

A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES AND THE POLICE IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL N SABON-GARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ZARIA, KADUNA STATE NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the relationship between Private Security Companies and the Nigerian Police Force in Crime Prevention in Kaduna State. They used both qualitative methods through the administration of questionnaires to residents of the Local government and also qualitative methods through in-depth interviews conducted with personnel of private security companies, vigilante heads and political ward leaders in order to determine the relationship between PSCs and the Police in crime prevention in the study area. The study adopted System theory as a theoretical framework for the study. Findings show that Private Security Companies play an important role in crime

Introduction:

Globally, the responsibility of protecting lives and properties is generally for the government. States have a primary duty of protecting the security of their citizens and all persons within their jurisdiction and maintaining programs that will enhance the welfare of citizens. However, over time, the State security agencies are unable to meet up with the security needs of the people as a result of threats coming from non-state actors. Most threats to security these days emerge from

prevention and their services are of great benefit to the communities. However, there is a poor relationship between the security companies and the Police in terms of collaboration in preventing crime in the area. The study recommends that there should be collaboration between the police and private security companies to enhance their efforts in preventing and controlling crime rate in the local government area.

Keywords: *Private Security Company, Police, Crime Prevention, Control, Kaduna State.*

International terrorism, religious extremism, radicalism and state collapse in northern Nigeria specifically. The rise of these new security challenges makes law enforcement agencies to be overburdened with tasks to fulfill. This raises the attention for possibilities regarding cooperation between public and private security actors. In fact, a worldwide trend is already noticeable. In many countries worldwide, tasks which traditionally were undertaken by public law enforcement agencies are increasingly outsourced to private companies (Richards & Smith, 2007).

To have a good understanding of private security companies there is a need to define some concepts. The first is the term security. According to Smith and Brooks (2013), security is a human characteristic that is objective, perceived, expected, and demanded by people in many different forms. It is perhaps one concept that over many decades has not changed in its original use; rather, it has become more broadly used to encompass greater and more diverse meaning (Smith & Brooks, 2013). Nigeria currently since 1999 has been faced with diverse security challenges hence it is important that everyone take security seriously and therefore studies relating to private security is imperative especially when it relates to helping the already overburden security outfits of the country already as a result of fight against Boko-Haram, Kidnapping, Banditry, and many others. Focusing on private security companies, it is argued that security is a multi-dimensional concept. In practice, society often refers to private security as

the security guards patrolling a local warehouse or the in-store security guards at the supermarket. This according to George and Kimber, however, is best described as the 'public facing' of private security. The reality points out that the sector is way more global and complex (George & Kimber, 2014). In fact, just like the general definition of security, there is no harmonized definition of private security companies (Loxa & Siagkou, 2016). Due to the fact that security services are regulated nationally the definition differs resulting in an endless list of possible definitions.

In Nigeria today, security responsibilities are shared with different organizations like ethnic militias, vigilante groups and private security companies. Although this happened as a result of the fear of insecurity, it is an aberration to section 214 (1) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which stipulates that only the Nigeria police shall be the only police force in Nigeria. Communities of highly placed people, private and public organizations in Nigeria, northwest in particular have become increasingly reliant on private security companies. It is not just companies that need additional security for private companies today, private individuals rich or poor, local and public authorities, and the government also needs private security services because of the high rate of insecurity in Nigeria. Despite the monumental growth of private security and the crucial role they play in security, their cooperation with the police is not yet clearly defined. One of the greatest obstacles facing the operations of private security companies in Kaduna State is the prohibition of the private security sector from carrying firearms. This study seeks to investigate the nature of the role private security plays in crime prevention and suggest possible ways of improving their activities. This is because private securities are found in more places than police officers and therefore have a greater access to criminal information and so their contribution to security is immense. However, the collaboration between the police in ensuring a crime free society is a huge problem. Hence the study is designed to investigate this fact.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Systems Theory

System theory is a study of systems as they relate to one another within a larger, more complex system. The key concept of system theory, regardless of which discipline it is being applied to, is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. What this means is that when holistically examining how smaller systems come together to affect the greater complex system, certain characteristics of the whole “the complex system” cannot be easily explained or rationalized when looking singularly at any one of its systems “its parts”.

According to Senge (1990) cited in Bamidele, Akinbolade and Nuhu, (2016), the world is unhealthy because people fail to see it as a whole and rather choose to see it in static snapshots. In addition Buckley (1967), argues that people are “...actors who actively shape their reality and not helpless reactors”.

Strengths of the Theory

- a. By integrating psychological, community and social approaches, the systems theory offers a unitary approach inconceivable with most other theories.
- b. Another advantage contributing to its superiority when compared to other theories is its inherent regard for interactive processes (Rutan & Shay, 2014). As a result, it eases the understanding of how humans interact and how they impact one another.
- c. It also facilitates the understanding of impact of inter-systems interactions (Rutan & Shay, 2014).
- d. Systems theory is also dynamic. This attribute makes it relevant in changing circumstances of the world.
- e. It also provides several ways a problem or an issue can be handled via different integrated approaches. This actually boosts its effectiveness relative to other theories. By offering various approaches to understanding behavior,

- f. Systems theory avoids simplistic explanations or accounts of particular behaviors thereby making it more comprehensive in predicting and accounting for behavior.

Weaknesses of the Theory

- a. It has a tendency of offering generalized ideas. This deficiency of specificity translates into inefficacy when applied in specific case scenarios.
- b. Its non-prescriptive nature is also its undoing. This is because it fails to give outright measures to take in specific situations. However, this has been deemed by others as a leeway for practitioners to apply a broad range of solutions and strategies rather than sticking to one possibly infective strategy (Rutan & Shay, 2014).
- c. It has also been criticized for not being able to offer a single functional theory by itself and instead relying on connections to seek coherence.
- d. It is also not the most comprehensible of all theories; can be quite technical, yet too conservative whereby it creates systems that are too stable or too self-reliant while overstating social cohesion.
- e. Some quarters have concluded that it includes too much junk in its explanation and therefore advocated for a leaner theory that explains with emphasis the most important aspects of human interactions

Application of the Theory

The police who are the main stakeholders and whom the law mandates to establish community policing structures and also partnerships through sharing of information and strategies with Private Security Companies to better enhance community security. Both the Police and PSC will function well only if they work together to enhance better productivity in crime management which is what the police are to adopt if they are to engage the private security productively in community policing. The police therefore fuse the private security officers with the community thereby limiting their

interactions despite the crucial role they play with regard to community policing and security at large. The police and the private security officers should embark on seeing interactions rather than things, seeing patterns of change rather than static snapshots as the society cannot be static. Additionally, the police should view the private security as a whole within a whole and focus on their uniqueness of service for purposes of productively engaging them to boost the security of their localities.

METHODOLOGY

Sabon Gari local government area is one of the 23 local governments of Kaduna State. The local government is bordered to Zaria, Kudan, Igabi and Giwa local government areas. It's a host of many academic institutions, private organizations and train stations. The data collection method was quantitative using questionnaires and qualitative using in-depth interviews. This study sourced and used primary data from residents of the local government for the quantitative data while qualitative data was sourced from members of private security firms in the LGA which include (Lion Heart Security LTD, Philmart Security LTD, BJ Security LTD, Samaru Vigilante Head). One – on – one in-depth interview was also conducted with four political ward heads (Mai-Angwa).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section examined the Socio-Demographic attributes of respondents such as their sex, age religion, educational level and occupation.

Table 4.1.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
Less than 20 years	40	22.9
20-39	80	45.7
40-49	20	11.2
50-59	21	12.0

60 and above	14	8.0
Total	175	100.0
Sex		
Male	110	62.9
Female	65	37.1
Total	175	100.0
Level of Education		
Primary	4	2.3
Secondary	110	62.9
ND	10	5.7
HND	21	12.0
University degree	30	17.1
Total	175	100.0
Religion		
Christianity	45	25.7
Islam	125	71.4
Traditional believer	5	2.9
Total	175	100.0
Occupation		
Farmer	10	5.7
Artisan	16	9.1
Civil Servant	20	11.4
Unemployed	43	24.6
Traders	86	49.1
Total	175	100.0

Table 4.1.1 shows the demographic characteristics of the respondents, findings revealed that the majority 47.7% of the respondents were within the age range of 20-39 years. This findings age group represents the youthful, energetic age brackets and they are highly represented in the study because of their active participation on issues that relate to security in their environment. Also, 22.9% of the respondents were less than 20

years, 12.0% were within 50-59 years, 11.2% were within 40-49 years while 8.0% were within 60 years and above. It can be deduced from this findings that the age bracket of 20-39 years are highly involved in issues of private security either as members or as residents who take cognizance of security activities in their environment hence the reasons for their large representation.

Regarding the sex of the participants; findings revealed that the majority 62.9% were male while 37.1% were female. The male sex are largely represented because in traditional Hausa culture issues of security discussion and management are largely of interest to the male gender than the female; hence their high representation in the study.

On the educational background of the respondents; findings revealed that the majority 62.9% of the respondents had secondary education 17.1% had their degree, 12.0% had HND, 5.7% had ND while 2.3% had primary education. The implication of this finding is that the majorities of the respondents are literate and as such are aware of issues of partnership between PSC and the police in crime prevention in their communities. On their religious affiliation, finding revealed that the majority 71.4% practiced Islamic religion, 25.7% practice Christianity while 2.9% practice African traditional religion. It can be deduced that the area is populated by adherents of Islamic religion.

Regarding the occupation of the respondents, it was found that 49.1% of the respondents are traders, 24.6% are unemployed, 11.4% are civil servants, and 9.1% are artisan while 5.7% are farmers. The implication of this finding is that the majority who are traders in the community will have good knowledge of the issues of security and PSC as it relates to their economic prosperity and protection of their business and properties.

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT OF PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES IN CRIME PREVENTION

This section deals with how the services of the PSCs are being engaged in or used either as security consultant outfit, vigilante groups, dispute

resolution groups, protectors of private properties and others as identified by the respondent.

Table 4.2.1: Views of Respondents on the Levels of Engagement of Private Security Companies

Engagement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Security consultancy	40	22.9
Night vigilante patrol	45	25.7
Dispute resolution	20	11.4
Protection of properties	41	23.4
Arrests of suspects	4	2.3
Monitoring surveillance camera	8	4.6
Close protection	7	4
Detention of suspects	10	5.7
Total	175	100.0

Table 4.2.1 shows the views of respondents on the services of PSCs in their communities. Findings revealed that 25.7% of the respondents are of the view that PSCs are engaged in vigilante night patrols and activities in their community. This has to do with keeping watch of the environment at night against armed robbers, criminals and other illegal activities that happens either at night or the daytime. Also, 23.4% of the respondents said PSCs are engaged in the protection of properties within the community, and 22.9% of the respondents are of the view that PSCs are serving as security consultants in the community. Also, 11.4% of the respondents said PSCs engage in dispute resolution in their communities. A ward leader in the in-depth interview asserts that:

Yes, they mostly work around at night and have their checkpoints at the entrance of our streets; they help in making sure that there are no thieves in our environment. Their vigilante work is good and we report to them things

and movements that we do not understand before we get to the Police state.

Another Ward Leader asserts that:

In my community, we only have vigilante groups and we report to them any criminal activities. Police do not come here often is only when we have serious security issues and they hear of it because they usually come around. Aside that they help us when there is crime and guide our properties

It can be deduced from the finding that PSCs are largely engaged in vigilante services which involves patrol around the community night and day to ensure that the communities are safe from criminal activities. Also, they protect resident's properties against theft and serve as security consultancy units. They also resolve conflict between conflicting parties in the community.

Table 4.2.2: Respondents views on Categories of People that benefits from the services of Private Security Companies

This section is concerned with the categories of people that benefit from the services of PSCs in the research area.

Table 4.2.2: Views of Respondents on the categories that benefit from PSC

Categories	Yes	No	Total
The police	60 (34.3%)	115 (65.7%)	175 (100.0%)
Law courts	80 (45.7%)	95 (54.3%)	175 (100.0%)
Companies	107 (61.1%)	68 (38.9%)	175 (100.0%)

The rich in the community	160 (91.4%)	15 (8.6%)	175 (100.0%)
The general community	170 (97.1%)	5 (2.9%)	175 (100.0%)
Private schools in the community	168 (96.0%)	7 (4.0%)	175 (100.0%)

Table 4.2.2 presents respondents' views from a multiple choice question on the benefactor of the services PSCs in their communities. The finding revealed that the community in general benefits from the services of PSCs in the communities. This is likely due to the engagement of PSCs in vigilante services as revealed in table 4.2.1. Closely related to the general community is also private schools and institutions in the community as represented by 96.0% of the respondents, 91.4% of the respondents also indicated that the rich individuals in the community benefit from the services of PSCs in their communities. The implication of this finding is that the rich who are more likely to be able to afford the services of PSCs tend to benefit from the services of PSCs due to their financial capabilities to pay the companies. Also, findings revealed that 61.1% of the respondents indicated that companies within the community benefits from the services of PSCs, it was also found that the Law Court benefit from the services of PSCs as represented by 45.7% while 34.3% said the Nigerian Police benefit from the services of PSCs. A private security member of Lion Heart Security LTD asserts that:

Well we live among the community and so the community enjoys our services even without paying. It is what we love to do but we have schools that we offer services to, we have companies that we protect their assets and properties and other people that need our services. Those ones pay.

A private security member of Philmat Security LTD asserts that:

There are people that have events like wedding, conferences, music show, political campaign, companies and even individuals that call on us, pay for our services and we attend to them and provide the needed security that they need against any form of harassment and disturbance in their events

It can be deduced from the findings that PSCs are of great benefits to the general community and specific institutions like private schools, companies, the law court and the police are also benefactors of the services of PSCs in the study area. The rich individuals also employ the services of PSCs in the area for various purposes related to protection of lives and properties.

Capacity of Private Security Companies in Supporting the Implementation of Crime Prevention

Respondents were asked on the capacity of PSCs in their community of preventing crime; findings revealed that the majority said Yes that PSCs are capable of preventing crime in the community as represented by 98.3% while only 1.7% said No that PSCs are not able to prevent crime in their community. It can be deduced from the finding that PSCs have the capacity to ensure a safe society free of crime in the research area as largely asserted by the respondents. When asked to rate the capacity of PSCs of preventing crime in the community. Findings showed that 45.7% of respondents said PSCs can fairly prevent crime, 25.7% of the respondents said PSCs are poor in crime prevention and 17.1% said PSCs are good in crime prevention while 11.4% said PSCs are very good in crime prevention. This finding is corroborated by a Ward Head Leader when he asserts that:

You see, they can help us check out crime but we still have criminals that come to kidnap in this area, that come to rub our markets and steal grains, beans and maize from our stores. If you leave your slippers outside or you dare to forget locking your door, the boys in our

environment will get inside and empty the places. So the people fighting crime here that employed themselves without the government paying them are working but it is mostly the crime that we report to them. I have had issues with students that travel home and return to see their rooms empty. We reported to the vigilante and other companies that are here, but they collected our money and we did not hear anything from them till date. But they are better than the Police because when they catch the criminals they punish them but the Police release them once they see money and we will not feel any Justice being done on it.

The Vigilante head in Samaru asserts that:

Yes we are capable, we can fight crime and we know the environment more than the Police, but the problem is that we are not allowed to bear arms or shoot anyhow, sometimes you see our members being injured by criminals who have higher weapons than us. When we see big guns we have to protect ourselves first because we also have families, so we can fight crime but we need guns and freedom to use them. Nobody will commit crime like kidnapping and if Elrufai (The State Governor) provide us the guns that the criminals have we are not afraid at all

The implication of this finding is that PSCs in the community are capable of preventing crime but in rating their performances in crime prevention they have fairly performed well in their Job of protecting lives and properties of the residents in the communities.

Relationship that exists between the Private Security Officers and the Police.

Table 4.4.1: Views of Respondents on the Relationship that exist between PSC and the Police

Engagement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very good	40	22.9
Good	32	18.3
Fair	23	13.1
Poor	80	45.7
Total	175	100.0

Table 4.4.1 presents findings on the relationship that exists between PSCs and the Nigerian Police force in the community. It was revealed that 45.7% of the respondents indicated poor relationship between PSCs and the Police in crime prevention. This relationship entails sharing of information on investigation, handing over of suspects to the Police and collaborating with each other to ensure a crime free society however both the PSCs and the Police have performed poorly in this regard as revealed in the study. Also, some respondents as represented by 22.9% are of the view that the relationship is very good, 18.3% rate the relationship as good while 13.1% rated it as fair. A private security member of BJ security LTD asserts that:

The Police always want to claim higher knowledge and the thing is that they don't even understand the people, the environment and everything that concerns crime in this place. What they are after is the money and the power they have over us. We will arrest criminals and put in effort and money. The Police will take the glory and take the matter from our hands without any further collaboration with us; in a few days you will see the same criminal mocking us that he has been released. That is the problem if the Police are working with us and also respect us as we do to them the community will be clean of crime and be peaceful

It can therefore be concluded from the finding that the relationship that exists between the PSCs and the Nigerian Police Force in the community in preventing crime and other related crimes is poor.

Measures of Improving Crime Prevention

Table 4.5.1: Views of Respondents on Improving Crime Prevention

Categories	Yes	No	Total
Adequate training of PSC	158 (90.3%)	17 (9.7%)	175 (100.0%)
Establishment of security institute	98 (56.0%)	77 (44.0%)	175 (100.0%)
Specific professional specialization	164 (93.7%)	11 (6.3%)	175 (100.0%)
Recruiting literate personnel	140 (80.0%)	35 (20.0%)	175 (100.0%)
Collaboration with the Police	172 (98.3%)	3 (1.7%)	175 (100.0%)
Neutral Agency to Monitor PSC	150 (85.7%)	25 (14.3%)	175 (100.0%)

Table 4.5.1 presents findings on the measures of improving crime prevention by the PSCs in the communities. It was found that 98.3% of the respondents suggested that to improve crime prevention in the area, PSCs should collaborate with the Police in terms of sharing information prior to investigation, engaging in investigation together, handing over suspects and weapons to the police and generally defined collaboration with each crime agency in preventing crime. This finding was corroborated by a member of the BJ Security Company who said “ if we and the Police would be working together and respecting each other it will be difficult to hear of any kind of crime in our community. Our clients will also trust our efforts to protect them”.

It was also revealed that 93.7% of the respondents suggested that PSCs should have a specific professional specialization in terms of crime

prevention. That is; each Private Security Company should specialize in property crime, kidnapping, murder, cyber crime, etc. The implication of this finding is that private security companies in the community engage in any type of crime prevention with no specific area of specialization which may have led to lack of professional ethics and practices in different fields of crime prevention hence the suggestion that PSCs should specialize and master a specific field of crime prevention and be good in it. It was also suggested that there should be adequate training of Private security personnel to engage properly in crime prevention as represented by 90.3%. Also, 85.7% of the respondents are of the view that there should be a neutral agency established by the government to monitor the operations and activities of PSCs in the area. There is also a need to recruit literate personnel in PSCs as represented by 80.0% of the respondents. The implication of this is that personnel of the PSCs are mostly not literate and this can have its own effects as it will lead to human right abuse hence it was suggested while 56.0% of the respondents said there should be establishment of security institute for Private Security Knowledge acquisition in the area as a measure of improving crime prevention in the area. A Ward Head stated that:

The vigilante and the other companies are trying but they should please put in more effort to protect us especially they should be around the market area, we always hear of crime in that place and stealing is also high. There should be a police officer close to us here so that they and the security companies can work together. The security people that are not working for the government should also be paid by the government. It will help us here a lot too

It can be deduced from the finding that in order to improve crime prevention there is a need for PSCs in the area to collaborate with the Police to effectively prevent crime in the area and also there is a need for PSCs to

have specific areas of specialization to ensure professionalism in crime prevention and control.

Discussion of Major Findings

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Findings on the age range of the respondents revealed that the majority 47.7% of the respondents were within the age range of 20-39 years. It can be deduced from these findings that the age bracket of 20-39 years are highly involved in issues of private security either as members or as residents who take cognizance of security activities in their environment hence the reasons for their large representation. Regarding the sex of the participants; findings revealed that the majority were male respondents. The male sex are largely represented because in traditional Hausa culture issues of security discussion and management are largely of interest to the male gender than the female; hence their high representation in the study. On the educational background of the respondents; findings revealed that the majority of the respondents had secondary education. The implication of this finding is that the majorities of the respondents are literate and as such are aware of issues of partnership between PSC and the police in crime prevention in their communities. On their religious affiliation, finding revealed that the majority practiced Islamic religion. It can be deduced that the area is populated by adherents of Islamic religion. Regarding the occupation of the respondents, it was found that the majority of the respondents are traders. Traders have good knowledge of the issues of security and PSC as it relates to their economic prosperity and protection of their business and properties.

Level of Engagement of Private Security Companies in Crime Prevention

It can be deduced from the finding that PSCs are largely engaged in vigilante services which involves patrol around the community night and day to ensure that the communities are safe from criminal activities. Also, they protect resident's properties against theft and serve as security

consultancy units. They also resolve conflict between conflicting parties in the community. Anyanwu (2012) asserts that PSCs are actively engaged in services such as vigilante services, armed and unarmed guarding; patrols; escorts; transport of valuables and commercial goods; intelligence services; trained dogs; electronic monitoring; investigations; fortification of buildings; protection of works and infrastructure; protection against kidnapping; safety and self-defense training and marketing of weapons. Ekhomu (2005), asserts that “essentially, PSCs have continued to contribute meaningfully to the economic development of Nigeria through their crime control and crime prevention activities. It is clear that the government expects PSCs to play a prominent role in Nigeria’s socio-economic arrangement” Private security officers are empowered under Section 12 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (1990) to arrest any person who commits any offense in his presence while Section 14 of the same Act requires that such arrest should be handed over to the police within a reasonable time (24 Hours).

Categories of People that benefits from the services of Private Security Companies

The study found that PSCs are of great benefit to the general community and specific institutions like private schools, companies, the law court and the police are also benefactors of the services of PSCs in the study area. The rich individuals also employ the services of PSCs in the area for various purposes related to protection of lives and properties. Reno (1997) cited in Ukoji & Okolie (2016), demonstrated categories of people that benefit from the services of PSCs as he said the community, institutions can benefit from their services. For example, leaders of Angola and Sierra Leone have used PSCs to collect revenue, defend territory, and conduct diplomacy with other states. However, Zedner (2006), observes that vast security companies seek to exploit market opportunities to expand their turnover and maximize returns to their shareholders. Thus, in spite of the potential benefits and prospects of the private security sector as projected to present to the public, the beneficiaries are only those who can afford to pay the bill.

Otherwise, it is the very rich in the society that can afford the demands of the market. The implication is that the poor are still left to wriggle themselves out of insecurity and the inefficient public police. Private security provisioning is, therefore, for the highest bidder in the country.

Capacity of Private Security Companies in Supporting the Implementation of Crime Prevention

The study revealed that PSCs in the community are capable of preventing crime but in rating their performances in crime prevention they have fairly performed well in their Job of protecting lives and properties of the residents in the communities. Kasali and Odetola (2021), also noted that there have been cases where activities of some private security guards have been criticized, especially where guards infringe on the fundamental rights of innocent civilians in providing the security needs of their clients. This problem is more visible among guards commissioned by unregistered companies particularly the ethnic militias. Lyons and LaBoskey (2002), notes that the protection of critical infrastructure within a country is usually in the hands of the private security providers and relatively few law enforcement agencies have established police private security partnerships for this undertaking. Thus, the protection of a country's critical infrastructure depends on the competence of the private security officers. He further notes that the police engage the private security in getting information from them, in joint response to critical incidents from the private security clients, coordinating the protection of critical infrastructure, improving communications and data interoperability, preventing and investigating high-technology crimes, and devising responses to workplace violence.

Relationship that exists between the Private Security Officers and the Police

The study found that the relationship that exist between the PSCs and the Nigerian Police Force in the community in preventing crime and other related crimes is poor as there is lack of information sharing in terms of

investigation, disputes on handling of suspects to the police and the justice system within the police as unsatisfactory as identified by the study. The police and private security share an ultimate same goal namely: safety, protection and an overall good relationship with the public and the people that they protect. The state of insecurity in the country is manifested in increase in crime rate; the emergence and spread of politically motivated violence and assassinations; increased importation of arms and ammunition; an upsurge in ethnic, communal and religious conflicts; proliferation of ethnic and sectional militias; banditry and kidnapping, separatist agitation and the deteriorating standard of living of the people (Ukoji & Okolie, 2016). According to Sotlar & Mesko (2011), PSCs and other government agencies like the Police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) are expected to have strong bond and inter-networking relationships. In South Africa, United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia intelligence information, sharing and gathering of evidence forms the basis for PSCs and Police collaboration in crime control. In addition, PSCs collaborate with the police in mapping out hotspots for crime in order to ensure effective crime control and prevention. Ekhomu (2013), posited that the private security outfits should serve as an instrumental ally in the fight against crime in the new strategic policing however, the relationship between PSCs and the Nigerian Police has been hostile due to lack of understanding on security leverages and collaboration. He emphasized that PSCs can function as important assets in the intelligence architecture of policing in Nigeria if there is proper relationship between them and the Police.

Measures of Improving Crime Prevention

The measures were advocated by respondents to improve crime prevention in their communities. The respondents are of the view that PSCs should collaborate with the Police to ensure that they work together to get rid of crime in their communities also they suggested among others the need for PSCs to specialize in specific areas of crime prevention and control in order to ensure professionalism and good knowledge of their field to ensure adequate prevention of crime in their communities. Storm (2009) cited in Abrahamsen and Williams (2017), asserts that there is a

need for splitting private security companies into segments, or industries, that best characterize the function of the company (e.g., cyber crime, property crime, kidnapping, etc). The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) conduct periodic inspections of firms and provide annual renewal of their licenses. The Private Guard Companies Act regulates the operations of private security companies. The Act provides for the licensing of private guard companies by the Minister of Internal affairs, as well as their control and administration. The Act also stipulates the limits of the activities of the private guard companies and penalties for breach of its regulations (Abrahamsen and Williams, 2017).

CONCLUSION

Private security companies Nigeria serve as alternatives to public security outfits, and will function well if there is collaboration between the PSCs and the Nigerian Police Force. Aside from providing security they also provide employment to a good number of people in Nigeria, Kaduna State in particular. Findings from this paper show that the private security companies are actively engaged in vigilante services and protection of resident's properties; however they are faced with the problem of poor relationship with the Police in terms of information sharing and effective collaboration during crime investigation.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of the study; the following recommendations are put forward

- There should be adequate collaboration between the Police and PSCs
- PSCs should also be established based on specific field or area of expertise to enhance professionalism
- There should be adequate training of personnel of PSCs to enable them adequately prevent crime
- There should be neutral body that monitors the activities of PSCs against human right abuses
- Literates should be recruited into PSCs
- The Federal and Kaduna State government should establish institutes specifically for the training of personnel of PSCs.

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