



# **Insecurity Issues In Nigeria And The Encumbrances Of The Nigeria Police Force: Rethinking The Roles Of The Upper Class; Implications And Solutions**

**Uchenna Timothy Umeifekwem Ph.D**

**Department Of Public Administration  
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University,  
Anambra State, Nigeria  
[Ukochenna2011@yahoo.com](mailto:Ukochenna2011@yahoo.com)**

## **ABSTRACT**

Insecurity is a pertinent subject of discourse globally because of its increase world over. Apparently no society is totally free from crime and criminality as such, Nigeria is in no way spared. The rising cases of crime and criminality in Nigeria and the inability of the police to sufficiently track down those criminals is indeed a source of concern. The Nigeria Police is an agency established by law to ensure the preservation of lives and properties of Nigeria citizens and to affect the maintenance of law and order. The objective of this study is to examine the efficiency of Nigeria Police Force in the provision of security. Also to evaluate the roles of the upper class on the security issues in Nigeria. This study used library research method and focus group discussion with the members of the Nigeria police force, Awka, Anambra State. Class theory was used to analyze the challenges confronting the Nigeria police force in the dispensation of their duties. Findings were that the Nigeria Police has not adequately tackled insecurity in Nigeria and that the inability of the police force to adequately secure the lives and properties of Nigerian citizens is as a result of class meddlesomeness on the activities of the police. Recommendations were that the Nigeria Police should be adequately supported in terms of training and equipment to be able to contain the rising insecurity which has taking multifarious dimensions. Also, there should be strong institutional activation that will guarantee the protection of the rights of the Police Force such that intimidations and assaults on the members of the police while on duty should be a bygone issue hence the Police will exert psychological contract that will culminate into efficiency in security provisioning.

**Keywords:** Security, Insecurity, Encumbrances, Class, Nigeria Police

## **INTRODUCTION**

Security issue is a pertinent subject of discourse globally, this is as a result of rising insecurity world over. Apparently, no society is totally free from crime and criminality as such, Nigeria is in no way spared. Across Africa and beyond, the world has continued to witness serious issues of security concern. From the 2021 Malian attack, where the poorly equipped Malian soldiers conceded territory and morale to a wave of well-armed rebels and foreign fighters from the north; to the September 21, 2013 Kenyan attack where the Kenyan security forces failed to detect and prevent a major, if not devastating attack on the ever busy Westgate shopping Mall in Nairobi; to the 2014 shocking overrun of the Iraqi army by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS); and then to the 2014 abduction of over 276 school girls in Borno State of Nigeria where the Nigeria security forces proved too weak to track their abductors or to locate where the girls were being held captive (Alumona, Onwuanabile and Okonkwo 2018).

The security threats and challenges in Nigeria are enormous, pervasive, strategic and evident. It is also perceived that apparently the security challenges in Nigeria had never been as precarious and alarming as

it is in this generation (Thomas, 2018). Nigeria which is perceived as the giant of Africa has witnessed an unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani herdsmen; Boko haram Insurgencies, Armed robbers attacks, kidnapping, political/religious crisis, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants, Child Abduction/ Trafficking etc. Apart from the various crimes mentioned, (Okolo and Anigbuogu 2019) observe that other crimes committed by these Islamic sect include; destruction of vehicles; burning of churches, police stations, schools, hospitals, clinics, shops, army barracks and residential houses; abduction of expatriates.

The United States Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Nigeria and recommends that U.S. citizens avoid all but essential travel to Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Kano, and Yobe states because the security situation in northeast Nigeria remains fluid and unpredictable. As a matter of fact, though these places were mentioned as flashpoints of insecurity, there are many other states where preponderances of wide insecurity remains very high. In fact, the Boko Haram insurgency was one of the most notorious crime in Nigeria having touched many states in Nigeria since 2009. Currently the unknown gunmen operations in the south east Nigeria has exerted so much fear that people no longer travel except in unavoidable circumstances, social gatherings are attended by only the stoic in heart as one cannot predict the arrival of the gunmen.

This precarious security situation in Nigeria is a great worry as people live in fear in every nook and crannies of Nigeria yet, the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria stipulates that “The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary aim of government”. But, unfortunately, government seems to be nonchalant over the spate of insecurity in Nigeria.

However, the Nigeria Police Force is an agency established by law to ensure the preservation of lives and properties of Nigerian citizens and to affect the maintenance of law and order. The rising cases of crime and criminality in Nigeria and the inability of the police to sufficiently track down those perpetrators is indeed a source of concern.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

The state of insecurity in Nigeria has been a thing of worry to the citizenry. Violent crimes abound in all parts of the country on daily basis maiming and killing innocent citizens in their numbers. Much worry is the grand style of the operation of these criminals, how they escape the scene after operation unchallenged and never to be caught afterwards becomes a great worry thus, places a big question mark on the competence of the law enforcement agencies especially the Nigeria police Force. The government whose primary responsibility it is in the 1999 constitution to protect the lives and properties of its citizenry seems to have no answer to the problem. The manner lives are being lost after each operation of the criminals and in most cases the poor masses are the victims, opens another vista of probing on the culpability on the upper class. Major Hamza Al- Mustapha, Chief Security Officer (CSO) to former Nigerian military ruler, General Sani Abacha has stated that rich people with access to weapons and hard drugs were behind the insecurity bedevilling different parts of the country... “From the way, they’ve access to weapons today in Africa, and different kinds of drugs, and from the kind of people that are given such things and they are using it, these have shown that the strength they have has started to overpower the laws of African countries, especially here in Nigeria.” (Major Hamza Al- Mustapha, 2021). With huge sums of money that is always earmarked for security yearly and the persistence of these criminalities in Nigeria afterwards, the government persists that they are on top of the situation that poses a great worry to the efficiency of the Nigeria police force whose duty it is to tackle insecurity.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

The major objective of this study is to find out the reason for the persistence of insecurity in Nigeria even with the presence of the Nigeria Police Force. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Examine the efficiency of Nigeria Police Force in security provisioning.
- ii. Evaluate the roles of the class in the security issues in Nigeria.
- iii. Proffer solution to the security challenges in Nigeria

### Conceptualisations

**Security:** Security has been variously defined from ideological perspectives. In some definitions it centres on its role in arresting external incursion while for some the area of interest of security is in the maintenance of law and order within its territorial borders. Security can be defined as it embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrence (Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese & Ogunde 2011). The need for security in human environment whether internal or external needs not be overemphasized. Security means freedom from danger to life and property, freedom from threats to a state's capacity to protect and develop itself in absence of certain tendencies which could undermine the internal cohesion and cooperate existence of a state and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-economic and political advancement of its people. (Alumona, Onwuanabile and Okonkwo 2018). Security is an all-encompassing condition which suggests that a territory must be secured by a network of armed forces; that the sovereignty of the state must be guaranteed by a democratic and patriotic government, which in turn must be protected by military, police and the people themselves; that the people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from devastating consequences of internal upheavals such as unemployment, hunger, starvation, disease, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation and pollution cum socio-economic injustices (Nwolise 2006 in Obi & Alumona 2018).

Ideologically, Ewetan & Urhie (2014) in Umeifekwem (2018) opine that security need was the basis of the social contract between the people and the state, in which people willingly surrendered their rights to an organ (government) who oversees the survival of all and that means evoking the principle of reciprocity rights willingly surrendered for protection to be guaranteed. Okwori (1995), in Katsina (2012) observe that until recently, most of the mainstream writings on security studies literally defined it in terms of a states' capabilities to defend its territorial integrity from threats, actual and imagined as well as acts of aggression from other potential enemies. Here the concentration is on the frustration of external aggression such that the peace of the citizenry is not threatened. If security is something that can only be felt, it must be security from something (a threat of one sort or another). For the state, the most obvious threat is that posed by another state (a threat of invasion of control by another power leading to loss of independence). This is in a manifest in a military threat, or very significantly, in the perception of a threat. It becomes imperative therefore to state that any society that does not toddle with its security has acquired the passport for greatness as attraction and motivation for investments becomes imminent.

**Insecurity:** Insecurity is a word that is almost always forgotten except when the security of any environment is threatened. Insecurity is the state of being unsafe and vulnerability to harm, that means anything that portends fear, uncertainty, and which constitutes danger to the ability of an individual, group or state to ensure adequate protection of lives and property (Alumona 2018). The concept insecurity has been described as want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe and others ( Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2013). As earlier noted that Boko haram insurgency has been one of the most devastating and challenging insecurity case which has persisted for a long time in Nigeria, the record of its activity is seen on the table below.

The Table below depicts the summary of the violent attacks and activities carried out by the Boko Haram sect from 2009- 2018 to the best of our knowledge.

<b>Year</b>	<b>States involved in the attack</b>	<b>Deaths/ Casualties recorded</b>
2009	Yobe, Borno, Bauchi and Kano.	Over eight hundred(800) killed
2010	Borno, Abuja, and Plateau	Over three hundred and thirty (33 0) killed and seven hundred (700) prison inmates acquitted.
2011	2011 Borno, Kaduna, Yobe, Niger, Bauchi, Abuja, Katsina, and Plateau	Over four hundred and twenty-five (425) were killed, over three hundred (300) persons injured. UN Building in Abuja was razed down
2012	Adamawa, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Bauchi, Plateau, Yobe, Abuja, Sokoto and Katsina	Killed over 1047, many sustained injury
2013	Borno, Adamawa, Kano, Plateau, Gombe, Yobe, Bauchi.	Killed over 732 persons and many others injured.
2014	Borno, Adamawa and Yobe	Over 270 Chibok girls were abducted in Borno State, some women were kidnapped in Adamawa, killed over 200 persons and several injured.
2015	Borno, Enugu State and Kaduna State.	Over hundred lives were claimed.
2016		Over two hundred lost their lives and properties.
2017	Enugu state, Maiduguri; Zaria, Kaduna.	Over hundred were killed and few injured.
2018	Ebonyi State, Kaduna, Benue State, Borno and Yobe State.etc.	Over seventy people were killed, 24 soldiers killed in Borno on 24th Dec., and one (1) soldier killed in Yobe State.

**Source:** Adapted from Okolo, P.& Anigbuogu, T. (2019).

Without security, individuals within a state will find it difficult to engage in productive activities. Similarly, without security, the state is bound to experience great difficulty in harnessing its human and material resources towards meaningful development and promotion of the general wellbeing of the people (Imobighe, 2001 in Alumona 2016). Conversely any society that is nonchalant to its internal and external security acquires the potentiality for collapse. Hence a secured society is that which has the capability to protect its territorial integrity against external aggression at the same time, maintains its sovereignty yet, possesses the clout to contain the imminent internal threats and criminalities within its domestic terrain.

### **The Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

Nigeria has never existed totally without the challenges of insecurity but currently, the issue has escalated beyond control. The chronological reflection of security challenges in Nigeria can be traced to the early years of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the military during and after the Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hand of the civilians. Soon after the civil war these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery (Olabanji and Ese 2014). The causes of insecurity in Nigeria are multidimensional.

**i. Youth Unemployment:** The issue of unemployment needs not over emphasized in our contemporary society. The Tertiary institutions are churning out graduates every year causing geometric increase on the labour market. The rapid rise in the country's unemployment rate has become a major source of worry. Several school leavers and employable adults are either finding it difficult to secure employment or are laid off work for one reason or the other (Adegoke 2015). In the words of Adegoke (2015) It is no longer about going to school and graduating or learning a

trade, but about how to face the reality of graduating and joining the brigade of the unemployed with little hope of what the future holds. Insecurity rises with unemployment and poverty because unemployment leads to loss of income which affects the people's ability to pay their bills and provide basic necessities for their house-holds and dependent relatives. The seriousness of unemployment even without any assistance from the government as is obtainable in developed country is more worrisome. It is because of the insecurity posed by unemployment that advanced countries make social security payments to the unemployed to keep them off the streets until they get jobs, (Kirby 2011, in Akwara, Akwara, Enwuchola. Adekunle and Udaw 2013). Unlike what obtains in most developed countries, in Nigeria, there is no social security system in place to cater for the unemployed. Thus, as the unemployed do not receive unemployment benefits from the government, most, if not all, are unable to fend for themselves. Many have thus, resorted to engaging in activities that constitute security challenges to Nigeria at the end of the day everything falls back to the police force who in most cases are overwhelmed by the numerical strength these youths.

**ii. Institutional Collapse:** According to Campbell (2010). Governance, let alone democracy, faces grievous structural challenges in Nigeria. Furthering his observation on the collapse of all the institutions as a result of corruption he asserts that ubiquitous patronage and corrupt behavior fueled by oil money is a root cause of Nigeria's political and economic cirrhosis and has lost its monopoly on violence. Campbell explains that the federal Government has failed to provide basic security for its citizens and has lost its monopoly of violence, which is two basic attributes of a sovereigns state. From the foregoing, the foundations of institutional framework in Nigeria are very shaky and have provoked deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thus, paralyzing the existing set of constraints including the formal and legitimate rules nested in the hierarchy of social order.(Achumba, Ighomeregho. & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Good government is possible in as much as people who are put in positions of authority are allowed and are committed to discharge their duties without fear or favour ; are determined to serve with zeal and patriotism; are ready to sell out to international capital and are ready to stand by the truth and die for it. (Adejumo, 2011).The culprits of criminalities when apprehended are often not meted with punishments or at worst they receive punishments not commensurate with their offences. The credibility of judicial institution is sometimes compromised.

**iv. Porous Borders:** One major salient factor which has enhanced insecurity in Nigeria is the porous frontiers of the country, where individual movements are largely untracked. According to Akinyemi (2013). Border security has come to assume heightened importance in the world today as the rate of criminal activities have also increased in scale especially since the end of Cold War and in the wake of globalization. He further maintained that Nigeria has been battling with transnational crimes which pose a serious threat to national security ranging from drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal arms trafficking, smuggling of all kinds,(contraband stolen cars, firearms) theft. Advance fee fraud known as 419, kidnapping and many more. The porosity of Nigeria's borders has serious security implications for the country. Given the porous borders as well as the weak and security system, weapons come easily into Nigeria from other countries. Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation and the availability of these weapons have enabled militant groups and criminal groups to have easy access to arms. Nigeria is estimated to host over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa, Also, the porosity of the Nigerian borders has made it possible for unwarranted influx of migrants from neighbouring countries such as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin. These migrants which are mostly young men are some of the perpetrators of crime in the country.

### **The Nigeria Police and the encumbrances in tackling Insecurity**

The Nigeria Police Force is usually described as a law enforcement authority. It is a body of people who are empowered by the state to protect lives, property, to enforce the law and reduce civil disorder. The Nigeria Police as it is known today was formed after the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914. Before then, there was the Northern Nigeria Police which operated in the Northern Region and the Southern Nigeria Police which operated in the Southern Region. The police operate with powers accorded it by the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. According to the constitution, the police have the exclusive right to operate within every territory of Nigeria, according to the laws of the land. The functions of the Nigerian Police Force are stated in the Police Act. The Police Act provides for the organization, discipline, powers and duties of the Police in Nigeria. There are general duties of the Police which are:

- Prevention and detection of crime
- Apprehension of offenders
- Preservation of law and order
- Protection of life and property
- Performance of such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of the by the Police Act or any other Act.

The abysmal performance of the police in tackling insecurity in Nigeria can be viewed from both internal and external dimensions. Looking at the internal standpoint, one begins to see the flaws arising from ineptitude and incompetence on the part of the law enforcement officers in Nigeria. On the other hand the pressure from the external environment and the Upper class manipulation is also a major factor that can affect the operation of the police force. Umeifekwem (2018) discussed the internal and external factors thus:

#### **Internal Factors**

i. **Internal Security Disorder:**The internal factors are the overt or covert flaws arising from ineptitude and incompetence on the part of the police force and their managers in Nigeria. Okeke (2012) in Idoko and Dasuma (2014) assert that usually, internal security rest on the authority of interior minister and defence minister in the federation. They are to initiate and supervise the mode of operation by the police and other security agents in the country to ensure that peace and harmonious living exist in every nooks and crannies of the country. Unfortunately, the security operatives who are deployed to some volatile areas for the sole purpose of maintenance of law and order are bereft of the goings on around their assigned areas thereby exerting porosity on security details hence, timely intervention and interception of criminality is highly elusive thus offering the criminals field day in their nefarious activities. Members of the Police Force these days lobby for where they will be posted as such competence is played down a situation that has seriously marred the efficiency of the Police in security provisioning.

ii. **Attitudinal Behaviour of the Police:** The Nigerian police, however has been labelled as rotted apples based on their modus operandi as far as corruption is concerned and that leads to public distrust. The slogan that the police is your friend is a farce. Most whistle blowers to the Police often have their identities released to the criminals by the Police and that always places them into great risk hence there is no cordial relationship between the police and the public. Aside from the poor relationships between the public and the police, the quality of police personnel, equipment, and facilities is extremely poor, and the combination of these factors makes it impossible to rely on police services in enforcing law and order (Dambazau 2014). All these, position the police as been disorderly in their operational formation. The persistent security problems and the inability of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in ensuring security and safety of life and property in the country are worrisome. The sources of security challenges in the country are numerous and cannot be blamed on

one part of the system alone. They vary from the government to the police down to the people in the society.

iii. **Absence of Psychological Contract on the part of the Nigeria Police:** The determination, commitment and fulfillment of any worker to his work to a greater level is based on psychological contract. Spindler, (1994) notes that psychological contract creates emotions and attitudes which form and control behaviour hence, Sims (1994) opines that a balanced psychological contract is necessary for a continuing harmonious relationship between the employee and his organization. For Rousseau (1998) Psychological contract should be based upon a belief that a reciprocal exchange exists that is mutually understood. That means that each of the parties is in expectation of derivable advantage as a result of entering into contract with the other, hence, psychological contract exists at an individual level, in form of a person's beliefs with regard to the terms of his/her exchange relationship with another. The individual beliefs comprising the contract involve sets of reciprocal obligations, not expectations alone, to which both the individual and other party are believed to commit themselves to. The importance of satisfaction of the members of the police towards their work needs not be over emphasized .A positive psychological contract is worth taking seriously because it is strongly linked to higher commitment to the organization, higher employee satisfaction and better employment relations. (Guest, D. Conway, N. Briner, R. and Dickman, N. 1996 in Armstrong, N. 2006). In line with the above, the average police man sees his duty as that which does not require sacrifice since if in the course of his duty he loses his life there is no guaranteed compensation or trust fund that can take up his family from where he stopped therefore the police always exert lackadaisical attitude in the dispensation of his duties and as such the criminals always have a field day.

iv. **Lack of appropriate and adequate training:** With the changing world in technology and communications the dimensions of crime is also changing as such in this modern times the police should be proactive in assessing those modern gadgets otherwise their effectiveness will be jeopardized. Hence the need for training and re-training of officers to be equal to task. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpo- Robaro 2013). The former Inspector-General of Police, Ibrahim Idris in his paper earlier referred to, "the beauty of policing is in operations at the heart of operations is communication". A crime-combating organization that lacks basic functional communication gadgets in this twenty-first century is doomed. Hence, considering the sophisticated nature of the society the police should be equipped with commensurate modern equipment both for easy accessibility of information and prompt arrival to crime spot.

v. **Insufficient Manpower:** The numerical strength of the Nigeria police is insufficient to battle the rising crime wave. The Nigerian Police (NP) formerly The Nigeria Police Force is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria with a staff strength of about 371,800 in 2016. There are currently plans to increase the force to 650,000, adding 280,000 new recruits to the existing 370,000. (Nigeria Police Weikipedia). With the population of the country put at 170million the country is still said to be under policed based on the above account. For instance, the United Nations requirement for effective policing is reportedly put at the ratio of 1:400. Arithmetically, the Nigeria police strength vis-a-vis the population of the country stands at 1:500+, which is a far cry from the world body's prescription (Odaudu2015). Ene&Onyishi( 2011) suggest that efforts should be put in crime prevention than control and that the government should increase the size of Nigeria's security agencies, empower and motivate them very well and strengthen neighborhood watch.

vi. **Corruption by Members of the Police:** Widespread of corruption among the members of the Nigeria police is alarming. This has greatly soiled the image of the police. The issue of police corruption is an undeniable fact with several evidence of their involvement. These among many others are; police connivance with some individuals to help offenders out of police custody after obtaining money from suspects, closure of case files, escorting vehicles loaded with

contraband goods and stolen items, stealing from suspects and or accident victims, stealing from crime scenes, supply of police arms and ammunition with police uniforms to criminals for monetary gain etc. (Adegoke, 2014).

vii. **Public Resentment:** The attitude of the general public towards the police is a thing of worry especially lack of respect for the police which is often seen by the way police officers are being addressed publicly. Again there has been lack of trust on the Police Force by the public. Regrettably it is an open secret that the police in Nigeria is largely unpopular. The unpopularity could be attributed in the main, to the ever present deep rooted suspicion that is embedded in the minds of many members of the Public. People prefer in most cases to refrain from reporting crucial incidents to the police than igniting police awareness. Why is this so? The answer that is often proffered is that many who have reported commissions of crimes to the Police have ended up becoming the accused and subject of unfair investigations. (Babalola, 2017).

### **Rethinking the Class Role in Security**

Marx opines that in a stratified society there are two major social groups: a ruling class and a subject class. For Marx the ascension to this position is enviable and as a result a clique is formed and very consciously they protect that interest hence the collective action of this semi infinitesimal but very powerful group to remain relevant in the political and economic mainstream. Marx asserts that the various institutions of society such as the legal and political systems are instruments of ruling class domination to further its interest. The Marxian perspective on the relationship between the social classes is devoid of equal or symmetric reciprocity rather it is characterized by relationship of exploiter and exploited, oppressor and oppressed. (Haralambos and Heald 2005). Like Marx, Weber sees class from economic perspective. For him also a class is a group of individuals who share similar position in a market economy and by virtue of that fact receive similar economic rewards. Dahrendorf class and class conflict assert that society grants the holders of social position power to exercise coercive control over others. Authority is associated with a role or position and differ from power, which Dahrendorf claims is individual. Authority is a matter of formal legitimacy backed by sanctions.

The issue of insecurity can be traceable to the inefficiency of the Nigeria police force in combating or at worst ward off criminals but the criminals seem to be taking cover under the upper class in the society to ferry across their weapons to their destinations. Examining the activities of the upper class in the compliance to the orders of the police force is not anything to write home about. The fragrant abuse and disobedient to the law enforcement agency contributes largely to the incessant violent crimes in Nigeria. Below are some of their activities that can jeopardize the security details of the conventional police. These acts are referred to as above the law syndrome and can be itemized as follows (i) Use of tinted Glass (ii) Number plate issues (iii) Non Compliance at check points (iv) Abuse of Siren (v) Violation of Traffic Light Regulations.

**i. Use of tinted Glass:** The incessant use of tinted glasses by the government officials and other political stalwarts despite the warnings from the police high command has made the act of detection by the police a herculean task. This is because the opaque nature of such vehicle glasses do not allow for clear view of the content and occupants in the vehicle as such the police officers on the tip off may be beaten by the criminals.

**ii. Number plate issue:** The importance of number plates in identification of vehicles cannot be over emphasized but, the above assertion cannot be testable in our contemporary society where the upper class most times don't even fix number plates on their vehicles rather the position for the number plate will be wrapped with black leather. So in event of crime or committing an offence apprehension of such vehicle will be difficult hence criminality could be by that act encouraged. Again most political stalwarts during elections would solicit to vehicle owners to use their names as number plates without permission from the appropriate law enforcement agencies.



**iii. Non Compliance to Police order at legitimate check points:** The disobedience of the upper class at the check points has seriously jeopardized the efficiency of the police. Exhibition of paraphernalia of office is characterized by the way the upper class look down on the law enforcement agents at check points. Many a time, they will feign to be hurrying for urgent assignments only just to escape being interrogated or searched.

**iv. Abuse of siren:** Blaring of sirens is not a new thing to Nigerians as virtually every government functionary has a convoy of pilot vehicle and policemen attached to it. In such situation it becomes impossible for policemen on legitimate check points to accost them. Worst of is when ordinary individuals who feel they have arrived organized their private security outfit with sirens a situation which gives them access anywhere not minding the content of the vehicles.

**v. Violation of traffic lights:** This has been a noticeable fact among the upper class and has to a greater level hampered the performance of the police in tracking and accosting criminals. A situation where a member of the political class fails to stop at the police check point and the police go after him and at the traffic light, again he beats the traffic light and forges ahead with all the content of his vehicle. Cases abound where it is discovered that some these personalities traffic arms in that guise hence a big challenge to the police.

**vi. Method of Recruitment and Selection in The Nigeria Police:** It is worthy of note that the performance of any organisation is predicated on the makeup of the workforce in that establishment. Recruitment therefore is the most important aspect of personnel administration. The efficiency of the government machinery and the quality of the services rendered by it depends upon the soundness of its recruitment system (Laxmikanth, 2007). At this juncture, it is worthy that the composition and control of the activities of the police is the responsibility of certain governmental agencies that control the Nigerian Police. These are: The Police Service Commission, the Nigeria Police Council and the Ministry of Police Affairs. However the Ministry of Police Affairs is the only officers and men of the Police Force. The Ministry is unique when compared to other Ministries on the basis of its statutory mandate as enshrined in section 5, 147 and 148 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which include formulating policies and provide Administrative Support for the Ministry, the Police Council and the Nigeria Police. Oversee the training and welfare matters of the Police, Police Pensions Administration, and any other matters as may be assigned by the President, Commander-in-Chief of (he Armed Forces and Chairman Nigeria Police Council. The point here then is to what extent are these constitutional responsibility of these ministries been respected in event of recruitment and selection in the Nigeria Police? Obviously the upper class in Nigeria hijack the process and incompetent people sometimes find their way into the police force.

Finally, the roles of the upper class in the security issues in Nigeria has not been commendable. The upper class in the society through their meddlesomeness in the affairs of the Police Force has stultify the exertion of professionalism in their dispensation their duties especially in tackling insecurity in Nigeria. In terms of the general affairs of the police, Umeifekwem (2018), observes that the upper class is in utter domination of their affairs in the society including allocation of position in fact, determination of who gets what and how. Owen (2014) notes that The Police Service Commission has a hands-on oversight role in the recruitment of cadet Inspectors (future senior officers) but regrettably recruitment embodies a tension between police procedures designed to ensure standards and individuals who seek to bypass those standards to gain access. It can be a particular problem when political office holders try to push candidate into the police as one Inspector observed. In the light of the foregoing, the focus group interaction with some police officers within Awka police command on anonymity endorsed, the fact that the class influence has been an over ridding factor in successful enrollment into the police and that jeopardizes their operations. Furthermore the disparity in handling the upper class especially at check points gives room to the upper class to ferry dangerous weapons used in carrying out criminal activities. Hence Umeifekwem (2018) further states that the exclusive protection being offered to these upper class, the political office holders and top government

functionaries inclusive presents unduly exuberance to their carriage thus flouting of law and order is unremorsefully exhibited. Their engagement in incriminating vices to the detriment of security enjoy exemption card from the law. At this juncture, the police becomes incapacitated as the institutions that can offer protection to them are already mortgaged to the interest of these ruling class hence the manifestation of wide range insecurity.

## CONCLUSION

Insecurity thrives more in corrupt and poorly governed environments with weak institutions. The government does not feel obligated to exercise powers and use available resources for the benefit of the people. King (2016) asserts that lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure described as the corrosion or breakdown of institutional infrastructures. Again King (2016) opined that weak security system as a result of inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training has been a hindrance to efficient security system in addition to poor attitudinal behavior of security personnel. In most cases, obviously, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise for weaponry and modern equipment manipulations thus the hope for efficient crime bursting becomes a mirage. The sources of security challenges in the country are numerous and cannot totally be blamed on one part of the system alone however, the upper class has the greatest percentage of blame on the encumbrances to efficient security provisioning in Nigeria. They vary from the government to the police down to the people in the society however, everything boils down to the unchallengeable clout of the upper class.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the problems of insecurity in Nigeria has been pinned down to the internal attitudinal behaviour on one hand and the meddlesomeness of the upper class especially in the operation of the police force, the government should as a matter of urgency while sanitizing the members of the police, should as well guaranty their protection especially when the police is confronted by the pressure of the upper class. Again, the ministry of police affairs should fully take up its responsibility of handling the affairs of the police including recruitment and selection and shun the undue influence and manipulation by the upper class. More so, the police should be timely in undergoing trainings as to upgrade their operational capabilities, this will strengthen their personality and carriage in the field, so that should they come in contact with any offender of the law or members of the upper class in the dispensation of their duties the issue of intimidation and inferiority complex will be a defeated issue.

Finally, there should be institutional activation in a way that all the organs of government will be accountable and up to the task such that the principle of moral equivalence should take its course on any offender of the law that means without the exemption of the upper class. On this note the judiciary should be strengthened so that the right of the police officers will not be trampled upon each time they encounter and accost the members of the upper class in the dispensation of their official duties rather the full weight of the law will pounce on anybody who molest any police officer in operation that no doubt, will encourage the law enforcement officers to give their best as such the issue of insecurity will be greatly minimized.

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