

# The Emerging Trends and Patterns of Non-State Actors Involvement in Crime Prevention and Control in South-West Nigeria

Egbo, Ken Amaechi<sup>1</sup>, Akan, Kevin Akpanke<sup>2</sup>, Owoseni, Joseph Sina<sup>3</sup> and Oluwafemi Fayomi<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2&3</sup>Department of Criminology and Security Studies, <sup>4</sup>Department of Political Science,  
Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

E-mail: ken.egbo@fuoye.edu.ng, kevin.akan@fuoye.edu.ng, kevinke2k2@gmail.com,  
joseph.owoseni@fuoye.edu.ng, oluwafemi.fayomi@fuoye.edu.ng

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**Abstract** - Globally, the use of formal security apparatus is approved standard of ensuring safety of lives and property in any sane society. The most developed countries of the world has fashioned out effective security control model to guarantee safety of lives and protection of citizens properties. This security measure is one of the many challenges confronting most developing nations including Nigeria. It is a very serious problem when a country cannot protect the lives and properties of its citizens. It is even a bigger problem when the lives of its citizens mean nothing to the government of the day. The continuous incidence of boko-Haram and herdsmen attack, kidnapping, suicide bombing, violence and abduction is a clear indication that present government have failed its citizen in securing them and their valuable. This study examined the emerging trends and patterns on non state actor involvement in crime prevention and control in South-West Nigeria: An old wine in new bottle. The paper adopted the Karl Mark (1874) theory of exploitation as its theoretical current. The study made use of the survey research design. Sample size of 200 was determined using Yamane sample size technique. The cluster, simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used to select respondents for the study. The study made use of questionnaire and key informant interviews as instruments for data collection. Simple percentage tables and frequency were employed to present quantitative data. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis technique and ethnographic summaries. The results revealed that the Non state actors involvement in security via Amotekun has drastically reduced crime rate, safeguard lives and property, promote socio-economic development, exposes criminals, promote peace and unity amongst others. The paper recommended that the government must make security a top priority by providing all that is required to guarantee safety of lives and properties of its citizens'. The citizens must support the government and its agencies in all means possible to reduce crime rate in the area. Effective legislation, enforcement and adequate sanction should be advocated for those caught to be perpetrating crime or sabotaging crime prevention and control efforts of the government.

**Keywords:** Non State Actors, Emerging Trend Crime Prevention and Control

## I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, the quest for a peaceful and stable society has been the preoccupation of man from ancient time to modern civilisation. As the world population increases with attendant expansion in civilization, the rate of crime also

increases. According to the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (2017), global crime rates increased steadily over the period 2000-2016, rising about 45 percent from 2,300 to over 5,700 crimes per 100,000 people. Despite the desire of nations to create an environment that is conducive for the promotion of its social activities, national safety and well-being of citizens, crime and criminal activities has become an inevitable part of human existence that poses great security threats to societies. According to Durkheim, crime is everywhere and it is impossible to find a society that is completely free from crime (Wiley, 2011). Crime is a phenomenon that is bedeviling almost every nation across the world in varying degrees as it affects government policy and programmes of development. In general, most societies consider activities such as murder, assault, armed robbery, burglary, kidnapping, breach of public peace and rape among others as violent crimes. While crimes such as adultery, corruption, drug trafficking, smuggling and road traffic offences are seen as non-violent. Measuring shifts in crime patterns over time, and between societies, is filled with difficulties because, different societies have different laws and hence different definitions of crime. Irrespective of the category of crimes, violent or non-violent, criminalized behaviour or otherwise, they all pose security threats to any society.

In an attempt to reduce crime prevalence, nations adopt various measures and strategies to ensure that crimes and criminality are controlled through a process of maintenance of law, order and good conduct in the society. Some of these measures include the engagement of security forces such as the Armed Forces, police and other paramilitary which are constitutionally formed, maintained and controlled by the government. The aim of this is to provide a crime free society for people to go about their lawful businesses peacefully and improve their well-being. However, the current multi-dimensional security threats occasioned by terrorism, militancy and other forms of asymmetric warfare have compelled some nations to seek ways to complement their beleaguered security apparatus (Odekunle, 2014). One of such ways is the involvement of vigilantes which is associated with groups of self-appointed, private citizens that undertake law and order duties in the face of absence or

incompetence of official government security control in enhancing the country's internal security.

Most government endorsing vigilantism as a means of crime control ensure its collaboration with the law enforcement in order to prevent the vigilantes from taking laws into their hands. For instance, Mexico in the early 1980s, experienced high crime rates most of which were drug related crimes. This prompted the Mexican government to establish a vigilante groups in the early 80's to protect communities against drug gangs. Specifically, the vigilante group called Union of People and Organizations of the States of Guerrero and Michoacán (UPOEGM) was formed in 2012 to fight drug gangs in these states. The creation of UPOEGM reduced drug related deaths from 387 in 2012 to less than 10 in 2015 (Zizumbo-Colunga 2016). Similarly, Tanzania in early 1990s experienced its highest drop in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a result of high crime rate in the country during that period. This necessitated the Tanzania's government to endorse a vigilante group named the Sungusungu. The Sungusungu was empowered by government to work hand in hand with the Tanzania's police force for effective crime control in the country. Consequently, between 1990 to 2013 crime rate in the country dropped by 60 per cent and 72 per cent in mugging and robberies respectively, with 20 per cent drop in burglaries and 24 per cent drop in assault cases (Adeleke, 2015). The scheme to a large extent has created the atmosphere required by individuals to engage in productive ventures in order to meet respective needs, thereby enhancing the country's internal security.

In Nigeria, the maintenance of internal security and crime control is the sole responsibility of Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in conjunction with the FGN. This is clearly stated in Section 14 (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999 that, "the security of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of government" (CFRN, 1999 As Amended). This security objective presupposes the preservation, protection and the safety of life and property of the people in the country. However, as the country's population increases from about 140 million in 2006 to over 190 million in 2018, with youths aged between 15 and 45 constituting over 65 per cent of the country's population is occasioned by increase in crime rates. Nigeria, like many other countries in Africa is particularly is prone to crime this may be because of the realities of economic inequalities characterised by massive poverty, proliferation of illegal arms and high level of unemployment. According to Nwankwo (2018), it is estimated that over 3 billion dollars' worth of small arms and light weapons are transported illegally across our national borders every year, with the figure increasing in geometric progression. Nwankwo (2018) further opined that, between 2000 and 2018, crime rates in the country has more than doubled, rising by 65 per cent from 7,458 to 17,624 monthly respectively (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). However, the existing systems of law enforcement were inadequate to respond to the problems associated with

these changes. This rising crime rate and its sophistication has been a great source of concern to government and people generally, thus, led several states including Nasarawa States in Nigeria to endorse vigilante groups in partnership with the law enforcement to control crime and safeguard peace. Some of the vigilante groups include the Oodua Peoples' Congress and Amotekun in the South West, Bakassi Boys in the South East, the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in the North East and the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN), operating in aid of the police to combat crime in the society (Akaayar, 2015).

The emergence of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria is in a response to crimes and criminality that have not only increased in degree, scope and volume but also have witnessed an unimaginable change in techniques, mode of operation and sophistication. According to Igbo (2017), "the seeming failure of Nigeria police to control the increasing wave of crime has led to independent public action against crime and criminals in some major cities of Nigeria particularly in the Northern part of the country". Since the emergence of the Amotekun (vigilante) group and its collaboration with the security agencies, crime rates reduced from, 32 monthly reported cases in 2011 to about 21 in 2018 (Auwal, 2019). This may have also improved socio-economic well-being of the people and enhance internal security of the state. In spite of the contributions of Amotekun (vigilante) group to the state internal security, its activities have attracted divergent views from populace. From personal observations, while some people praise the group and described it as a divine intervention, others like the human rights watch (2018) have condemned its activities and accused the non state actor models (vigilante group) of extra judicial killings and human rights violations. This work seeks to examine the emerging patterns and trends on non-state actors in crime prevention and control in South-West, Nigeria.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Vigilantism is one of worldwide known informal crime control mechanism. In America, the outlaws were formed to combat crime in the streets of California, New Jersey and Orleans has neighbourhood safety patrol founded by Anthony Imperiale. In South America of Mexico and Argentina in Europe, the vigilante group called Union of People and Organizations of the States of Guerrero and Michoacán (UPOEGM) was formed in 2012 to fight drug gangs in these states. In Finland the white Finns founded the Suojeluskunta, In China, the big sword society were used as vigilante, in Thailand, the Border Patrol Police formed the Volunteer Defense Corps and later expanded to Internal Security Operation Command (ISOC), in North Ireland Provincial Irish Republican Army and Irish Liberation Army to aid them in residential crime control. In El Salvador "Black Show" who were most retired army and police officers to aid in curbing crime in the neighbourhood. In Missouri France, the Neighbourhood Safety Vive carried out the vigilante activities. In England, "the Natives" were

formed to protect citizen's harassment and other criminal activities from hoodlums.

Vigilante groups in Africa have been tagged alongside with the formal crime control agencies right from earliest times. In Ghana, "the Hawks" and "the Azorka boys" are well known for its criminal control measures. In Benin Republic Youth groups under different platforms have combated criminal gangs and crime to a near zero level (Adams, 2015).

Similarly, Tanzania in early 1990s endorsed a vigilante group called the Sungusungu. The Sungusungu was empowered by government to work hand in hand with the Tanzania's police force for effective crime control in the country. Consequently, between 1990 to 2013 crime rate in the country dropped by 60 per cent and 72 per cent in mugging and robberies respectively, with 20 per cent drop in burglaries and 24 per cent drop in assault cases (Adeleke, 2015).

Vigilante groups in Nigeria can be traced to pre-colonial Community Defence Groups (CDGs) which existed before the establishment of formal security agencies. However, the continuous inefficiency of these formal security agencies has witnessed the resurgence of CDGs in the form of vigilantes. Today, there are about 230 vigilante groups in Nigeria's 6 Geo-Political Zones. Specifically, the Amotekun (vigilante) group emerged in South-West Nigeria due to increasing crime rates such as kidnapping, armed robbery and burglary among others in the Area. More recently, there have been incessant kidnapping, robbery and herdsmen attacks taking place in different locations within the region/geopolitical zone that led to the death of less than 20 people with over 53 casualties. These incessant happenings has retarded business and other social activities in the areas as traders and people from neighbouring communities who come to transact business or study stay away out of fear. The Amotekun, ever since its emergence, has recorded series of arrests which mostly was handled over to the law enforcement for prosecution. However, some members of the Amotekun vigilante group recently took laws into their hands by physically setting ablaze 2 suspected armed robbers caught in Fayemi, roundabout in Ado-Ekiti, after a robbery at a P.O.S shop. According to Abdullahi (2016) in Akan (2021), the burning of the suspected robbers is a message to others who are planning robbery in study area, that whosoever is caught would not be spared. He further added that, no arrested criminals would be further taken to police, as several criminals handled over to the law enforcement finds their way out without prosecution.

This self-jungle justice of the Amotekun has generated spontaneous reactions from residents and people of the State. Some residents see vigilante groups as an outfit they can always rely on in terms of security. Others like the human rights watch have condemned its activities and accused the Amotekun (vigilante) group of extra judicial

killings and human rights violations. The human right watch criticized the Amotekun (vigilante) on the fact that, all security agencies are established by laws, which in turn, create structures for regulating their activities.

Dambazzau (2007) investigation the role of vigilante patrol and crime control and found out that there is an effect on crime reduction. Human right watch (2015) studied vigilantism patrol and its effectiveness in crime control in Northern Nigeria. The findings revealed a contrary view that vigilante patrol does not affect crime control.

Nwankwo (2015) researched on vigilante investigation and crime control. The study showed a relationship between vigilante patrol and crime reduction. The same study was conducted by Sanusi (2017), it was reported that vigilante investigation has no effect on crime control but rather indict innocent victim and extortion money, inflict pain and facilitate hatred in the community. Adeleke (2015) undertook a survey on vigilante arrest and its impact on crime prevention in South-Western Nigeria and concluded that there is a significant relation between vigilante patrol and crime prevention. The study could not specify if the finding can be generalized to cover other areas. Amnesty International (2007) investigated vigilante arrest, inhuman treatment and crime prevention. The study revealed that vigilante arrest is unlawful, their activities are barbaric and has no effect on crime. Adamu (2013) studied vigilantism prosecution as crime control measure in Northern Nigeria. The findings revealed that vigilante prosecution significantly affect crime prevention and control. Agbonlahor (2019) examined vigilante prosecution and crime prevention and revealed that vigilantism prosecution is unlawful, harsh and very inhuman.

Ityarvar (2008) researched on the causes and effective of vigilantism in maintenance of law and order in Makurdi Metropolis of state. The study showed that vigilantism enhances the maintenance of law and order. Audu (2012) studied the role of vigilantism in the maintenance of law and order in Southern Kaduna State. The study revealed that vigilante group are themselves bias, thugs, violent and deviants hence cannot maintain law and order in the society.

Audu (2012) further argued that, the Amotekun (vigilante) is not established by law and thus, has no structure that exercises control over members. Consequently, some Amotekun (vigilante) engage in Human Rights (HR) abuses and other unlawful acts without accountability. Also, the Amotekun (vigilante) in South-west Nigeria are criticized based on professional competence. The Amotekun (vigilante) lacks the requisite training that would gear optimal performance. According to Agbonlahor (2019), lack of professional training in policing is responsible for the alleged human right abuses by the Amotekun (vigilante). It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to find answers to the following questions.

### III. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were posed to give the study a direction.

1. What is the role of patrol by Amotekun (vigilante) on crime control in South-West Nigeria?
2. What is the effect of investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime control in South-West Nigeria?
3. To what extent has arrest by Amotekun (vigilante) group affect crime control in South-West Nigeria?
4. How has prosecution by Amotekun (vigilante) group enhanced crime control in South-West Nigeria?
5. To what extent have the activities of Amotekun (vigilante) group brought about effective maintenance of law and order (crime control) in South-West Nigeria?

### IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this study is to the emerging patterns and trends on non-state actors in crime prevention and control in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

The specific objectives are

1. To examine the role of patrol by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime control in Eki State.
2. To examine the effect of investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime control in Ekiti State.
3. To explore the effect of arrest by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime control in Ekiti State.
4. To assess the effect of prosecution by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime control in Ekiti State.
5. To investigate the effectiveness of Amotekun (vigilante) group in maintaining of law and order (crime control) in Ekiti State.

### V. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on broken window theory (1969) and structural strain theory (1957). While broken window theory was used to explain the place of informal policing structures in crime control, structural strain theory was used to explain the incidence of crime in the society. The proponent of broken window theory is Philip Zimbardo (1969). The theory focuses on the control and prevention of crime from within the community as against from outside the community. It explains how effective and efficient informal policing structures are in controlling crimes compared to the formal policing structure that is made up of 'strangers'. The theory holds that only the community members can safeguard themselves from crimes. This is because they live in the community and can work and watch at all times. They also know who those potential criminals are and how best they can be contained. The core principle of informal policing structures is the constant maintenance of law and order in the various communities by members of that community.

This is in line with the core notion of broken window theory, which asserts that the constant presence of police structures makes a community less conducive for crime and criminals. Increased police presence and enforcements of informal rules of conduct and laws can make a community seem less chaotic and safer, thereby, increasing the presence and involvement of residents in their community and lowering crime rates (Palmiotto, 2000). The BWT can be incorporated into the concept of informal policing in the sense that collective efforts by both the police and community dwellers can help alleviate the rate of crime in the community as the police see residents as partners in development and vice versa.

The broken window theory asserts that if there is a crack anywhere in the community and no one is available or observant enough to take care of it, overtime it becomes a deep ditch that would pose a serious security risk to members of the society. The BWT assumes that most neighbourhood crimes are more often than not perpetrated by offenders who reside near the victims; this makes crime primarily a local problem which can best be solved locally. It has been criticized for not having enough evidence to prove that unchecked disorder could causes crime. However, due to the weakness of this theory, strain theory will be used to complement and strengthen it.

Structural strain theory was developed by Robert Merton (1957). According to him, in every society, people experience strain whenever there is a disjuncture between the culturally accepted goals and the institutionalized (conventional) means of achieving these goals. According to Merton, the social and cultural structures of society contain two major elements. The first is the culturally defined goals (culture goals) which members of a society are encouraged to recognize and value as worth striving for. Examples of such goals are wealth, material possessions, etc. The second major element of the social and cultural structure of society is the means or modes which society has institutionalized or put in place for the pursuit of culture goals.

Robert Merton asserts that in pursuit of culturally accepted goals and the means to achieving these goals, five categories of people emerge in the society. They include: the conformists, ritualists, innovators, retreatists and the rebels. For the purpose of this study, the innovators are explained as it is the strand of the theory that suitably explains the issue of crime in the society. Innovators are those individuals that accept the cultural goals of society but reject the conventional methods of attaining those goals. Examples are armed robbers, drug dealers and prostitutes.

The innovators are constantly interested in achieving success in the society but they fail to follow the acceptable laid down procedures for this. They rather devise their own means of attaining success which is oftentimes contrary to what is acceptable by members of the society. This results to all sorts of criminal activities. Innovators literarily invent

crime to achieve success. Crime for them is the short cut to success as they consider the laid down procedures by the society so long and out of reach. It is pertinent to also note that the frustrations associated being unable to achieve success through laid down societal procedures oftentimes leads people into becoming innovators. An example is a youth who has diligently gone to school and study so hard and comes out with a good grade expecting to get a job. When the job doesn't come the youth begins to think of other means of survival. In a situation like this he could invent kidnapping as a way of surviving the pains of having no job. Strain theory has been criticized because it fails to explain exactly who will commit crime, given that not all people who lack legitimate opportunities turn to crime.

## VI. METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the survey research. The main instrument that was designed and used for the study was the questionnaire. The questionnaire was structured and divided into different sections (i.e. Section A-E). The first section (i.e. section A) covered the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The remaining four (4) sections (i.e. B-E) covered the objectives of the study using Likert format. The choice of the questionnaires was because of its ability to cover a large geographic area and it is capable of concealing the identity of the respondents.

The qualitative instrument is the Key Informant Interview (KII). The interview was conducted on four (4) selected professionals in the field of crime management. In all four

(4) interview sessions was held or conducted. Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed and retrieved personally by the researcher on a face to face basis. The researcher was personally on ground to guide those whom as a result of literacy level could not feel their questionnaire. The quantitative instrument (questionnaire) was combined with the qualitative instrument (KII) in order to generate reliable and robust data for the study on non-state actor model Amotekun and crime control in the study area.

The quantitative data collected in this study was imputed into the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 20 and analyzed using simple percentages in tables and chart. This was considered appropriate because the result of the study will easily be understood and this helped the researcher to draw reasonable and adequate conclusion based on the objectives of the study. The qualitative data was analyzed descriptively through manual content analysis and ethnographic summaries. The combination of the two (quantitative and qualitative) techniques ensured that data was properly analyzed and the study has a more robust and valid outcome.

## VII. DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Table I below seeks to find out the effect of patrol by Amotekunon crime prevention and control in South-West Nigeria. An overwhelming 200(100%) agreed that Amotekun (vigilante) patrol enhances security of lives and properties. This means that it does.

TABLE I EFFECT OF PATROL BY AMOTEKUN (VIGILANTE) GROUP ON CRIME CONTROL IN SOUTH-WESTNIGERIA

Effect of Patrol	A	SA	D	SD	UN
Enhances security of life and property	65(32.5%)	135(67.5%)			
Reduces crime rate	98(49.0%)	102(51.0%)			
Guarantee safety	99(49.5%)	101(50.5%)			
Scare away intended criminals	93(46.5%)	104(52.0%)	3(1.5%)		
Bring about citizens peace of mind	82(41.0%)	114(57.0%)	1(0.5%)	1(0.5)	2(1.0%)

Sources: Field work 2019

On whether Amotekun patrol reduces crime rate in the study area, an overwhelming 200 (100%) respondents unanimously agreed that it does reduces crime rate in the area. A total of 199 (99.5%) agreed while negligible 1(0.5%) disagreed that Amotekun patrol guarantees safety. This result proved that Amotekun patrol guarantees safety in the study area. Out of 200 respondents 197(98.5%) agreed that Amotekun patrol scare away intended criminal with only 3(1.5%) disagreeing. This result clearly showed that Amotekun patrol scare away intended criminals in the area. While 196 (98.0%) agreed that Amotekun patrol guarantees peace of mind among the populace, 1(0.5%) disagreed and were undecided respectively. These overwhelming result of agreed respondents proved that Amotekun patrol bring about citizens` peace of mind in the area.

From the above table, it is clear that 200 (100%), agreed that Amotekun patrol enhances security of lives and properties, 200(100%) agreed that Amotekun patrol reduces crime rate. 199 (99.5%) agree that Amotekun patrol guarantees safety. 197(98.5%) out of 200 respondents agreed that Amotekun patrol scare away intended criminal While 196 (98.0%) agreed that Amotekun patrol guarantees peace of mind among the populace.

This shows that the effect of Amotekun patrol in the area is that, it enhances security of lives and properties, reduces crime rate, guarantees safety, scare away intended criminals and bring about citizens` peace of mind.

TABLE II EFFECT OF INVESTIGATION BY AMOTEKUN (VIGILANTE) GROUP ON CRIME CONTROL IN SOUTH-WEST NIGERIA

Effect of investigation	A	SA	D	SD
Weakens bonds among criminals	91(45.5%)	103(51.5%)	4(2.0%)	2(1.0%)
Exposes criminals	97(48.5%)	98(49.0%)	5(2.5%)	
Reduces crime rate	108(54.0%)	85(42.5%)	7(3.5%)	
Frustrates intention	110(55.0%)	86(43.0%)	4(2.0%)	
Enhances security confidence	82(41.0%)	108(54.0%)	7(3.5%)	3(1.5%)

Sources: Field work 2019

Table II seeks to find out the effect of investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime prevention and control in South-West Nigeria. Out of 200 respondents, 194(97.0%) while 6(3.0%) disagreed that investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group weakens bonds among criminals. This means that investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group weakens criminal bond. 195(97.5%) agree, while only 5(2.5%) disagree that investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group exposes criminals. This result shows that Amotekun investigation is effective as it exposes criminals to prosecution. While 193(96.5%) of the 200 respondents agreed that Amotekun investigation reduces crime rate, 7(3.5%) disagree. This result shows that Amotekun investigation reduces crime rate. It was gathered

from 196(98.0%) respondents that Amotekun investigation frustrates criminal intention among criminals 4(2.0%) disagree to that opinion. This result showed that Amotekun investigation actually frustrates criminal intention in the study area. 190(95.0%) agreed that Amotekun investigation enhances security confidence in the people. This finding indicates that Amotekun (vigilante) group investigation enhances security confidence amongst the people.

It is evident from the above findings that investigation by Amotekun (vigilante) group actually weakens bonds among criminals, exposes criminal and their intentions, reduces crime rate and enhances security confidence amongst the people in the study area.

TABLE III EFFECT OF ARREST BY AMOTEKUN (VIGILANTE) GROUP ON CRIME CONTROL IN SOUTH-WEST NIGERIA

Effect of arrest	A	SA	D	SD	UN
Scare criminals	106(53.0%)	88(44.0%)	4(2.0%)	2(1.0%)	
Deters crime commission	120(60.0%)	71(35.5%)	5(2.5%)	4(2.0%)	
Disperse criminal gangs	104(52.0%)	73(36.5%)	18(9.0%)	2(1.0%)	3(1.5%)
Frustrates crime planning	107(53.5%)	69(34.5%)	14(7.0%)	10(5.0%)	
Reduces crime rate	88(44.0%)	71(35.5%)	28(14.0%)	11(5.5%)	2(1.0%)

Source: Field work, 2019

The table III seeks to examine the role of land disputes on educational activities. The findings shows that 194(97.0%) agree, while only 6(3.0%) disagreed respectively. This result is clear that arrest by Amotekun scare away criminals.

While 191(95.5%) agreed that arrest by Amotekun (vigilante) group scare away criminals, 9(4.5%) of the respondents deters crime commission. It was gathered from 177(88.5%) agreed, 20(10.0%) disagree while 3(1.5%) were undecided whether Amotekun arrest dispersed criminal gangs. 176(88.0%) out of 200 respondents agreed that arrest by Amotekun (vigilante) group frustrates crime planning

with 24(7.0%) disagreeing. These result weld support to the fact that Amotekun arrest frustrates crime planning. 159(79.5%) agreed that arrest by Amotekun reduces crime rate while 39(19.5%) disagreed and 1(0.5%) were undecided. It is clear from the above result that Amotekun arrest reduces crime rate in the area.

The above table and findings therefore revealed that, the role of Amotekun on crime prevention and control in South-West Nigeria includes: it scare away criminals, deter crime, disperse criminal gangs, frustrates crime planning and reduces crime rate in the study area.

TABLE IV EFFECT OF PROSECUTION BY AMOTEKUN (VIGILANTE) GROUP ON CRIME CONTROL IN SOUTH-WEST NIGERIA

Effect of Prosecution	A	SA	D	SD	UN
Scare criminals	110(55.0%)	74(37.0%)	15(7.5%)	1(0.5%)	
Deters crime commission	106(53.0%)	32(16.0%)	32(16.0%)	30(15.0%)	
Disperse criminal gangs	104(52.0%)	62(31.0%)	30(15.0%)	4(2.0%)	
Frustrates crime planning	111(55.5%)	55(27.5%)	23(11.5%)	11(5.5%)	
Reduces crime rate	52(26.0%)	91(45.5%)	55(27.5%)	2(1.0%)	

Source: Field work, 2019

The table IV seeks to examine the effect of prosecution by Amotekun (vigilante) group on crime control in South-West Nigeria. 184(92.0%) out of 200 respondents agreed that Amotekun prosecution scare criminals, 138(69.0%) while 41(20.5%) disagreed. While 166(83.0%) agreed, 34(17.0%) disagreed. 166(83.0%) agreed that prosecution by Amotekun frustrates crime planning, 34(17.0%) disagreed. It was gathered from 143(71.5%) respondents that prosecution by Amotekun reduces crime rate however, 57(28.5%) of them disagreed. These finding indicates that Amotekun prosecution reduces crime rate in the study area. On the whole, the above table and findings showed clearly that prosecution by Amotekun in South-West Nigeria scare away criminals, deter crime commission, disperse criminal gangs, frustrate crime planning as well as reduce crime rate

### VIII. CONCLUSION

This study concluded that crime rate is on a steady increase and everyone now lives in fear of the unknown, given the state of insecurity in the country. The state actors have failed the citizens and populace in its social contract agreement. The safety of lives and properties of citizenry is in extreme danger and jeopardy. Hence, the need for the involvement of the non-state actors in crime prevention and control to greatly reduce or ameliorate the phenomenon of insecurity in the study area to be specific and Nigeria in general.

### IX. RECOMMENDATION

Given the findings and conclusion herein, the paper makes the following recommendations.

1. Government must be proactive in its fight against insecurity by providing all that is required to curb the menace.
2. Above all, its everyone`s duty to keep self safe and properties secured. Therefore, citizen must avoid all acts of crime precipitation.
3. All agencies saddled with the responsibilities of crime control must see each other as partners in progress and not rivals: by so doing cooperate to achieve its set objective of effective security.
4. Most importantly, all agents of socialization must perform it various roles to efficiently shape the views of their wards or adherent to ensure safe and secured society for all.

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