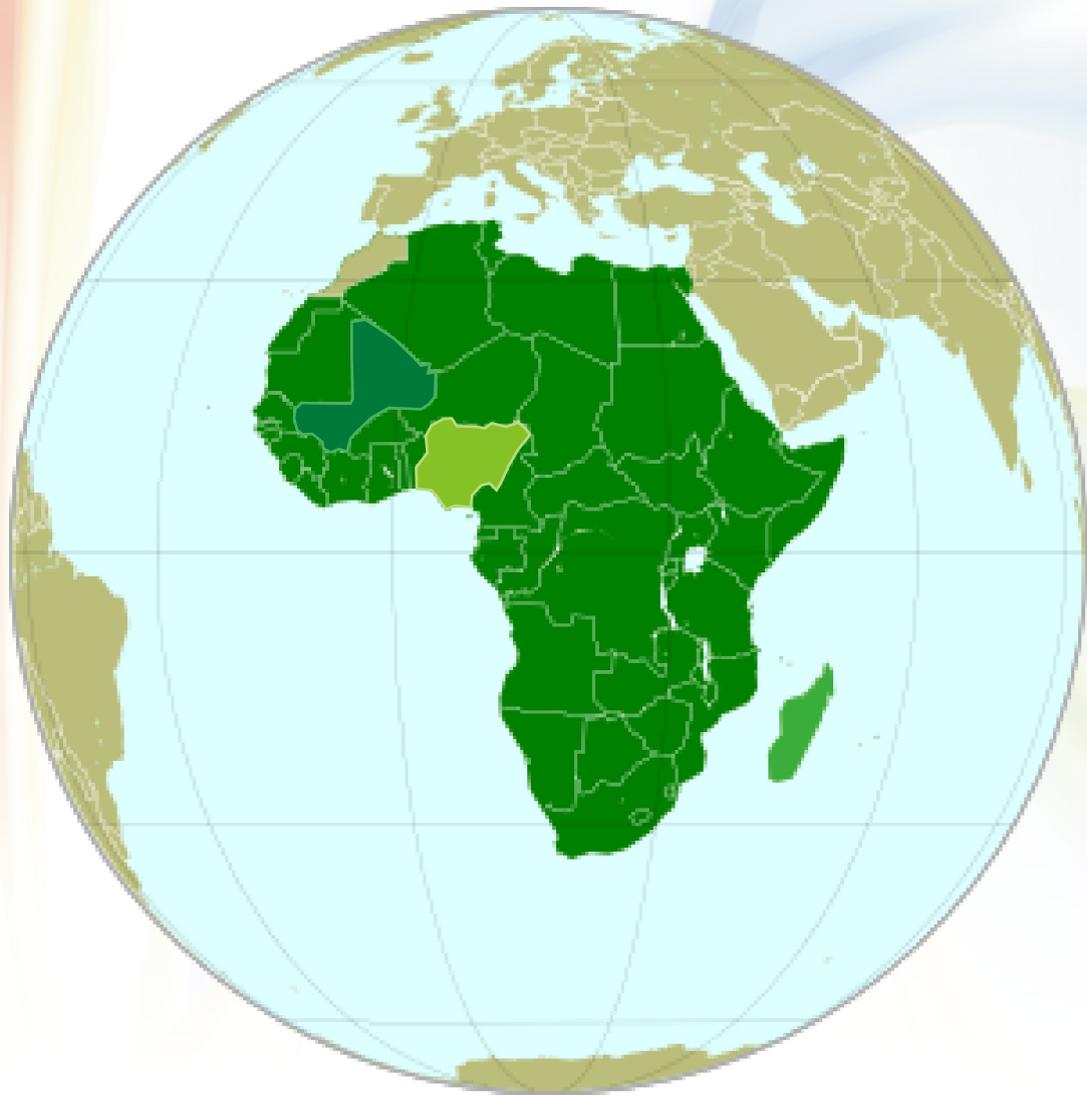


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EXAMINING PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: The paper examined some psychological theories of kidnapping in Nigeria. The phenomenon of kidnapping in Nigeria has assumed a worrisome state. However, government's attempts to taming this social problem using the classical militaristic approach without understanding the psychological and intellectual nexus, has largely failed. This paper having gone through Psychoanalytic Theory of Violent Crime, Social Learning Theory of Violent Crime, Cognitive Theory of Violent Crime, Frustration–Aggression Theory of Violent Crime and the Freud's Instinct Theory of Violent Crime identifies that security agencies lack the knowledge of applying these theories to understanding and managing the kidnapping situation in Nigeria. This paper therefore recommends the application of psychological theories to enrich the understanding of the criminal justice system with empirical information and knowledge on how the kidnapper personality is formed and sustained within the socio-political context. Thus, the paper also recommends that security agencies should be properly trained so as to have better knowledge of these psychological theories for possible applications during threats.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Violent Crime, Psychological Theories, Security Agencies, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'kidnapping' is derived from a compound word "kid", which means "child" and "nap", which means "snatch" and was first recorded in 1673. Kidnapping was originally used as a term for the practice of stealing children for use as domestic servants or labourers in the American colonies. Kidnapping is both an organized and violent crime and it is often as a result of the conspiracy of two or more people for political, economic or vengeful motives through violent means. Because kidnapping is an organized crime, it most times involves two or more people who plan to abduct and hold their victims captive to satisfy their motives or intentions.

Kidnapping is a special type of violent crime according to Anazonwu (2016). Defining the concepts precisely poses a number of problems. This is because of variations in the nation's jurisprudence and moral view points as well as the availability of other variances such as hostage taking and hijacking. Akpan (2010) attempts to differentiate between hostage taking, hijacking and kidnapping. Practically, kidnapping involves abduction; it is

considered to occur when a person is seized or detained or moved from one place to another against his/her will. Generally kidnapping has come to mean any illegal capture or detention of a person or people against their will regardless of age for ransom. Since 1768 the term “abduction” was also used in this context. In criminal law, kidnapping is the taking away of a person against the person's will, in false imprisonment, a confinement without legal authority; this is often done for ransom or in furtherance of another crime (New World Encyclopedia, 2018). The Nigerian Penal Code (2017), defines kidnapping as when someone is said to have been sported and held for whether ransom illegally or non-consensually.

Kidnapping in Nigeria have become a major feature of urban and highway crime committed largely by high profile elite criminals in the cities and township on one hand and armed robbers/bandits on the other hand. According to Ahmed (2017), the Rivers State Police Commissioner confirmed that gun men kidnapped 11 passengers in Port Harcourt of Rivers state. Investigations by Mohammed, (2018), revealed that bandits kidnapped at least 100 people along Birnin-Gwari, Kaduna road and demands 5 million ransoms. According to Agande (2018), two Americans and two Canadians were on Tuesday January, 17, 2018 at about 6.16pm kidnapped in Kaduna State by armed gunmen. Consequently, a member of the lower chamber of the National Assembly, Garba Umar Durbunde was abducted at about 1:48pm on May 31st 2017 at Jere, along Kaduna-Abuja Road. He was released upon the payment of N10 Million ransom. The most audacious of kidnap incidences was when heavily armed Kidnappers blocked the Kaduna Abuja highways for several hours and kidnapped over 50 persons. No hostage was allowed to leave without paying ransom; some paid as low as N50, 000 only (Abdulrahman, 2017). In another development, gunmen on motorcycle opened fire on a vehicle carrying workers to a construction site run by a construction company Dandata and Sowoe in Kano State, abducting a German national working for the firm and killing a police escort (Musa, 2018).

Kidnapping has increasingly spread to the North where cattle rustlers have turned to the practice after government crackdown on livestock theft. According to Abdulrahman (2008) the proliferation of small arms combined with poverty and unemployment have contributed to the rise of kidnapping in Nigeria. North Eastern Nigeria is also a scene of a long running war between the Military and Boko Haram militants who have abducted more than 1000 children since 2013 (UNICEF, 2018). Armed bandits operating along Birnin-Gwari Kaduna highway have kidnapped 87 passengers (Adekunle, 2018). Kano gunmen believed to be Boko Haram have kidnapped at least 10 persons on Nigeria oil exploration activities taking place in the Lake Chad Basin (Ughamadu, 2018). The father of Nigeria’s national football team Captain, Mkel Obi was kidnapped hours before Nigeria’s final World Cup game. Obi was asked to pay the sum of N10 million as ransom to secure his father’s release, (Kazeem, 2018). The former Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo Iweala’s mother was also kidnapped for ransom in 2012, but released after a 5 day ordeal. But there is also another dimension of kidnapping that is related to violent extremism/terrorism in which soft targets become victims in the sense that they are abducted and kept away from their families for an extended period of time in order for the abductors to secure government attention through negotiations related to the terrorists' grievances. On April 14, 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped 276 School girls from a school dormitory in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria. The Jihadists presented

themselves as Nigerian soldiers seeking to protect the girls from Boko Haram in order to convince them to leave the school. In the ensuing hours, Boko Harm took the girls in a convoy of vehicles toward the group's base in Sambisa Forest, Borno State. 57 of the girls immediately escaped from the group convoy when they suspected that the "soldiers" were actually Boko Haram members but the other 219 school girls were taken to a Boko Haram camp in Sambisa Forest (Zenn, 2018). Similarly, on February 19, 2018 at about 5.30pm 110 school girls aged between 11-19 years were kidnapped by the Boko Haram terrorist group from the Government Girls' Science Technical College (GGSTC) Dapchi, which is located in Bulabulin, Yununsari Local Government Area of Yobe State, Nigeria. Meanwhile, Boko Haram continues to enrich itself via the millions of dollars thus far paid to it by the Nigerian government in the form of ransom (Sahara Reporters, 2018).

Kidnapping Worldwide

Kidnapping in the United States remains one of the most common crimes in the country. Kidnapping statistics for US adults continue to remain elusive; the crime of kidnapping is not separately recorded by the uniform crime report (US Department of Justice Report, 2001). In 2010, according to National Crime Information Centre (NCIC) for missing persons file, over 65, 000 individuals were categorized as persons over the age of 21 not meeting the criteria for entry for any category who is missing and for whom there is a reasonable concern for his/her safety. In 1976 parental kidnapping in the United States stood at 60,000. By 1984, it was between 459,000 and 751,000. In 2010, the US Department of Justice reported 200,000 cases of parental kidnapping this comprised both domestic and international abductions. In 1999, an estimated 58,200 children were victims of non-parental abductions. The Federal Government of the US estimated 840,279 missing persons (kidnapped) cases in 2001; 50,000 were classified to be younger than 18. Around 100 cases per year can be classified as abduction by strangers. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, referring to US Department of Justice Reports (2001), about 800,000 persons are reported missing every year and about 2000 missing persons a day. Around 5% of these are under age 18. Kidnapping and hostage taking have become an international concern in recent years. Since the mid-1990's, kidnapping and hostage taking have dramatically increased as a preferred tactics of political terrorist (US Department of Justice Report, 2001). According to police statistics, nearly 2000 people worldwide have been taken hostage during the last 10 years. However, the actual number of cases could be some times higher. Hostage taking and kidnapping could occur anytime and anywhere. It is pertinent to state that the renewed popularity of hostage taking and kidnapping seem by-products of series of important international development in the war on terrorism. Hostage taking and kidnapping have well served terrorists as a supplement tactics to campaign against coalition forces. Hostage taking and kidnapping have become one of the most valued weapons in the modern terrorist arsenal (Maclyntyre, 2006).

Statement of the Problem

The violent crime of kidnapping is currently a global menace that has kept many residents in Nigeria without sleep as every person; male and female, young and old seems to command

some kidnapping value within the country. According to a presidency source, Nigeria recorded 1177 cases of kidnapping in a space of 14 months from 2016 to 2017. While 525 suspects were prosecuted, 652 are still being investigated (Chembio Publishers, 2018). It is pertinent to state here that the fact that over 1000 persons were arrested as kidnap suspects within such a short time, speaks volume of the extent which the crime has erodes the security fabrics of the country. Kidnapping has taken an alarming dimension and as the incidences of kidnapping increases in Nigeria, various explanations have been adduced including harsh socio-economic conditions, cult group activities, and political rivalries among others with varying degrees of endorsement on one hand and condemnation on the other. In tune with this confusion, law enforcement agencies appear to be at a loss as to the best way to curtail this development. In a communiqué by Idris (2017) the Inspector General of Police (IGP) attributes increasing rate of kidnappings in the country to weak laws saying the menace could conveniently be brought to a permanent end if the National Assembly comes up with stringent laws. He added that mere parading of suspected kidnappers by his agency without either taking them to law courts for prosecution or possibly sentencing to death had rather boosted the morale of the kidnappers in their nefarious activities. Consequently the IGP also complained of lack of adequate funds which has hindered the reinvigoration of the Police Force Forensic Laboratories. He said that the annual budget is a far cry from the actual requirement to address security challenges especially violent crimes like kidnapping, armed robbery and terrorism in the country and to maintain law and order (Yahaya, 2017). He however appealed to the people that the fight against kidnappers was a community fight and that tracking machine has been deployed to state to assist in enhancing the police anti-kidnapping drive (Idris, 2017). One of the major challenges for this helplessness is a poor understanding of the theoretical and phenomenological underpinnings of the criminal act.

This paper therefore intends to examine the psychological theories of violent crimes of kidnapping with the view to:

1. highlighting for a clearer understanding of the crime and the existing legal provision or definition of the crime;
2. identifying behavioural patterns and characteristics associated with the crime; and
3. examining theoretical explanations for this criminal phenomenal.

BEHAVIOURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF KIDNAPPERS

Kidnappers operate under cover in the sense that those involved in the crime conspire in the different roles that they play. There are masterminds of those who initiate it and sponsor it and the foot soldiers. Whereas the masterminds may not be seen or known immediately but the foot soldiers who undertake the operations that are seen may not be known because at the scene of the crime their faces are usually masked and covered.

Albeit, their behavioural characteristics from forensic reports and criminal profiling indicate that: 1. Kidnappers are Psychopath. According to Manson (2004) Psychopaths are persons who are sadistic, serial killers and criminal masterminds with a deranged and twisted mind

who take pleasure in the sufferings they inflict on others. Manson further argued that psychopaths deliberately work on maintaining a “mask of sanity” and conceal their nature in order to be more effective in manipulating and exploiting people. Doona (2009) describes psychopaths as individuals with no heart, no conscience and no remorse who emotionally and callously get involved in the kidnap and rape of people.

Kidnappers are narcissistic in the sense that they seek only after their own interest and pleasure. Mayo (2018) defines narcissistic behaviour as a mental personality or condition in which people have an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for excessive attention and admiration, troubled relationship and a lack of empathy for others. But behind the masks of extreme confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that is vulnerable to the slightest criticism. Consequently, people with narcissistic behaviour have exaggerated sense of self-importance and have a constant excessive admiration, exaggerated achievement and talent and also expect recognition as superior without any achievement (Trull, 2014).

Kidnappers have also been described as histrionic personality: they are attention seekers that are why they will kidnap and announce for ransom. Histrionic behaviour is a mental condition that affects the way a person thinks, perceives and relates with others. It is characterized by constant attention seeking, high emotion and over reaction. They have intense unstable emotion and distorted self-image. The American Psychiatric Association (APA, 2001) describes histrionic personality disorder as a pattern of excessive attention seeking, emotions, usually beginning in early adulthood inducing inappropriately seductive behaviour and excessive need for approval. 4. Kidnappers are drug dependent personality. Makarenko (2004) opines that the most common criminal activity that terrorist organizations are involved in is the international drug trade, thus organized crime may involve different criminal activities such as arms trade, human trafficking, racketeering by viewing the crime aspect of the continuum as solely narcotic trade. The continuum can be used as a tool to view the concept of narco-terrorism. Goldstein (1985) states that there is a relationship between drug and violent crime like kidnapping and terrorism. He argue that the perceived need for drugs can increase predatory crimes like kidnapping and armed robbery.

THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS OF KIDNAPPING

1. Psychoanalytic Theory of Violent Crime

Psychoanalytic Theory was developed by Sigmund Freud in the early 20th century (1856-1939). Freud’s theory states that unconscious forces act as determinant of personality which develops through a series of stages each of which is associated with a primary biological functions. Freud distinguishes three levels of conscious awareness: the conscious mind, the preconscious mind and the unconscious mind. In this view, the mind is composed of three parts: the Id, the Ego and the Super Ego. The Id operates on the pleasure principle. It seeks to obtain immediate pleasure and avoid pain. The Ego operates on the reality principle; it seeks safe and realistic ways to satisfy the Id by imposing moral restrictions and striving for perfection. Parents and care givers are the agents for creating the Super Ego as the system of

values, norms, ethics and attitude; it operates on sets of moral ambition known as the Conscience (sense of right and wrong).

Freud came to believe that unconscious motives particularly aggressive ones were the source of most aspects of personality. Freud viewed aggression more generally as an innate and instinctual human trait which mostly should outgrow in the normal course of human development. Freud theory posits that human beings have the energy of life force (Eros) and death force (Thanatos) that seek internal balance. Violence is thereby seen as the displacement of Thanatos from self and onto others. Freud believes that the majority of what we experience in our lives, the underlying emotions, beliefs, feelings and impulses are not available to us at conscious level. Freud opined that what drives us is buried in our unconscious mind, for example Oedipus and Electra Complex; they were both pushed down into the unconscious mind, out of our awareness, due to the anxiety they cause and they continue to impact on us dramatically through engaging in aggressive violent act of kidnapping. Consequently, looking at the three structures of the mind, it is pertinent to emphasize the fact that the Id is concerned with instant pleasure and gratification while disregarding the concern of others. It is therefore of significance when discussing violent crimes of kidnapping.

This theory further postulates that it is very possible that the prevalence of violent crime of kidnapping in Nigeria could be attributable to instant quest for gratification of the Id since some of the characteristics they exhibit are due to lack of concern for others and are influenced by their egocentric tendencies and controlled by unconscious mental processes which have been grounded in early childhood. And for their behaviour of abducting and keeping of people hostage and demanding ransom, they see this as a normal behaviour and normal way of life and no matter what the government or security agencies say or do to stop them, it will be difficult for them to listen for lack of conscience; since their aim is to satisfy and gratify their self-interest. The Ego is the second structure; here the individual begins to understand that their wishes, needs and desires in life cannot be immediately gratified, so they always throw up a tantrum. The Ego compensates for the excesses of the Id, thereby helping individuals to guide their actions within the norms and requirement of the society. The Super Ego, through parental punishment creates the set of moral ambition and sets up a reward standard of perfect conduct (Ego Ideal). It can be opined that most people don't engage in violent crime of kidnapping, hostage taking, rape and terrorism because their Super Ego holds these desires in check.

The Psychoanalytic Theory of Violent Crime as it relates to kidnapping opines that kidnapers have an underdeveloped Super Ego and this is clearly seen in their behaviour of grievance with the system due to their status of unemployment and poverty; they also complain of high level of corruption in the polity, the widening gap between the rich and the poor and reckless display of resources with impunity by the rich, they become aggressed with the society thereby engaging in violent crime of kidnapping.

2. Social Learning Theory of Violent Crime

The proponent of the Social Learning Theory is Albert Bandura (1997). Bandura posits that people learn from one another through observation, imitation and modelling. The theory has often been called a bridge between behaviourist and cognitive learning theories because it encompasses attention memory and motivation.

The Social Learning Theory of Criminology states that people learn from the community around them. This could happen in two ways -

1. Differential Association: this deals with the idea that people learn values and behaviours associated with crime.

2. Differential Reinforcement: this implies the fact that rewards and punishment shape our behaviour. Bandura (1997) proposed Social Learning Theory of Violent Crime of kidnapping, that People acquire aggression to engage in kidnapping by watching others act and noting the consequences. Kidnapping is a behaviour which can be learned through observation and imitation especially when the behaviour is being reinforced positively by payment of ransom. People whose goal in life has been blocked either due to lack of job or poverty, can easily learn the act of kidnapping or eventually become kidnappers. The social learning theory therefore presents kidnapping as a learned behaviour. People can learn the act of Kidnapping through the mass media, when they watch films containing violent acts, hostage taking, abduction and even the act of kidnapping and terrorism. By so doing, they watch people killed in cold blood through the use of sophisticated weapons, and watch teenagers carry arms and ammunition. All these are very possible avenues of learning the act of kidnapping and becoming kidnappers. Through social learning of violent crime related to kidnapping, parents in Nigeria have learnt the act of staging the kidnap of their loved ones for ransom. A woman was arrested when she arranged to get herself kidnapped in order for her husband to pay ransom when she will collect and share with her accomplice. On Thursday 13th July 2017, there was a reported case of a Lagos Chief (Baale) which made headlines when security agents found that the Chief alongside his wife and brother faked his kidnap (Abdulwahab , 2017). A 37 year old woman BukolaOgun faked own kidnap to scare her husband into relocating her and children back to the United States. (Odude, 2019). It is pertinent to note that if aggression is a learned behavior, then kidnapping which is a specific type of aggression can also be learned.

3. Cognitive Theory of Aggression of Violent Crime

The proponent of the Cognitive school of thought is Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920). The Cognitive Theory of Aggression as it relates to kidnapping states that people's beliefs strongly influence the likelihood that they will commit violence or engage in war or participate in violent crime of kidnapping. In recent years, cognitive theories of aggression have been developed in an attempt to explain violence especially violent crime as it relates to kidnapping.

Eidelson and Eidelson (2003), explain five beliefs that foster violence of kidnapping –

1. Superiority: this is the belief that the group of people is superior to another group for religious, racial or other reasons which can make it easier to contemplate killing the supposedly “inferior” people. Kidnappers, who can be very erratic, have been found to engage in the criminality for several complex motives ranging from vengeance, a superior cult attacking an inferior cult gang and most times target their victims from these other groups; they kidnap them and keep them hostage for several weeks until ransoms are paid. Some groups could kidnap for ritual purposes, most times their targets are the vulnerable and weak in the society; they go for soft targets that are kidnapped and killed for rituals. Kidnappers have taken advantage of the breakdown in law and order to target any high profile expatriate or Nigerian that could provide them with a large ransom.

2. Victims of Injustice: many groups of people believe that they are victims of injustice. Although they may have good reasons for believing that they have been victimized, this belief fosters war by justifying retaliation. The retaliatory act makes the other group feel that they are victims of injustice, too, which leads them to engage new acts of aggression. People can resort to kidnapping as a result of high corruption in the system; they feel they are victims of a corrupt system. Corruption is a major reason why the illicit business of kidnapping thrives in Nigeria. According to Saharareporters (2018), Transparency International in the year 2017 Nigeria was ranked 148 out of 180 on the list of the most corrupt nations of the world. The members of the political class in Nigeria as a whole are known for rampant embezzlement of the public funds for their individual or personal use. Because of the level of embezzlement of public funds perpetuated by politicians, some youths in a bid to get their own share of the national cake are compelled to kidnap members of the political class to get their own share of the 'national cake' from them by demanding that they pay hefty ransoms. Also, because corruption is very high and has become a culture in the country, men now see kidnapping as more of a game and nothing bad. This concept adds to the increasing number of kidnapping in Nigeria. This is evidenced by the kidnapping activities in states where high profile politicians and their relations are residents.

3. Vulnerability: This is the belief that one group is vulnerable to attack. It is to state here that some persons don't feel happy when they see others progressing in life, especially their contemporaries. This is a major problem that is prevalent among business individuals. Everybody is in one form of competition with the other especially the one who is succeeding the most. This leads people who are not doing well financially to unhealthy competition with those who are seen to be doing better. In a bid to progress in life, they sometimes begin to make plans on how to kidnap innocent people and demand for ransom sometimes this leads to the death of the victims in the hands of the kidnappers.

4. Distrust: Some groups believe that other groups are not acting in good faith but are hostile and intend harming them. This belief is often used to paint the enemy as evil and justify violence against them which could eventually lead to kidnapping. Some want to own everything in the world when people are not contented with what they have, they may turn to crime of kidnapping to make more money. A wicked business man can kidnap his

business rival to take some money from him and become richer. There have been reported cases of Kidnapping in Nigeria which was influenced by greed. A 27 year old man Isah Adamu conspired with others, kidnapped and later murdered his 55-year-old father after collecting ransom from his family (Adeoye, 2019).

5. Helplessness: Some groups of people feel that they cannot solve their problem through hard work and peaceful negotiation. Even powerful nations sometimes feel that there is no peaceful way to solve their problem except through violence or war. From the political perspective, kidnapping is seen as a political tool which is motivated by the attempt to suppress, outsmart intimidate and subjugate political opponents. For example in 2011 election one Dr. Jahalil Abubakar Tafawa Balewa leader of one of the many groups campaigning for the then president Goodluck Jonathan was abducted in his office in Abuja by four armed men. Dr. Tafawa Balewa who had been rescued from the pangs of the kidnapers had reportedly made arrangements to pay N7million ransom of the N100 million demanded by them. Furthermore, the Anambra State born former Central Bank Governor Prof. Soludo who then was PDP gubernatorial candidate had his father kidnapped by the aggrieved opponents of the same party who felt marginalized by the PDP political process. It was Turner (1998) as cited by Nsarebisi (2009) who established the relationship between “money and politics”. He said that where there are political motivation for kidnapping that ransom are also demanded. Such ransom according to him are often used to further the political objectives of the kidnapping organizations or simply to facilitate the survival of the organization, Nsarebisi (2009) in his treatise stated that the most top kidnapping operations are masterminded by government officials, opposition groups, unrewarded, uncompensated members of election rigging, militant groups and many others. Kidnapping is then seen as instrument for political vendetta and settling of political scores. The operation is organized and targeted mainly at key serving politicians or foreign workers or contractors working directly for government.

6. Sanctions from God: When people firmly believe that God wants to kill members of any other group and will reward martyrdom in heaven then they are more likely to engage in violent crimes. Many kidnappings today in the world have their root cause in religion. The head of one religion may want to overshadow the other and prepare his men to kidnap his opponent. Some other religions may want to radicalize her member with negative information in the name of religious teaching and then they create the impression among their members that kidnapping their enemies is Godly and that even when they die in the process they will inherit the kingdom of heaven. Some persons have been recruited into kidnapping in Nigeria because of such religious teachings and have most times targeted their victims from the other faith. However when they kidnap they demand huge amount of money as ransom.

4. Frustration-Aggression Theory of Violent Crime

The Frustration-Aggression Theory was proposed by John Dollard and Robert Sears (1939) and later developed by Neal Miller (1941) and Leonard Berkowitz (1969). The theory states that people aggress only in response to frustrating or other aversive circumstances and that aggression is a natural reaction to the frustration of important motives and that frustration often leads to aggressive behaviour. Other psychologists like Sigmund Freud believed that

aggression is an inborn part of human nature and a natural reaction to the frustration (blocking) of important motives. Poverty and unemployment are major driving forces that usually block people from achieving their goals in life for example people cannot eat well, or get good medical attention or services or get good education when they are in abject poverty and penury. Youth joblessness, unemployment and poverty level in Nigeria is on the increase, people find it difficult to satisfy or meet their daily needs and motives in life thereby inducing frustration, depression, helplessness, hopelessness and aggression which may result to violent crime of kidnapping. We can clearly see aggression as being an inborn reaction to frustration and pain. According to Dollard and his colleagues (1939, p.1) frustration is anything (such as the malfunctioning of vending machine) that blocks our attaining a goal. Frustration grows when our motivation to achieve a goal is very strong, and when the blocking is complete.

Berkowitz (1989) theorized that frustration produces anger and emotional readiness to aggress. Anger arises when someone or situation who frustrates us could have chosen to act otherwise (Averil; 1993 and Weiner, 1981). A frustrated person is especially likely to lash out when aggressive cues pull the cork releasing bottled-up anger. Kidnappers, terrorists and hostage takers understand the anger eliciting effect of their actions. According to McCauley (2004) and Wagner (2006) kidnappers, terrorists and hostage takers sometimes aim to commit an act that will induce a strong and angry enemy to overreact producing effects that ultimately serve the kidnapper or terrorist's interest.

5. Freud's Instinctual Theory of Violent Crime

The instinct theory of aggression as proposed Sigmund Freud states that aggression is an innate biological drive that is in the same category as the drives that are related to sex or hunger. They are instinctual and automatic. We are all born with these drives and must adapt as a means to control them. According to Freud all humans are born with potent aggressive instincts and that these instincts create a drive to commit aggressive acts like kidnapping that must be satisfied and they create an uncomfortable pressure that must be released. Consequently, it is imperative to state that man is a predator whose natural instinct is to kill with a weapon. Freud's Instinct Theory of Aggression believes that instinctual aggressive energy must always be revealed in some way and that is why most people find themselves in violent crimes of kidnapping in order to satisfy this instinctual energy

PSYCHOSOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

Kidnapping is a dehumanizing violent crime in the sense that it tempers with the victims value for life violates his/her fundamental human rights and reduces the individual to animal status. This is because in the state of learned helplessness, the victim loses his capacity to fight and preserve life in the face of an onslaught by his fellow human being who is armed with weapons of destruction that he applies callously without conscience. Consequently, the length of time it takes for his abductors to secure a ransom before he is released and or the law enforcement agents to liberate him/her through strategic and decisive operations put

him/her in a state of perpetual learned helplessness. The consequences are therefore palpable.

1. Psychological Stress and Trauma

The psychological trauma of victims of kidnapping, Prisoners of War (POW), and hostage of various forms are usually with psychological and cognitive impairment and severe mental disorder. The traumatic experience that the victims of kidnapping in Kaduna State undergo usually leaves an indelible mark on them that last a lifetime. This has a negative psychological effect, especially in children and in most cases leads to depression, anxiety and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which unfortunately has a long lasting effect. Psychological stress and trauma could be so damaging to victims and is by far the most negative effect of kidnapping. This is because those who become depressed and traumatized as a result of being kidnapped become incapacitated and their productivity level is greatly diminished.

2. Cognitive Effects

Kidnapped victims after gaining freedom, experience impaired memory, impaired concentration, confusion, flashback memories, and denial that the kidnapping never took place. Victims of kidnap indicate feelings of profound fear for another incidence.

3. Emotional Effects

The victims experience feelings of numbness and switched off emotionally. They indicate loss of interest in doing pleasurable things. They show aggressive tendencies on self and others especially family members and authority, and they also exhibit some level of fear, helplessness, hopelessness and depression.

4. Social Effects

The victims of kidnap dissociates from social group relationship, avoids anything or any person that reminds them of the event. They are easily irritated and readily deny knowledge of what had actually happened. They show extreme stress and become impulsive.

5. Atmosphere of Fear and General Distrust

In most cities in Nigeria for example where incidences of kidnapping are high, there is usually an atmosphere of fear and a general lack of trust. This tends to limit people's lives and actions which translate to reduced economic activities. Most people now in Nigeria tend to be very cautious in and around the Metropolis and highways; there is usually a form of curfew that exists in most of these kidnapping Hotspots areas in Nigeria. The rich and very wealthy, who can afford to, surround themselves with security guards armed to the teeth because of the fear of getting kidnapped.

Recommendations

1. The Nigerian Police Force and other security agencies should be trained properly to have possible grasp of these psychological theories of violent crime of kidnapping for any future possible threats.
2. The Federal Government should establish a special psychological unit for the recruitment of experts for psychological operations to handle victims of kidnapping and kidnappers arrested.
3. More psychological research that will unravel the personality of the kidnaper should be encouraged by government to enrich the criminal justice system.
4. There is need for a criminological appraisal of kidnapping and other related violent crimes like armed robbery and extremism in Nigeria.
5. Government should stop the kid gloves approach of fighting the crime of kidnapping. They should make kidnapping a high risk crime and a low reward adventure and should properly fund the police.
6. The Nigerian police should adequately be trained and equipped with necessary technology to enable them carry out their duties effectively. Proper training programs in the application of psychological theories of violent crime of kidnapping to understanding the personality traits of the kidnapper should be organized in other to acquaint the police on how to carry out investigation.
7. Government through the criminal Justice system of Nigeria should upgrade access to justice delivery. They should ensure that violent crime offenders of kidnapping are properly investigated, prosecuted, incarcerated and punished.

Conclusion

This work has contributed to knowledge in the following ways:

1. The role of Psychological Theories of Violent Crime of Kidnapping attempts to replace Militaristic approach as a crime control measure to curtailing crime of kidnapping in Nigeria.
2. It provided a general overview on the nature, origin, and psychosocial consequences of the violent crime of kidnapping in Nigeria.
3. It has helped to shed light on the strategic roles of psychological theories of violent crime of kidnapping towards the amelioration of this violent crime in the Nigeria society.

4. Finally this work will be of relevance to agencies of the criminal justice system especially the police, the courts and the prisons to improve their knowledge on this subject matter. Because of the consequences of violent crime such as kidnapping, there is the need for Psychological research to enrich the understanding of the criminal justice system with empirical information and knowledge on how a kidnapper personality is formed and sustained by the socio political context. There is also the need for the criminological appraisal of kidnapping and related violent crimes of hostage taking and terrorism for more effective crime control in Nigeria.

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