

Armed Banditry And Human Rights Violations In Sokoto And Kebbi States, Nigeria

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Abstract

The leadership, in developed societies of the world guarantees peace and security with a view to safeguarding the human rights of the individuals, among others but unfortunately what obtains in Nigeria negates this paradigm. This paper examined the role of armed banditry in the escalation of human rights violation in Sokoto and Kebbi states in Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey research design and used the instrument of questionnaire to elicit data. A population of 3,301,600 was derived from the affected areas, while a sample size of 370 was obtained using Miller and Dillman (2011) sample size formula. However, in line with Jeff (2011) perception of taking care of non-response rate, 500 copies of questionnaire were administered. 457 copies of administered questionnaire were retrieved indicating a 91.4% response rate. Two hypotheses were formulated and the data collected were analysed using Multiple Regression and ANOVA. The study observed that before the insurgence of armed banditry, human rights record has been appreciably significant, record of human rights violation has been abysmally low and the area has been relatively peaceful. The study revealed that the upsurge of armed banditry altered the human rights profile of the area. Findings indicated that there was a positive significant relationship between armed banditry and human rights violation in these states; and that the incidences of armed banditry have significantly impacted on human rights profile in these states. It concluded that institutional failure with regards to security agencies encouraged the bandits to abuse human rights with impunity. It recommends that the security personnel should be strengthened with sophisticated weapons and other equipment required for crushing the despicable activities of the bandits; Sokoto and Kebbi's borderlands with other nations should be effectively monitored to curb the influx of illegal migrants and checkmate arms proliferation. Also, modern technology should be deployed to monitor the ungoverned spaces.

Keywords: Armed banditry, Human rights, Human rights violation, Institutional failure, Sokoto and Kebbi states Nigeria

Introduction

Armed Banditry refers to 'a type of organized crime that includes kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, rape, cattle-rustling, and the exploitation of environmental resources. It is globally acknowledged that for man to live a meaningful life, the government should provide adequate security over lives and properties, and ensure that human rights are safeguarded. This is basically due to the fact that the protection of human rights by the leadership is a necessary requirement for the attainment of peace, advancement of the individuals, and general development in any ordered society. Prior to the emergence of armed banditry in Sokoto and Kebbi states, congenial atmosphere has been engendered, while peace has remained undisrupted and businesses have been flourishing unabatedly. Available records for instance, indicate that agricultural productivity has been soaring high steadily over the years in these states (Adebisi, Azzez & Oyedeji, 2016), while political ambience has been somewhat stable.

The invasion of many rural communities in some of the local government areas of Sokoto and Kebbi states by armed bandits and the gargantuan dimensions of its deadly attacks have disrupted the peaceful co-existence in these various communities. This development has abhorrently impacted on human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states by inflicting a profound toll on human security and the dignity of humans, thus bringing about upsurge in human rights violation. This crisis of human rights violation has become worrisome to the leadership and the

Nigerian public due to the danger it portends for peaceful co-existence, human rights profile, human dignity and development in Sokoto and Kebbi states areas.

As a result of the upsurge of armed banditry in these rural communities in Sokoto and Kebbi states, many rural communities have been ransacked, while many people have equally been ruthlessly massacred. Furthermore, some people were kidnapped, and women and female children suffered untold sexual violence even in broad day light with impunity (Labe, Amande, Terngu & Atsehe, 2021). In some situations, some of the victims of bandits' attacks were maimed leading to permanent physical challenges and sometimes loss of lives while those alive often lost their freedom of movement, association and expression for many days or months due to incarceration. Invariably, family members were dislocated; communities burnt down and deserted thus giving birth to the springing up of Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDPCs) in other relatively peaceful areas of these states, a situation that may likely plunge the area into a terrible humanitarian crisis.

The government, whose responsibility it is to provide adequate security over lives and properties of its citizens in line with Hobbesian, Lockean, and Rousseau's social contract doctrine, has been fudging its responsibility. It has not been able to provide such adequately, effectively and efficiently. This could be due to certain challenges, which include porosity of borders, existence of vast ungoverned forest spaces and lack of adequate and well equipped security to perform effectively. Youth unemployment and high rate of hard drugs consumption by bandits are other contributory factors (Bilesanmi, 2021).

Government at both the federal and state levels made some efforts at confronting the hydra-headed monster. One of the strategies adopted by state governments of the troubled states was to resort to closure of schools temporarily to reduce the spate of bandits' attacks and abduction of secondary schools' students (Isenyo, 2021). In addition, several joint security patrols were organised to thwart away bandits' attacks (Akote, 2022). When these initiatives of government could not allay the fears of the people, various communities in these states resorted to self help by setting up indigenous security outfit called Yan-Sa-Kai to complement government efforts. However, these initiatives appear to be indisputably politicised on the plains of Hausa-Fulani dichotomy, apparently uncoordinated, inadequate and subsequently ineffective in taming the hydra headed phenomenon, hence it persists in a gargantuan dimension.

In spite of these efforts, the lack of adequate security personnel and necessary equipment and logistics as in best practices of the developed nations, and the synergy of efforts among the

various groups and agencies to confront the deadly bandits, equipped with more sophisticated weapons constituted a challenge for winning the war against armed banditry. Hence, bandits had a field day in attacking and intermittently ravaging these communities, gruesomely killing and maiming people wantonly without any restriction.

The above scenario created opportunities for bandits to unleash mayhem and engage in human rights violations unprecedented in the annals of Sokoto and Kebbi states. These reprehensible attacks and its pitiful consequences reversed the human rights profile of these states. Cases of loss of lives were reported; gory pictures of those ferociously murdered adorned newspaper pages, the social media platforms and were relayed on the various radio stations and television channels in Nigeria and beyond.

Despite widespread interest and many works that have been done on armed banditry in the Northwest, surprisingly, there seems to be little or dearth of information on how armed banditry escalates human rights violation in these states. Majority of the existing scholarly contributions focus either on conceptual issue, incidences, trends, and discourse on policy options. This is, therefore the gap, which the study attempts to fill. Against this backdrop, this paper examined the role of banditry in the escalation of human rights violation in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Statement of Problem

For life to be meaningful and valuable, it is assumed worldwide that every individual should be accorded human dignity and given the opportunity to enjoy basic human rights in any well structured society. These rights include freedom of movement, association and expression apart from the right to life and human dignity. Globally, the leadership of nations endeavour to guarantee the necessary conditions, in terms of provision of security for its citizens to realise their aspirations. Individuals in Sokoto and Kebbi states have steadily been enjoying basic human rights without any encumbrance before the upsurge in armed banditry. They have been pursuing their various legitimate business activities, that is, economic transactions and agricultural activities unrestrained while the socio-political environment has been stable.

The sporadic and incessant attacks of bandits, especially on the various rural communities have inflicted profound effects on the people of Sokoto and Kebbi states. As a result of these menacing attacks, many rural communities have been ransacked, people gruesomely murdered or injured and others kidnapped. For instance, Oluokun of the *PM News* reported that in January 14, 2022 bandits invaded Dankade village in Danko/Wasagu LGA in

Kebbi state, killing 13 civilians, 1 police officer and 2 soldiers (Oluokun, 2022). Also, Ejikeme of the *Arise News* equally relayed that bandits abducted about 40 students and 3 teachers from Federal Government Girls College, BirninYauri in Kebbi state in June 17, 2021 (Ejikeme, 2021).

In like manner, the *Nation Africa* of June 3, 2021 reported that bandits killed about 88 people in (eight different communities) Koro, Kimpi, Gaya, Dimi, Zutu, Rafin Gora and Iguenge villages in Danko-Wasagu Local Government area of Kebbi state (Momoh, 2021). In Sokoto state, about 20 villagers were abducted by bandits from Kwasare and Chacho villages, Wurno LGA on December 12, 2021 as reported by *Premium Times* (Babangida, 2021). Those abducted were forced to pay huge ransom before they were eventually released. In some instances, women and female children were gang-raped, while forced marriages, and gender based and sexual violence became prominent crimes perpetrated by these bandits (Rufai, 2021).

Consequent upon bandits' attack, the abducted were habitually kept incommunicado from their parents or guardians and family members. During this period, their freedom of movement, association and expression were curtailed while others even lost their rights to life or were maimed in the course of torture thereby experiencing physical disability, and thus losing their rights to human dignity. The inability of the government to effectively dislodge the armed bandits constrained the people to resort to self help, organising themselves into local vigilante groups such as Yan-Sa-Kai to confront the menace of these marauding bandits that has become rather intractable (Rufai, 2021). This situation has become highly frightening and worrisome to the government, the public and scholars alike.

Though many scholars like Rufai (2021), Ahmed (2021), Rosenje and Adeniyi (2021), Abdullahi (2019), Jafaar (2018) and Anka (2017) have attempted to analyse the incidences and consequences of armed banditry in the Northwest Nigeria generally, with the intention of remediating the occurrences, yet the ravaging scourge persists. The question could then be asked: Why has armed banditry remained prevalent and incessant in Sokoto and Kebbi states? What effects have these incidences impacted on human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states?

Objective

The main objective of this study is to investigate the impact of armed banditry on human rights violation in Sokoto and Kebbi states. The specific objectives are to:

- (i) evaluate the incidence of armed banditry on human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states;

- (ii) assess the consequences of armed banditry on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide this study.

H₀₁ The incidences of armed banditry have no significant composite contributions on human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

H₀₂ The consequences of armed banditry have not significantly impacted on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Conceptual Review

Armed Banditry

Ordinarily, armed banditry is a concept coined from two words ‘armed’ and ‘banditry’. ‘Armed’ describes a situation where an individual is being equipped with dangerous weapons while ‘banditry’ represents the act of attacking and robbing people of their valuables. A lot of definitions have been advanced by scholars to explain the concept of ‘armed banditry’. Its usage has been changing in accordance with time, environment and the circumstance. Ahmed (2021) averred that while the concept was used to designate a freedom fighter, whose intention was to emancipate the downtrodden from the rapacious claws of the elite in Europe and America of the 19th century, in contemporary era, it is however, regarded as the act of unlawful armed group, which attacks people using force or the threat of force to terrorise, steal and dispossess people of their belongings (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021).

Banditry is therefore, regarded as the incidences of armed robbery and related violent crimes, such as kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling and village or market raids. It entails the threat or use of force to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill. According to Bankoff (1998), they often consists of groups of runaways, who, on account of the various murders they had committed roam in bands through the mountains and highways, sheltering the slaves and fugitives who joined them, as well as base women and notorious witches, who accompanied them either through love for evil, or in fear of punishment for their own heinous crimes. Economic or political interests are considered to be the motivating factor behind banditry (Odinkalu, 2018).

Human Rights and Human Rights Violations

Human rights are the rights accorded every individual citizen on account of being human. They are regarded as fundamental, inalienable and natural endowment. They are enshrined in the

1948 Universal Declaration of Rights document issued by the United Nations and incorporated into the constitutions of various nations that are signatories to the document.

Human rights violation has been given many interpretations by scholars and activists. It is often perceived as a process in which the inalienable rights of the individual citizen are compromised or under siege. These rights are enjoyed on account of being human beings and not necessarily as a reward on the basis of legal status in a sovereign state. Osuntokun (2017) canvassed that the rights to self-expression, to life, to dignity, and unrestrained access to participate in decision making processes and self preservation as a pivot of human rights worldwide. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2016) conceived of human rights violation as the suppression of people's dignity from freedom to torture, and freedom of expression to silence (freedom of assemblage to isolation), in the face of injustice and dehumanisation.

Conversely perceived, when the individual citizen is restricted from exercising rights to freedom of movement, association, assemblage, expression and partaking in the political processes, significant infringement of human rights has been committed. In other words, when these cherished freedoms are not protected or brazenly disregarded, they are violated. Human rights violation could be committed by the state, a group or even an individual either directly or indirectly. Violations could be intentional or borne out of failure to prevent such occurrence. For instance, violation of rights on the part of the state could take a variety of forms. Police brutality in form of physical assault on citizens is a violation of rights, while the denial of access to justice by the judge is considered as a violation to fair trial/hearing though no physical violence is involved.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted the collapsed state theory and warlord state theory to explain this study. The collapsed state theory evolved in the mid 1990s, beginning with Zartman's (1997) work: 'Collapsed States in Africa' and another volume edited by Zartman (1995) entitled 'Collapse States'. Adopting Zartman assumption, a state could be regarded as a collapsed state when it indisputably fails to perform its responsibility as the authoritative political institution that possesses sovereignty over a geographically defined and legally recognised territory. This role, he maintains consists of three critical functions namely: serving as a sovereign authority, as an institution and as a guarantor of security.

Zartman in his assumptions avers that the phenomenon of state collapse is a process, degenerative of weak state but with no clear demarcation of turning points. He opined that the slippery slope and the downward trends of events in the systems, institutions and processes of governance are the apparent signals of state collapse. He delineated five of the ultimate signposts. For him, a collapsed state is that failed state, which has totally lost its fundamental function as a state. Milliken and Krause (2002) conceived the collapse state as a state with total breakdown of a sovereign regime, where authority and domestic order have practically vanished (Schachter, 1998).

While contributing to the collapsed state debate, a work titled ‘When States Fail’ edited by Rotberg (2004) canvassed that failed state could be classified into four groupings: the weak state, the failing state, the failed state and the collapsed state. Rotberg conceives the failed state as being tense, deeply conflicted, dangerous and bitterly contested by warring factions. What obtains in Nigeria’s Northwest currently, where bandits’ leaders are carving spheres of influence or areas of operations for themselves, and their authority holds way as reported by Rufai (2021) and confronting the government and its agencies could be likened to the warlord phenomenon of Somalia. However, Rotberg emphasised that the collapsed state should be regarded as a rare and extreme version of the failed state.

Other scholars maintain that the theoretical and conceptual literature is vast and thus put forward a broad range of causal hypotheses (Bethke & Lambach, 2012) emphasising that the path to state collapse is a complex and multi-causal process. Several studies also suggest that the process is equifinal, that is, that several different ways can lead to the same outcome. For instance, Englehart (2007) proposes a model of “self-destructive despotism” that shows how governments in Somalia and Afghanistan deliberately destroyed state institutions to remove checks and balances on their exercise of power and prevent rivals from harnessing alternative sources of power. In response, Lambach (2009) argues that Englehart’s model cannot explain state collapse in Lebanon and Tajikistan. Instead, Lambach proposes a second causal model of collapse based on these cases that is characterised by the polarisation of national politics and the militarisation of political actors.

Several objections have however, been raised by scholars against Zartman perception of the collapsed state and the failed state. In a work titled ‘The African State at a Critical Juncture’ (1998) co-edited by Villalone and Huxtable, scholars argued that the reality of the African state is more complex and diverse from what Zartman model depicts. They posited that though the

crises in African states are at a critical crossroad, oscillating between disintegration and reconfiguration, still, they have not deteriorated to the extent of Zartman's conception of them.

Furthermore, while opposing Zartman's characterisation of state collapse as a long-term degenerative disease with no clear turning points, Lemarchand (1997) asserted that there is more to it than a slippery slope and downward perceptible trend espoused by Rotberg. For instance, for state collapse to occur, he contended, three major factors of state erosion must be evident, which are ethnic exclusive policies, population density and the shrinking of the political bases of authority. The situation in African states has not actually degenerated to that extent, as such, Lemarchand concluded that Rotberg conception could not be objectively valid.

Another theory adopted as a reinforcing paradigm to explain this paper is the warlord state theory. Warlord state theory arose from the extreme gradation of the weak state. As such, it is conceived as a variant of the weak state theory. In 'Warlord politics and African states', Reno (1998a) attempted an analysis that globalisation has expanded since the end of the Cold War while economic patronage has been disrupted and rulers have resorted to using private syndicates and cronies bringing about the emergence of warlords and thus turning the conventional weak state into the warlord state. He perceived warlordism as warlord politics, which is dominated by warlords and in which the pursuit of private interest takes place through a new form of wealth creation.

The foregoing explication above is discernible in the way bandits organise cattle rustling and armed robbery, impose ransom on those abducted, taxes and rates on goods and markets respectively, and levies on ransacked communities in Sokoto and Kebbi states. This invariably is a new form of wealth creation for the violent pillaging bandits, who are bent on enriching themselves and rising up above the ladder of poverty. It is equally a reminiscent of what obtained in Liberia under Charles Taylor and Yommy Johnson during the country's civil war of recent past (Lauren, 2016), and current situation in the war-torn Somalia, which is shared among and controlled by the contending warlords (Tar & Mustapha, 2017) as well as the crisis-ridden Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Appraisal of Related Literature

Though banditry is said to be as old as the society, it has assumed a complex nature and become more violent and highly organised in contemporary era. It has attracted the attention of many scholars in many climes of the world. This is why studies continue to evolve on the subject

matter, especially with particular reference to Nigeria's Northwest. Literature is continuously expanding with a burgeoning number of academic publications, highlighting the causes, scope, trends, incidences and consequences of banditry due to the changing dynamics associated with the phenomenon (Okoli and Ugwu, 2019). A lot of definitions have been offered by scholars like Okoli and Okpaleke (2014a), Jafaar (2018) and Adegoke (2019) with a view to explaining what the concept connotes. For instance, Abdussalam, Olayiwola and Akinniyi- Duyile (2022) perceive it as:

the total of armed robbery or other violent crimes such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, village raids, highway raids that entail the use of force, or the threat of force, to intimidate a person or a group of people with the intention to rob, rape, kidnap, or kill the victims (p. 72).

Uche and Iwuamadi (2018, cited in Shanka, 2022), views banditry as

criminal escapade like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape and the brazen and gruesome massacre of people of agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons by suspected herdsmen and reprisal attacks from surviving victims, a development that has been brought to the front burner of national security (p. 156).

Hence, the phenomenon is seen as encompassing a lot of criminalities such as cattle rustling, herder-farmer conflict, armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, raping of women, and killing and maiming of people, among others.

Scholars like Rufai (2021), Okoli and Ugwu (2019), Adegoke (2019), Suleiman (2017), Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016), and Okoli and Okpaleke (2014a) unequivocally contended that armed banditry was caused by multiple factors. Okoli and Ugwu, (2019), Jafaar (2018) and Adegoke (2019) posit that the motivating factor behind banditry is border porosity and arms proliferation while Rufai (2021) is of the view that the propelling factor behind it is the presence of vast ungoverned spaces that dotted the area.

Others like Bilesanmi (2021) contend that the menace was accentuated by massive youth unemployment, pervasive poverty and institutional failure, as well as the consumption of hard drugs, among others. In recent times, bandits' attacks on various rural communities in Sokoto and Kebbi states have created an atmosphere of fear, insecurity and despondency. These scholars equally noted the profundity of devastating effect of the phenomenon on human security and dignity, while human rights profile in the affected communities has also become alarming and

terrifying. Many of the ransacked communities have been terribly destroyed, while it has equally brought about the displacement of people with its concomitant humanitarian crisis (Rufai, 2021) apart from the human rights crisis it has engendered.

Though a lot of concerted efforts have been made by stakeholders to confront this menace head-on, nevertheless, the scourge persists in more deadly dimensions (Yusuf, 2021). For instance, the government made some rigorous efforts to salvage the situation, by establishing Military Joint Task Force, a synergy of efforts among the security agencies, to patrol and comb the communities with a view to thwarting off the incessant attacks of the bandits, but this initiative appeared to be insufficient and uncoordinated thus becoming ineffective in tackling the scourge.

Even the self-help initiative of the local communities, designed as a counter-attack to bandits' onslaught (Anka, 2017) seemed to be inadequate and invariably ineffective in tackling the threat thus making it to appear insurmountable (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021). There is the supposition that the activities of the vigilante groups are sometimes politicised and characterised by highhandedness. Though one would have expected the government to successfully dislodge these bandits in view of the enormous resources at its disposal, the challenges confronting government initiative are gargantuan, consisting of lack of sufficient sophisticated weapons, communication equipment, logistics support (Bilesanmi, 2021; Mustapha, 2019). Other challenges include lack of motivation for the security personnel and corruption that characterised the management of security in Nigeria.

Though most of the studies reviewed are case studies of specific incidents of the phenomenon in some affected communities in Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi states in Nigeria's Northwest, they have nevertheless provided valuable insights into the dynamics propelling the phenomenon in Nigeria. For instance, the discovery and mining of gold escalated the scourge in Zamfara state. However, they have failed to specifically beam their searchlights on how banditry has affected the human rights profile of people in Sokoto and Kebbi states. Also, the attempts made by these studies have not enabled us to adequately evaluate the profundity of these dastardly acts on human rights profile within spatial-temporal context.

It is envisaged that this paper will therefore, assist in assessing in a comparative manner and within spatial-temporal context, the trends and effects of banditry as they impact on human rights profile of the selected states, and be able to draw out the dynamics evolving in such areas.

The urge for this paper is, therefore, borne out of the need to verify and juxtapose the human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states before the emergence of banditry with the current situation of incessant banditry attacks in these states. Through this, it is envisioned that the extent of the impact of banditry on the human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states would be established.

Study Area

The study area consists of Sokoto and Kebbi states, which are located in the Northwest Nigeria. In terms of geographical location Sokoto state stretches between latitudes 11.529°N and 13.89°N, and longitude 4.124°E and 6.796°E with a land mass of 31,830 km²; while the geographical location of Kebbi state stretches between latitudes 10.095°N and 13.27°N, and longitude 3.478°E and 6.21°E with a land area of 35,485.24 km². They share borders with Zamfara and Katsina states in the east, Niger state in the south, Benin Republics to the west of Nigeria, as well as Benin and Niger Republics in the north. These areas are majorly inhabited by people of Hausa-Fulani extraction, who are preponderantly Muslims and other ethnic nationalities, who are Christians. Bandits' attacks have terribly impacted on members of many communities in the various Local Government Areas of these states.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. It used both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study used secondary source of data in collecting data from published textbooks, journals and the internet, while it equally used primary source of data, that is, structured questionnaire as instrument to elicit data from field respondents. The essence of using the two sources to collect data is to complement each other. It is envisaged that using both sources will address all aspects of study hypotheses, serve as a check on the secondary materials and as well revalidate or refute the knowledge inherent in the secondary source.

Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of the population of the communities in the Local Government Areas that are prone to bandits' attacks in Sokoto and Kebbi states. The total estimated size of the proximate unit of the prone communities as by 2006 census figures and its 2010 projections (NPC, 2010), was 3,301,100. These LGAs were selected in view of the prevalence of the phenomenon in these communities. Such areas include communities in Isa LG.,

Kwasare and Chacho villages in Wurno LGA, Yar Tsakuwa village in Rabah LGA, Kwargba and Gatawa villages in Sabon Birni LGA and Illela and Goronyo LGA in Sokoto state. Others communities are Garara village, Ngaski District, Sakaba LGA, Kanya community in Danko Wasagu LGA, Federal Government Girls College, Birnin Yauri, Koro, Kimpi, Gaya, Dimi, Zutu, Rafin Gora Dankade and Iguenge villages and Wasagu town in Danko Wasagu LGA in Kebbi state. For the sake of maturity, the study focused attention on adults of 18years and above as its target population. This category of respondents is regarded as the active members of the society who have lived experiences of the phenomenon being investigated. A margin of five per cent was, however, given to certain members of the population considered to be incapacitated either as physically or mentally challenged

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Using the age bracket 18 years and above on the basis of 2006 census figures and its projections (NPC, 2010), a population of 3,301,600 was derived from the banditry attacks' prone communities of Sokoto and Kebbi states. After identifying the targeted population of this study, a sample size was then derived based on Millar and Dillman (2011) sample size formula:

$$S = \frac{NP(1 - P)}{(B/C)^2(N - 1) + P(1 - P)}$$

where S = required sample size, N = the population size the area being investigated and P = the population proportion expected to answer in a particular way (the most conservative proportion is 0.50); B = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (0.05); C = the Z statistics value based on the confidence level (in this case 1.96 is chosen for the 95% confidence level).

$$S = \frac{(3,301,600 \times 0.5)(1 - 0.5)}{(0.05 / 1.96)^2 (3,301,600 - 1) + 1 - 0.5}$$

$$S = 369.74$$

$$S = 370$$

For the purpose of data collection, a total number of 500 copies of questionnaire were distributed instead of the predetermined sample number of 370 sample size. This action was taken in order to avoid the problem of non-responses rate. This is in concurrence with Jeff (2011) assertion that since it is not every selected sample that may likely respond, there is the need for the researcher to increase the sample size to avoid non-response bias. In all, 457 copies of the

administered questionnaire were retrieved from respondents, which constituted 91.4% of the total number of the administered copies of questionnaire

Adopting 5 per cent limit of tolerance level (margin error level) the study was conducted using a normal approximation with confidence level of 95 per cent. The 500 sample size figure was thereafter distributed among the prone communities of the two selected states on the basis of the proportion of their respective population. The study made use of stratified random sampling technique in distributing copies of the questionnaire to respondents because the population was stratified into various groups such as age groups, sex groups, government officials, community leaders and security personnel, among others. The copies of the questionnaire were distributed to respondents in the selected states in accordance with the proportion of their respective population strength: 325 respondents in Sokoto state and 175 respondents in Kebbi state.

Instrument of Data Collection

Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection in this study. Questionnaire administration was carried out by the researchers and five (5) field assistants that were given formal training in the administration of copies of questionnaire.

Reliability

Reliability of the instrument designed for the present study was tested for internal constituency (using Cronbach's coefficient alpha). Test showed that incidences of armed banditry have significant composite contributions on human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states ($\alpha=0.796$), the consequences of armed banditry have not significantly impacted on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states ($\alpha=0.827$). Since the acceptable reliability coefficient is 0.7 or higher, the various items of the instrument were considered reliable.

Result and Discussion of Findings

The results obtained from the analysis of data collected from research participants are presented thus:

Analysis of Hypotheses

H₀₁ The incidences of armed banditry have no significant composite contributions to human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Table 1: Showing Regression and ANOVA test on the contributions of armed banditry to human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

R	=	.236 ^a
R ²	=	.056
R ² adj	=	.051
Std. Error	=	2.79560

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	208.987	2	104.494	13.370	.000 ^b
	Residual	3548.190	454	7.815		
	Total	3757.177	456			

Source: SPSS Processing of Field Data, 2022

Results in Table 1 show that incidences of armed banditry have significant composite contributions to human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states. The table shows a significant relationship between armed banditry and human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states. The result of the test in Table 1 showed a coefficient of regression $R = .236^a$ and $R^2 = .056$. The implication of this coefficient of regression is that there was strong direct association between armed banditry and human right profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Also, the F- statistics, which is $F = 13.370$ was significant at 0.05 level. This means that incidences of armed banditry have significant composite impacts on human rights profiles in Sokoto and Kebbi states. Therefore, the null hypothesis, which states that the incidences of armed banditry have no significant composite contributions on human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states is rejected.

H₀₂ The consequences of armed banditry have not significantly impacted on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Table 2: Showing correlation coefficient on the consequences of armed banditry on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	23.094	1.806		12.788	.000
	Incidence of armed banditry	.035	.054	.030	.645	.519
	consequences of banditry	.191	.038	.232	5.060	.000

a. Dependent Variable: human rights profile

Source: SPSS Processing of Field Data, 2022

Table 2 results show the consequences of armed banditry on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states. The table shows that armed banditry significantly violated human rights in Sokoto and Kebbi states in many ways. It led to the violation of freedom of movement, association and expression. It equally constraints them from enjoying their socio-economic rights to good work and good earnings, inflicting assault on their human dignity and their right to life, among others, which can somewhat be regarded as outright violation of human rights. Therefore, the null hypothesis, which states that the consequences of armed banditry have not significantly impacted on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states, is rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis. This implies that armed banditry significantly led to outright violation of human rights in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Discussion of Findings

The results in Table 1 show that incidences of armed banditry have significant composite contributions to human rights profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states. The findings of this study are therefore in consonance with the findings of the studies of scholars like and Uche and Iwuamadi (2018, cited in Shanka, 2022), which jointly submitted that incidences of armed banditry resulted in the killing and maiming of the people thereby inflicting physical disabilities on victims and denying them their right to life and human dignity. The findings further revealed that this dastardly act was invigorated by institutional failure with regards to security agencies and bandits' high rate of hard drugs consumption as concurred by Bilesanmi (2021).

The result in Table 2 indicates that the consequences of armed banditry on human rights violations in Sokoto and Kebbi states are lethal, utterly damaging and destructive of lives. It shows that there was infringement on the freedom of movement, association and expression, while the opportunity of enjoying socio-economic rights to good work and good earnings were curtailed. Also, there was assault on human dignity and right to life of the victims. An analysis of these consequences on human right profile in Sokoto and Kebbi states are illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3: Incidences of Armed Banditry Attacks and Impacts on Human Rights Profile in Sokoto and Kebbi States

S/N	Newspaper	Reporter(s)	Community/LGA	Date of Attack	Nature of Human Right Violation
Sokoto State					
1	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Kwargba & Gatawa villages in Sabon Birni LGA	March 23 & 24, 2022	Right to Life: Bandits killed 6 people and stole many domestic animals in the two communities
2	Premium Times	Abubakar Ahamadu Maishanu	Kamitau, Ololo & Rijiyar Communities, Goronyo LGA	July 17, 2019	Right to Life & Economic: 29 people were killed; shops were set ablaze while cattle were stolen.
3	Premium Times	Abubakar Ahmadu Maishanu	Tara, Sabon Birnin LGA & Dingyadi, Bodinga LGA	March 5, 2021	Right to Life: A total of 14 persons were killed by bandits in the two communities
4	Sahara Reporter	Sahara Reporter	Tunga Community, Illela LGA	March 24, 2021	Right to Life: Bandits attacked the village and killed 2 people.
5	Premium Times	Abubakar Ahmadu Maishamu	Mamande Market, Gwadabawa LGA & Ungwan Mai Lalle Market, Sabon Birni LGA	October 6 & 8, 2021	Right to Life and Economic: About 32 persons were killed in the two attacks.
6	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Gangara community, Sabon Birni LGA	September 28, 2021	Right to Life and Freedom: Bandits killed several people and abducted many others.
7	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Gatawa town, Sabon Birni LGA	November 10, 2021	Right to freedom: Bandits abducted 5 people and demanded ₦500,000 as ransom.
8	Vanguard	Wole Mosadomi & Ibrahim Hassan	Illela & Goronyo LGAs	November 15, 2021	Right to Life: Bandits on rampage killed about 15 persons in two communities
9	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Gidan Dare, Sokoto North LGA	November 15, 2021	Right to Life: Bandits attacked the community and killed NSCDC officer
10	Vanguard	Peter Duru	Isa LGA	December 6, 2021	Right to life: About 23 travellers were burnt to ashes on their way to Gayan by bandits
11	Sahara Reporter	Sahara Reporter	Kurawa, Sabon Birni LGA	December 9, 2021	Right to Life: 3 persons lost their lives to bandits'

					attack while many others were injured.
12	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Kwasare and Chacho Villages, Wurno LGA	December 12, 2021	Right to Freedom: About 20 villagers were abducted by bandits
13	Sahara Reporters	Sahara Reporters	Ambarura, Illela LGA	February 1, 2022	Right to Freedom: Bandits abducted a mother, 2 children and 1 servant at the traditional ruler's residence
14	Daily Post	Fikayo Olowolagbana	Yar Tsakuwa Village, Rabah LGA	February 20, 2022	Right to Freedom: Bandits attacked Yar Tsakuwa village and kidnapped about 9 persons, including a serving councillor
15	Daily Trust	Abubakar Auwal	Sardauna Community, SabonBirni LGA	March 6, 2022	Right to Life and Freedom: 2 people were killed while 4 others were kidnapped by bandits while working on their farmland
16	Daily Trust	Abubakar Auwal	Kwanan Danjira, Goronyo LGA	March 15, 2022	Right to Life: Bandits attacked onions trader, killed 1 person and injured 6 others
17	Vanguard	Musa Na Annabi, Emem Idio & Chioma Onuegbu	Taka Lime Village, Goronyo LGA	May 10, 2022	Right to Life and Freedom: Bandits killed 8 people and abducted many in the village
Kebbi State					
18	Sahara reporters	Sahara reporters	Wasagu town, Danko Wasagu LGA	September 27, 2020	Right to Life: Bandits stormed the town, killed one person and kidnapped seven others
19	Nation Africa	Mohammed Momoh	Koro, Kimpi, Gaya, Dimi, Zutu, Rafin Gora and Iguenge villages in Danko/Wasagu LGA	June 3, 2021	Right to Life: Bandits killed about 88 people in eight different communities in Danko-Wasagu Local Government area
20	Arise News	Abel Ejikeme	Federal Government Girls College, BirninYauri	June 17, 2021	Right to Freedom and Education: Bandits abducted about 40 students and 3 teachers of the school
21	PM News	Ayorinde Oluokun	Dankade Village, Danko/Wasagu LGA	January 14, 2022	Right to Life: Bandits invaded the village, killed 13 civilians, 1 police officer and 2 soldiers.

22	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Yauri-Koko Road	February 19, 2022	Right to Life & Freedom of Movement: Bandits killed five persons and wounded many after blocking Yauri-Koko road
23	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Sakaba LGA	March 6, 2022	Right to Life: Vigilantes were ambushed while chasing bandits and about 63 were confirmed dead
24	Premium Times	Mohammed Babangida	Kanya Community, Danko Wasagu LGA	March 9, 2022	Right to Life: 18 soldiers were killed while 8 others were injured in a deadly attack by bandits on a patrol team.
25	Punch	Punch	Garara Village, Ngaski District	March 15, 2022	Right to Life and Economic: Bandits invaded tomato-processing factory killed 4 policemen and one resident.

Source: Compilation by Rosenje et al. (2022).

These findings are in accord with that of scholars like Labe, Amande, Terngu and Atsehe (2021), which emphasised that banditry resulted in killing, maiming and outright loss of human lives apart from creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, which denied the people the opportunity of enjoying their socio-economic rights.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that armed banditry has significant composite contributions on human rights in Sokoto and Kebbi states. Therefore, all stakeholders must be vigilant about what goes on in their environment and promptly report same to the appropriate authorities to enable them take necessary action immediately. Also, the study confirmed that armed banditry has impacted on the human right profile of people in Sokoto and Kebbi states. This is a worrisome challenge that affects the realisation of individual aspirations. This implies that there is the urgent need for all concerned parties to urgently take steps to stop the ugly drift. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were offered:

- (i) Government should strengthen the security personnel by equipping them with sophisticated weapons, communication gadget and logistics to enable them confront the bandits head-on;

- (ii) Local vigilante members, who possess relevant knowledge of the terrain of the vast ungoverned forest should be trained and integrated into the security network in order to get into the nooks and crannies of the area to flush out these bandits;
- (iii) An enabling environment should be created by the government for the youth to be gainfully employed and thus checkmate the urge to be recruited into banditry;
- (iv) The relevant agencies of government should monitor our borderlands effectively to discourage the influx of illegal migrants from neighbouring countries like Niger Republic, who form the core of bandits' recruits and also properly checkmate arms proliferation;
- (v) Government should open up parts of the ungoverned spaces for military training and barracks, industrialisation, agricultural and agro-allied purposes, and the establishment of housing estates thereby creating more employment opportunities for the teeming youth population and decongesting the urban centres.
- (vi) Modern methods of surveillance such as the use of techno-based drones, satellite and GPS should be devised by the government and its relevant agencies like National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) to effectively monitor the ungoverned spaces and share such data among the relevant security agencies of government; and
- (vii) Arrested armed bandits should be prosecuted in line with the appropriate laws of the country to serve as deterrence to other members of the group.

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