009). There is a strong need for consistent reportage of kidnapping cases happening in Abuja and this is where the media comes in, the media in this context is seen to as a current awareness service, informing people about current events and activities around them and also about every significant natural phenomenon and such others of public interest that could affect them positively or negatively.

Nonetheless, the Mass media today is regarded as the Fourth Estate of Realm that shapes, influences and indirectly governs public affairs in constitutional authority to control the affairs of a state by holding the government accountable and reporting it back to the masses. Media in this context is seen not only as channel for physical mode of communication through which information is disseminated but also to the varied medium that includes print, broadcast medium, through which news and information are disseminated to the users.

The media of mass communication are channels through which information are disseminated to a heterogeneous audience usually at the same time; They comprises of Television, Radio, Newspaper, Magazine



and social media (Nwaoboli, 2022b). Asemah (2011, p. 37) elaborate on the significant of the media, stating that whether electronic or print they often set agenda for the public to follow. They monitor happenings, trends and events in our environment and set their agenda base on what they have monitored. Emphasizing the essence of the media, Asemah (2020, p. 45 and 37) says that, media broaden and deepen one's perspective. The foregoing implies that whatever is portrayed by the media have effects on the attitude and behavior of members of the society on how they perceived an issue in the society and inform the action taken. Notably, the constant reoccurrences of human abductions in Nigeria have led to a global uproar and a basic issue of national security as the mass media and communities are working vigorously to raise the alarm and keeping the public armed regarding this societal menace and the cases of reoccurring kidnapping in Abuja is not left out. The media exists as a source of information and dissemination, societal educator, and mobilizer. These functions make the media serve as a vital link in the relationship between the government and the governed especially in the cases of security.

In light of the aforementioned functions, Ngwama (2014), proposed that the media should be active in broadcasting and publishing kidnapping cases so that the government can take appropriate action. The print media, particularly the daily newspapers primary functions are to inform, influence, and shape public opinions on every major issue of public importance.

The Daily Newspaper occupies the central position. Specifically, the print media (Newspapers), according to Zenn (2014), played a major role in keeping the public abreast of the state of the Chibok girls' abduction, as well as other similar cases of kidnapping in Abuja, the punch newspaper reported how a business man was abducted in Kubwa.



Obviously, security plays a pivotal role in defining the extend of good governance, socioeconomic condition and growth of any society according to the 1999 constitution. The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.” This buttresses the imperative of the sanctity of life and the need for government to sue every machinery to protect all lives and property. (section 14 subsection 2(b), 1999 constitution). A Nation's ineffectiveness in handling its internal security structures not only invites crime and chaos but also hinders the enjoyment of all dividend of democracy, growth, prosperity, collaboration, and togetherness and to a large extend needs the media expertise in information dissemination to achieve good and sustainable governance.

In the same vein, peace, tolerance, and thus an improved standard of living is brought about when the appropriate authority is able to reduce crime in society, (Egbegi, et al.,2018; Verwimp et al., 2019). That's why today, despite the Russia-Ukraine war, the majority of industrialized nations continue to prosper and grow rapidly. This is due to the fact that no community is impervious to crime, but through policy and determination of the government it becomes seemingly impossible for crime to thrive.

There is no doubt that security is an important pillar in any government of any country that informs investment destinations for investors and businesses; nothing thrives in a hostile environment, (Verwimp et al., 2019; Imhonopi & Urim, 2016). This is because investing in a hostile environment will lead to a waste of national resources and investments, the constant kidnapping cases of Nigerians and also foreigners the government architecture and the economy of the country is been threaten as many of investors relocates back to their countries while prospectives investors halt to invest in Nigeria Foreign



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expatriates, oil employees, their families, and politicians have been kidnapped in history, and ransoms have been sought before they were eventually released (Albert et al., 2020). Governments all over the world prioritize the security of their people, properties, and investments. This is why citizens periodically vote for leaders with the capacity to protect and defend the territorial integrity of their nations. In contrast, the Nigerian government and its security machinery have left its citizens rather confused as far as the security of their lives and properties are concerned.

The recent increase in kidnappings, armed bandits, and terrorist attacks in Nigeria has resulted in numerous exterminations, killings, and destructions of property and investments, (Ojo, et al., 2023), which is usually caused by that factors that includes ,youth unemployment and lack of faith on the government policies and the likes , It is however , paramount that that Nigerian government understand that the ability and responsibility to guarantee security and maintain law and order are all embedded in the core responsibilities of the government. The government simply exists to secure lives, properties, and territorial integrity, failure in this regard defeats the very own purpose of every other intervention. Besides security is the foundation upon which the democracy, economy, infrastructure, and development of any developing or developed country rests. The government protects its citizens both externally and internally using state security machineries and agencies. This core function has remained a mirage and a facade because of the latest multitude of mayhem unleashed upon innocent and law-abiding citizens, while the security forces look incompetent in the face of such ignominious destruction in Nigeria. Regardless of the exact nature of the crime and the intent behind it, the problem can have terrible psychological and economic consequences for any society, (Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2017).



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Theoretical Framework

Functionalism emerged in the early 20th century and is associated with authors such as Émile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, Herbert Spencer, and Robert Merton, who dominated American social theory in the 1950s and 1960s. The theory has generated a need to reconceptualize communication and the ways in which media content is produced and distributed. Functionalism is a theoretical perspective that focuses on the functions performed in society by social structures such as institutions, hierarchies, and norms, in this case government structures. Within this theory, function refers to the extent to which a given activity promotes or interferes with the maintenance of a system, looking at how kidnapping as national security issues have drastic impact on the society. However, in the application of functionalist theory to the study of mass communication, it discusses the relationship between the theory and changes in the ways media are used prompted mainly by the widespread use of the Internet. Communication research scholars ask why people use media, for what purpose, and with what outcomes. In this context, from a functionalist approach, scholars are interested in media effects on individuals and on society. From 1941 to 1951, Merton and Paul Lazarsfeld headed the Bureau of Applied Social Research where Lazarsfeld developed sophisticated methodological tools, while Merton designed the conceptual and theoretical apparatus for carrying out surveys in the field. Merton and Lazarsfeld identified three mainstream functions of mass media in society: (1) status conferral, (2) enforcement of social norms, and (3) narcotization.

Merton and Lazarsfeld claimed that exposure to a flood of information serves to narcotize rather than energize citizens because the more time they need to spend reading and listening, the less time they have for organized action. Status conferral occurs when an individual's



or group's status is increased because of mass media coverage. Enforcement of social norms refers to the idea that, by making deviations from social norms known to the public, the media force people to take a stand on whether the behavior was right or wrong and in doing so re-enforce existing group norms. Another mainstream categorization within functionalist theory as applied to the study of mass media is proposed by Merton who distinguishes between manifest functions and latent functions. Manifest functions are the intended consequences for some person, subgroup, or sociocultural systems contributing to its adjustment, while latent functions are consequences contributing to adjustment without being intended.

Harold Lasswell described two functions of the mass media as surveillance and correlation. Surveillance refers to the media keeping track of events and determining which are worthy of news attention, a role now referred to as gatekeeping. Lasswell's notion of the “correlation of the parts of society in responding to the environment” (1948, p. 38) draws an analogy between society and a biological organism in the way that both strive to be in sync with the environment.

According to Lasswell, the correlation role of the media involved directing the attention of the public and policy makers to certain issues at the same time, allowing them to understand and respond to these issues. Lasswell also discussed the importance of mass media in cultural transmission, transmitting the norms, rules, and values of society from one generation to the next.

Charles Wright built on Lasswell's functions of media and in his 1959 book *Mass Communication: A Sociological Perspective*, the researcher adds a fourth function: entertainment. Wright stated that functional analysis could be applied to study media as a social process (societal level), as a method of communication (channel level), as an



institution (institutional or organizational level), and as a communication activity (interpersonal level). Wright highlighted a dual dimension of the functionalist approach explaining that, for example, an institutionalize practice of transmitting news about danger (e.g., flood) by mass media might aid in averting catastrophe, but this same practice could be dysfunctional for the society if it led to panic or other undesirable effects. The functionalist approach has motivated several other lines of inquiry within communication research, such as cultivation analysis, developed by George Gerbner in the 1960s, which looks at how mass media cultivate particular viewpoints in the public. SAGE© (2020 by SAGE Publications).

Nonetheless the theory is relevant to this work because the central issue here is the way the media use its basic functions or techniques according to the theory that includes correlation. According to Lasswell, correlation role of the media that involves directing the attention of the public and policy makers to certain issues at the same time thereby serve as a problem solver to mitigate the kidnapping issues that has become a national security problem in our society and also a threat to good governance policies and its structure. structural functionalism theory is described as each civilization becomes obsessed with collective object build-up with component and fragments, that the entire society regulates upon for their survival.

Hence, if any structure of the government that fails to provide equal service that delivers equity between each component source the comeback responses are often dysfunctional consequences destabilizing the safety of the entire society (Hustedde & Ganowicz, 2002). In the context of kidnapping, the theory explores the socio-economic implications of kidnapping in Nigeria, precisely from the socioeconomical viewpoint, and it's transparent that structural



functionalism faults the Nigerian economy of being dysfunctional, which led to vicious comebacks and aggression. Also, the theory aims to scrutinize the inability of the Nigerian economic system to provide the essential resources necessary to sustain and recentralized a productive economy and good governance. The implications of the dysfunctions such as unemployment, abject poverty, marginalization, and deprivation often disastrously affected the vulnerable masses via insecurity, terrorism, and heinous crimes, including kidnapping. According to Samuel (2019), and Ibrahim & Ahmad (2020), the lucrative act of kidnapping has been recognized as a business to the criminals, and it becomes attractive for its profitable.

Review of Literature

Nigeria and its Form of Governance.

As one of the Nations with the largest population in sub-Saharan region of Africa, Nigeria is blessed with both mineral and human resources. Through the cooperation of the main ethnic groups in their desire for self-governance, Nigeria regained its independence in 1960. In order to facilitate administration and foster cohesion, the newly formed Nigerian nation embraced republican federalism as its form of government in 1963. According to Worldometers (2023), Nigeria has the largest population in sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated 225 million people. As a result, it joined the Commonwealth of Nations, an organization of independent former British colonies, (UCA 2022). According to Worldometers (2023), Nigeria's total land area is 910,770 km² and has a median age of 18.1 years, making it a country with one of the youngest populations across the globe. The country is blessed with an active and youthful population whose search for survival and wealth is unparalleled



within the sub region.

This system led to the fusion of entirely different and diverse ethnic nationalities into one, making the Country a densely diverse society. An amalgamation orchestrated by Governor Lord Lugard that wedded incompatible ethnic groups into matrimony that has resulted in sociological regrets, tribal resentment, ethnocentric suspicion, and national discontent, (Adangor, 2017). The acrimony and the desire to dominate, control resources, retain power, and occupy certain tangible national bureaucratic positions became the preoccupation of all federating units, (Adangor, 2017). All regions fought and jostled toothlessly to be at the helm of affairs in the new Nigeria. This power tussle led to ethnic suspicion, killings, coups, and countercoups in the country, (Egbegi,et al., 2018). This finally led to the 1967 conflict between the federal government's forces, led by Nigerian soldiers, and the Igbo's armies, commanded by the Biafra troops.

The Country currently practices a three-tier administrative system used to cascade the dividends of democracy and development to the grass roots. Authority and revenue are shared between the federal government, states, and local governments. Except that the local government is supervised and micromanaged by the state government and their fate is largely determined by the state governors, who can dissolve an elected local government council without recourse to the constitutional provision, occupying positions of authority is largely done through periodic elections; However governors deliberately ignore the conduct of elections, they appoint their stooge as a caretaker local government chairman, (Ata-Agboni.et.al. (2023). At this point federal allocation will not be remitted to the local government; this action starves the local government and local dwellers of development in the same vain heighten insecurity issues.



However, the current economy situation that has led to high inflation with hike in commodity prize especially food items causing hunger and starvation is not a good shot for the government and has open wave for several insecurity issues such as kidnaping and terrorism. Today the Nigeria's foreign earnings are highly dependent on crude oil and are supported by the export of other raw natural resources.

According to the World Bank's development indicator for 2022, Nigeria's gross domestic product is about four hundred and fifteen billion dollars. Nigeria's gross domestic product per capita in 2020 was about two thousand dollars, making it one of the lowest globally. The abundance of natural resources has not translated into economic and social prosperity for the nation because of mismanagement, corruption, and a lack of progressive leaders to position the country on the path of prosperity. Leadership has also failed miserably in transforming the available young population into economic prosperity, owing to a policy disconnect between policymakers and reality, which is exacerbated by ethnocentric sentiments and bigotry, (Egbegi, et al. 2018).

The Nature of Kidnapping and its Implication on FCT, Abuja.

The increase rate of kidnapping has incurred immense threat to the government and its architecture. Between 2019 to 2023, kidnapping cases concentrated in Bwari, as well as other satellite areas such as Kuje , Gwagwalada and Kwali .In the a few months , however the insecurity has become more mainstream with regular attacks in the upscale neighborhoods housing the Abuja Municipal Area Council area elites. The excessive kidnapping cases has contributed to a downturn in the economics activities, particularly impacting nightlife such as night market, hangout spots, and recreational and entertainment spots. The decrease of foot traffic is evident as businesses faces reduced patronage,



driven by concerns about kidnapping, the economic downturn threatens financial losses for local, small enterprises and also rub off on foreign investors who resides in the FCT. This has equally ruined the reputation of the Country around the world.

During the hike of the kidnappings in Abuja the FCT Minister Nyeson Wike held several meetings with head of security agencies and assure the residence of taking drastic measures in curbing the issues while accusing he media of over blowing the situation, however the FCT minister went further to place N20 million bounties on two wanted kidnapers who were arrested few weeks after.

Nonetheless, the Nigerian Senate President urges the need for reforming and restructuring Nigerian security architecture as a result of the deadly insecurity terrorizing the country (Umoru 2019), imposed Nigeria into the United States visa ban Countries (Olaniyi 2020). The Nigerian Senate President explained the danger that the current insecurity situation is to the countries structure in country that entails bringing down the socioeconomic activities that eventually scare away investors, thereby leaving the development of Nigeria in stagnation.

However, the senate president called for a joint force from all arms of government to mitigate the problem (Umoru 2019). Hence, kidnapping involve capturing and detaining an individual against his or her will, usually in an extension of other criminal intentions thereby leaving lasting mental and emotional wellbeing of the victims.

Contributions of the Media in Mitigating Kidnapping Cases in Abuja

The media has been described by several scholars as an agent of change especially in the a given society basically through its function that incudes education information and entertainment and backing it up with



given theories like the agenda setting media theory, that sees the media as capable of setting the subject matter that is important for the audience. Commercial media are an irreplaceable, essential part of this transnational process. It is interesting to note that the media are a \$2.2 trillion industry, that are transnationally owned and directed in line with other capitalist enterprises. Media are also closely related or work with other industries including, insurance, banking, agriculture, and consumer goods. But far beyond making profits from selling audiences to advertisers and entertainment commodities to its consumers, media satisfy its important communication function of informing and persuading for the new global order. Without the media, government and its social, political or economic architecture would have difficulty reorganizing the problem and plight of its people. From climate denial and austerity to poverty, prisons, and terrorizing, kidnapping and war, the media defends the values of the people and also the policies of the government.

In the case of kidnapping in Nigeria the media have through documentaries, features, News reportage been able to call the government to action to take drastic decision to stop the menace of kidnapping in Abuja for instance , the frequent reportage and follow up news update and discussion by the media in Abuja from December 2023, made the FCT minister NYSON WIKE to take drastic measures that includes offering bounty to anyone that could disclose the whereabouts of the kidnappers , FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike on 14th February 2024 placed N20 million bounty on a certain kidnapping ring , Abdulkadir and his gang who has been terrorizing Abuja territory. The Police operatives of the FCT Police Command attached to Anti-kidnapping unit, in a continued effort against criminality in the Territory, raided two kidnappers' camps bordering Nasarawa and Abuja through Kuje area



council on Thursday at about 12 am. the police dislodged the camps and arrested **Abdulkadir**, (PM NEWS). In the same vein on Thursday, January 18th 2024, Police operatives also arrested the notorious kidnapper terrorizing residents of the federal capital territory, **Chinaza Phillip**. The suspected kidnapper was arrested by operatives of the Kaduna state police command. Equally the outcry by the media through it different channel including the social media calling for the release family of six that was kidnapped from their residence in Bwari led to the release of the family with one dead. Following the sufficient report by the media, the Federal Capital Territory Police Command Anti-Kidnapping squad on the 2nd of January 2024 made a concerted effort with troops of the Nigerian Army, on the heels of the kidnappers that struck the Zuma Rock area in the Bwari Area Council, The FCT Police rescued the victims and reunited them with their families . (legit news), also In response to the rising cases of kidnapping in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the Nigeria Police, on Saturday, **paraded 29 suspected kidnappers and other criminals** arrested in Bwari Area Council.

The Nigerian risk consultancy SBM Intelligence told AFP it had documented that 283 people were abducted in the Federal Capital Territory alone over the past year. This indeed has posed fair in the mind of the residence how they see the capital as a save heaven. Some experts believe the country's economic crisis is driving a rise in kidnappings as desperate Nigerians turn to crime for income. (Arise news, 21th January 2024). Abductions became a major problem in Nigeria in the 2000s and are now a lucrative industry. The kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in northeastern Nigeria by Boko Haram jihadists made global headlines in 2014, but daily abductions rarely gain attention. Every day Nigerian make global headline where you hear about a new kidnapping case almost every day, even whole families. It



shouldn't be happening to anyone.”

Modern Cause of Kidnapping in Abuja

In an attempt to argue with scholars like, Okoli & Agada, (2014); Imhonopi & Urim, (2016);Ihe, (2018); Samuel, (2019); Ibrahim & Ahmad, (2020) on the issues triggering kidnapping in Nigeria. This particular research found out that the negligence of the government to address the root-causes of kidnapping such as youth unemployment, corrupt politicians, quick-money syndrome that led to the uprising of Yahoo boys and hard-drug influence, is the vital forces igniting heinous crimes including kidnapping in the country.

1. Unemployment of youth and kidnapping as always, the wise saying "an idle mind is the devil's workshop." according to Inyang, (2009) unemployment problem is one of the driving factors deteriorating kidnapping, In Nigeria, many youths search for non-existing jobs out of frustration. Inyang acknowledges that negative alternatives often develop on the mind of the individuals affected with such threat, which also couple with mounting responsibilities to tackle, they are also poverty afflicted and usually find comfort in heinous crimes such as kidnapping in the sense that numerous non-disabled individuals, school drop-out and graduates roam around the streets both unemployed (Ugwuoke & Ph, 2011).
2. Quick-Money Syndrome on kidnapping. In Nigerian the advance show up of what one has acquired without any form of decorum or responsibility has triggered the youth to want to be in possession of immense wealth through whatever means , however abject poverty that could lead to school dropout and exposes the youth to different type of untold hardship has made the think of nothing



except making money Dodo (2010) scrutinize that the syndrome of "get-rich-quick" and "moral decadence" had been identified as a causative factor of kidnapping. Also, Inyang, (2009) claimed that nobody investigates how people acquire their wealth in Nigeria, a poor person today might show up rich the next day, and unquestionably free in the society that was craving for quick-fortune. Boldly enough, such people get rewarded with chieftaincy titles in their communities, or even a young boy of just 15 -20riding the latest ride in the country and no one care to ask how he got the money thereby instilling immoral decisions as transparent to the Nigerian youths, and such image triggered the youths to think that one can elevate respect from illegal earnings.

Hence, they embark on heinous crimes such as kidnapping to portrayed and reflect the government officials that boldly looted the country's treasure. They can also perpetrate above the law and kidnap and secure ransom without fear, which had turn disastrous that foreigners, businessmen, and successful people shadowing under the government umbrella suffers the menace (Ene, 2018).

4. Influence of Hard Drugs on Kidnapping Excessive consumption and trafficking of hard drugs also ignite the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria (Okoli, 2009). Okoli also illustrates that Abia State contributed significantly to the Nigerian economy due to its commerce and flourishing entrepreneurs. Besides, the state emerges as a notorious drug zone in eastern Nigeria in trafficking and consuming.

Conclusion

In the situation where kidnapping has become a daily activity in the country, the national security is indeed threatened thereby crippling the



social and economic existence of the economy, and the good governance architecture hence it has increasingly become necessary for the government to take any actions necessary to stop kidnaping as the case maybe. This can be achieved by joining force with media and other government.

The media plays a vital aspect of any form of engagement with it function of informing, persuading or educating the public about certain activities, in this case of this study the media speaks directly to the heart and minds of the government emphasizing on the role of government in terms of proving security to the masses and also the implications of kidnaping in several aspect of governance. the media through its strategy has set up studio discussions, documentaries that shows the plight of relations of victim that have been kidnapped and also follow issues of kidnaping case and making sure action is been taken to maintain peace and other in running the government.

In view of the enormous capabilities of the media in information dissemination there is need for the government to maintain a good connection with the media to understand the plight of the masse and necessary actions to be taken as the media only has direct contact with the governed.

Recommendation

Looking at how important security is in the maintenance of good governance in a country, it has become national responsibility for the media to report and follow on issue of kidnaping without any form of fallout, hence his study recommends.

1. Youth engagement program to keep the busy and more productive to shield their mind from any kind of heinous crimes including kidnaping.



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2. The government should as much as possible put in measures to reduce poverty in the country.
3. Kidnapers when court should be punished accordingly to serve as hindrance for anyone who has intention of venturing into such act.
4. The security agencies in Abuja should work alongside with the area councils' vigilantes.
5. Special forces should be put in place to focus on eradicating this menace.

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