

An Assessment of Human Rights Protection in the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) focus on Gombe State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study assesses the human rights protection in the Nigeria Police Force in Gombe state. Three research objectives guided the study and literatures were reviewed under relevant subtopics. The study adopted a descriptive survey design and structured questionnaire designed on four pointslike scales was used in collecting data from one hundred and fourteen (114) respondents that participated in the study. Frequencies and simple percentages were used in analyzing the personal data of the respondents while mean and standard deviation was used in analyzing the research questions. The study found that: The activities of Nigerian police force in the protection of human right in Gombe state have fallen short of rules guiding human right protection. The challenges bedeviling the Nigerian Police Force in Gombe state include; corruption, lack of adequate training, lack of proper disciplinary action against violators of human rights among the police personnel, inadequate welfare, poor salary, nepotism, too much crime by the citizens, inadequate number of police personnel and lack of adequate supervision of the personnel among others. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made: The federal government should immediately set up or establish an anti- human rights violation group within the police force that will investigate and bring to justice officers found to have violated the fundamental rights of people. Moreover the state should publicly condemn and sanction all erring police officers fund wanting. This task has to be championed by the inspector general of police among others in collaboration with members of the public in community policy.

I. INTRODUCTION

The standards on human rights are not a far-fetched concept in our reality but a part of the interior legislation of each member and non-member state of the UN, including Nigeria. The idea of human rights protection emerged stronger after World War II. Before the two wars came on the scene, Adolf Hitler 1933 became the chancellor of Germany and came up with a fixation which in his book "Mein Kampf" of two categories of top races vs. the lower races, which were the Jews followed by some others of Africans, because this was his conception, he went into persecuting and punishing the lower races, many human beings were used for forced labor, experiment and many were also killed. The extermination by Nazi Germany of over six million Jews, Sinti and Romani (gypsies), homosexuals, and persons with disabilities horrified the world. Trials were held in Nuremberg and Tokyo after World War II and officials from the defeated countries were punished for committing war crimes, "crimes against peace," and "crimes against humanity.", for him he lost the war but his misdeeds stuck in the minds of those who had conquered him and became one of the major principles on what

the new world was to be constructed. (A.G.G. Ginyera-pinyewa, 2010). Governments then committed themselves to establishing the United Nations, with the primary goal of bolstering international peace and preventing conflict. People wanted to ensure that never again would anyone be unjustly denied life freedom, food, shelter and nationality. The essence of these emerging human rights principles was captured in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union Address when he spoke of a world founded on four essential freedoms: freedom of speech and religion and freedom from want and fear. The calls came from across the globe for human rights standards to protect citizens from abuses by their governments, standards against which nations could be held accountable for the treatment of those living within their borders. These voices played a critical role in the San Francisco meeting that drafted the *United Nations Charter* in 1945, in the charter of United Nations we see their efforts that contained outlines of how it was to be constructed, they took human rights seriously thus it is assertions being made about human rights. (Nancy Flowers, 1990) Police officers must implement the law, and human rights observance should always be among the priorities when performing police actions. Police officers have to be aware that any breach of law performed by them with respect to citizens during execution of their official duties constitutes a violation of human rights. In such cases, besides the responsibility born by police officer, the affected person also becomes entitled to receive compensation from the state. Human rights are almost a form of religion in today's world (Andrew Heard, 1997). They are great ethical yardstick that is used to measure a government's treatment of its people. A broad consensus has emerged in the twentieth century on rhetoric that frames judgment of nations against an international moral code prescribing certain benefits and treatment for all humans simply because they are human. Within many nations political debates range over the denial or abuse of human rights. Even in prosperous democratic countries like Canada much public discourse is phrased in the rhetoric of rights. Presently in Nigeria the issue of human rights concerning its people has been a significant one. Especially in recent years there have been a momentous number of reports of police and DSS brutality, ranging from the torture of detainees to unlawful disappearances under the guides of investigation.

The conditions of those placed under arrest are poor and in addition to this many are subjected to torture during incarceration (USDS, 2010) The U.S. Department of State in their yearly report on the condition of human rights in Nigeria stated that the treatment of detainees included rape and extrajudicial killings in addition dangerous prison conditions. Those detained were also denied fair trial in a judiciary system already subject to corruption. (Amnesty International, 2011) Law enforcement and the judiciary system was, however, not the only one subject to corruption and abuse. Restrictions have been placed on religion, assembly, speech, press, and movement and there are cases of female genital mutilation, child abuse and sexual exploitation as well as ethnic and religious discrimination. Furthermore there cases of child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, abduction and discrimination based on sexual orientation and directed at those with disabilities. (Amnesty International, 2011) The law enforcement of Nigeria is rated as the most corrupt institution in Nigeria by a survey conducted by The Institute for Development Research and of late Nigeria Bureau for Statistics (NBS). The political parties

in Nigeria on the other hand were rated to be the second most corrupt of the institutions listed. Much of this is fueled by or in no way impeded by the current political situations in Nigeria. The political system of this West African nation is riddled with corruption. Nigeria is a federal republic and is led by the current president, Muhammadu Buhari of APC political party who succeeded Goodluck Jonathan of PDP political party during the 2015 general election. The issues of political instability and corruption stem back to a number of issues. Between weak governments, poverty, lack of transparency, poor political process, and lack of political financing and religious and ethnic conflict the Nigerian political system suffers accordingly.

II. OBJECTIVES

The broad objective is the assessment of human rights protection in the Nigeria Police Force. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To determine the extent of police activities in protection of human right activities
2. To find out the challenges facing Nigerian Police in the protection of human right in Gombe state
3. To proffer possible solutions to the challenges facing Nigeria Police in the protection of human right in Gombe state

III. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

This work does not in any way pretend to be the first research work in this field of study, neither is it out as the first to extensively study the question of state responsibility for human rights abused by non-state actors. Being a subject that has drawn a lot of attention in the international realm in recent past, the subject has seen a host of books, written and articles by intellectuals, writers and experts of all shades and governmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations. Thus, a substantial part of this work will be driven from books articles and journals. For example human rights obligations of non-state actors which provide a realistic, comprehensive and excellently documented portrait of the changing status of protection of human rights against the threats posed Andrew Clapham (1996).

According to Michael M. Wechsler (1994) the officers who are appointed to the maintenance of Public tranquility among the citizens are the Police; this word Police has three meaning namely: **First** it relates to the measures which are adopted to keep or maintain law and order. The **second** has its objectives to procure to the authorities the means of detecting even smallest attempts to commit crime, in order that the guilty be arrested before their plans are executed and hand over to the courts for prosecution. This one comprehends the laws, ordinances and other measures which require the citizens to exercise their rights in a particular form. One of the functions of the Police in the performance of their duty is to defend human rights opportunity to exert their rights. This they do by providing all members of the society with opportunity to exert their rights. In addition, each Police officer is obliged to observe all rules relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms as strictly as possible while performing his or her legal duties. All effective Police operations involve the performance of Police functions in such a way that they do not infringe upon human rights. Today we live in a democratic changing society in which the Police is expected to play a very serious role in the protection of Democracy by

guiding the principle of Democracy and cannot remain in the back waters of Public development. Public expectations of Police work have changed radically. The expectation and hope of the citizen is that the police will provide an efficient service which will not infringe upon their legal rights and interest. Each unlawful Police action leads to loose of public confidence and support which reduces the efficiency of efforts to reduce crime. Human rights and its standards are not a new concept in our reality but a part of legislation of each state. Police officers must implement the law and human rights observance should always be among the priorities when performing Police duty. Police officers and other voluntary co-opted members like the vigilante groups the PCRC have to be aware that any breach of the law performed by them with respect to citizens during execution of their official duties constitutes a violation of human rights. In such cases besides the responsibility born by the Police officer, the affected person also becomes entitled to receive compensation from the state. According to Christina Dilova (2006) in order not to admit such cases, the Police officers have to observe the following rules in their routine practice.

- a. They have to use force and fire arms only as last resort when there is no alternative way to perform their tasks.
- b. To use force and fire arms only subject to strict compliance with legal and such legal requirements related to this issue.
- c. To know that they are not obliged not to obey any orders and instructions aimed at torture and maltreatment.
- d. To create their “Inner belief” related to the commitment of a crime or an offense based solely on objective facts or information.
- e. To respect the legally established assumption for the innocence of the person arrested or suspected.
- f. To respect the laws and rules regarding the attitude towards the arrested persons, suspects or witnesses when carrying out interrogations and taking explanations from the citizens.
- g. To keep the confidentiality of all information obtained with reference to the performance of their functions, save when otherwise is required by the court.
- h. To keep secret the information related to the personal life of citizens and to avoid and prevent the dissemination of such information for unauthorized purposes.
- i. To obey the legal regulations when performing searches, inspection of premises, phone tapping or checks of correspondence.
- j. To protect all persons from discrimination based on religions, ethnic or social criteria.
- k. To fill and keep in an accurate and correct way all data, registers, list and other documents required for the performance of their duties.

These rules mentioned above are to guarantee for impartiality in the actions of the Police officers. Impartiality is a sign of Police professionalism. The Police officer often is subjected to pressure both by his or her superior and by the Public (especially when investigating crimes of substantial public interest) this pressure is capable of

distorting the concept of professionalism and prompting the officer to illegal acts. In this crucial moment, it is his training and experience that will help him or her to act in an impartial and professional way. Observance of human rights is a basic requirement when performing Police activities. Respect and recognition of the personality of individual members of the society is one of the most important criteria for selection of Police officers. This has to do with the fact that no one can expect observance of human rights from people who do not include respect of others and recognition of the other's personality in their value system. The new priorities to the profession of Police officer require a change in the training of newly recruited and existing Police officers, improving their salaries, taking disciplinary actions against violators of human right among the personnel. International law and the standards of human rights are developing dynamically and the solution could therefore be an adequate training for all Police officers. Police officers may respect and protect human rights only if they are well acquainted with them. Otherwise, their only value will be on paper instead of in real life Christina Dilova (2006). Most people have argued that respect for human rights is somehow opposed to effective law enforcement. Effective law enforcement is aimed at capturing the criminal and to secure his conviction, it is necessary to "bend the rules" a little. A tendency to use over whelming force in controlling demonstrations, physical pressure to obtain information from detainees, or excessive force to secure an arrest can be observed as violations of that persons' right. Law enforcement is a war against crime and human rights are merely obstacles thrown in the path of the Police by lawyers and NGOS. According to Christina Dilova, (2006) violations of human rights by Police only make the already challenging task of law enforcement more difficult. When the law enforcer becomes the law breaker, it becomes an assault on human dignity on the law itself and on all institutions of Public authority.

The effects of Police human rights violations are multi-fold.

- They erode public confidence
- They isolate the Police from the community
- They result in the guilty avoiding sentence, and the innocent being punished.
- They force Police agencies to be reactive, rather than preventive in their approach to crime.
- They bring agents and institution of Public authority in to disrepute.

Respect for human rights by law enforcement agencies actually enhances the effectiveness of those agencies. When human rights are systematically respected, Police officers will developed their professionalism in their approaches to solving and preventing crime and maintaining Public order. It should be noted that it is not only the Nigeria Police that appeared to have been in the practice of human rights violation. There are other groups like the military, the DSS and any other agencies that has by way of contact any duty to operate with or among members of the public. The issue here is that these days other agencies other than the Police perform Police functions in terms of arrest and detention. An effective Police service is one that serves as the first line of defense in the protection of human rights. The members carry out their work in a way, which does not rely upon fear and raw power but on the contrary on the regard for the law, honor, and professionalism Skopje (2002).

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

According to Antony Lewes, (2008) human rights protection is the activity to protect defence infringement/violation of basic rights or freedoms to which all human beings are entitled by eliminating any kind of government exercise to interfere (including right to life and liberty as well as freedom of thought and expression and equality before the law). According to Antonio Cassese, (1990) to protect human rights is to ensure that people receive some degree of decent, humane treatment. Political system that protect human rights are thought to reduce the threat of world conflict, all nations have a stake in promoting worldwide respect for human rights. According to Michelle Maiese, (2004), while human rights are not always interpreted similarly across societies, these norms nonetheless form a common human rights vocabulary in which the claims of various cultures can be achieved. According to Antonio Cassese, (1990), the cause of sparking of many conflicts is as a result of failure to protect human rights and the trauma that results from severe human rights violations. As conflict intensifies, hatred accumulates and makes restoration of peace more difficult. In order to stop this cycle of violation, states must institute policies aimed at human rights protection. According to Don Hubert and Thomas G. Weiss, (2001), responsibility to protect human rights resides, first and foremost with the states themselves.

V. TORTURE

Torture is seen as a forbidden act in all circumstance, without exception, under the terms of international human rights law despite the ratification by over 145 states. The convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Commonly known as the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) 1984 article (I) state that torture mean any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or her a third person information, or confession, punishing him/her for an act he/she or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, where such pain or suffering is inflicted or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

- i. According to Article 2, each state party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.
- ii. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for torture.
- iii. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification.

VI. ARBITRARY DETENTION

Arbitrary detention is one of the forms of abuse of human rights. One of the powers of any state is the capacity to detain and imprison people, but some use unfair and arbitrary detention as means of political control. International convention on civil and political rights, 1966, article 9 states, everyone has the rights to liberty and security of person. No man shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his/her liberty except on such ground and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

According to the United Nations convention against torture and other cruel, in human or degrading treatment, 1984, article 16, Each state party shall undertake to prevent in any territory under its jurisdiction other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which do not amount to torture as defined in article 1, when such acts are committed by or at the instigation of or with the consent or of acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. In particular, the obligations contained in articles 10, 11, 12 and 13 shall apply with the substitution for references to torture of references to other forms of cruel, in human or degrading treatment or punishment. Arbitrary detention may be one of these forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

VII. EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Gabriel Ribera (2005) in his study conducted on UN accommodates human rights abuses by the police in Haiti (PNH). His findings were images of killings by the United States – armed and UN trained police Nationale de Haiti were undeniable even though the image maker of the (PNH) Madam Gessy Cameau Coicou. Justified it by saying those killed were Lava Las activist that is bandits. But the fact was that the police did not receive any notice of demonstration prior to their act of shooting. Jack Healy (2011) conducted a study on the brutality by Afgan local police in Afghanistan, his findings were that local police force trained and financed by United States killed and raped civilians stole land and carried out other abuses against villagers. They were charged with protecting, according to a report released by human rights watch. This accusation of violence, theft and impunity raise questions about whether the local police and government supported militias in Afghanistan, which are meant to play a major role in defending small villages against the Taliban, are instead undermining security at a critical time for the country and NATO led war effort.

Andrew Fagan (2007) conducted a study about the atlas of human rights (mapping violations of human rights around the globe) his findings were that in Kenya more that 1,000 people were killed in a politically motivated ethnic violence and associated police killings following Kenya 2007 election dispute which the government failed to investigate the allegations of torture and unlawful killings by the police. In a similar study in UK 2005, he observed that police officers shot dead a Brazilian at point blank range on a London underground train mistaken for a suspected terrorist bomber in an operation that was subsequently criticized and no prosecution brought against the police officer involved.

Andrew Fagan (2007) in his book the atlas of human rights (mapping violations of human rights around the globe) found out, that in Syria 2007, the Syrian government failed to acknowledge security – force involvement in the disappearances of an estimated 17,000 persons since 1970 whom vast majority remain un accounted for.

Asian legal resource centre (2006) conducted a study on the challenges police personnel faced in the discharge of their duties in Nigeria, their findings were that the personnel lacks components for effective operation, including an independent judiciary which gives rise to a situation where the police and military are often

involved in crimes and human rights violations, corruption, poor salaries, lack of incentives, lack of adequate training and the likes. Amnesty international (2000) conducted a study on the public attitude towards the police in Jamaica, their findings were that many described the police not as protectors from crime but as a force to be feared. In the communities visited, almost everyone claimed to have had direct experience of police brutality.

Andrew Fagan (2000) in his study in Albania found out that the police were alleged to have tortured or ill – treated people, minors included in over 140 incidents from 2002 – 2005. In Eritrea where he conducted a similar study, he found out that several political opponents were imprisoned between 2001 and 2008 including 11 former ministers and liberation veterans for calling for democratic reforms.

VIII. METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research work is the use of Questionnaire, structured interview (closed ended questionnaire) with relevant stake holders and other existing literatures. The researcher will get two research assistants who will help in the field work for the information gathering. The Questionnaire will be administered to the respondent with the help of the research assistants. Some relevant stake holders will be administered with structured Questionnaire. Furthermore, the researcher will explain to the respondents the aim and purpose of the study and that the answers provided will be used only for academic purpose. At the submission of the Questionnaire, the research will check to ensure that the Questions have been filled correctly to ensure accuracy of the information provided. Population: the research study will focus on the population of Akko and Gombe Local Governments. The population will also include officials of Human Rights community and members of the public. The sample will draw as follows:

Table 3.1: expected sample drawn for the study.

Categories of Expected Respondent	Population	Sample Size
Police Officers	50	50
Community Members	70	50
Human Rights Officials	30	20
Total	150	120

Source: Generated by the researcher.

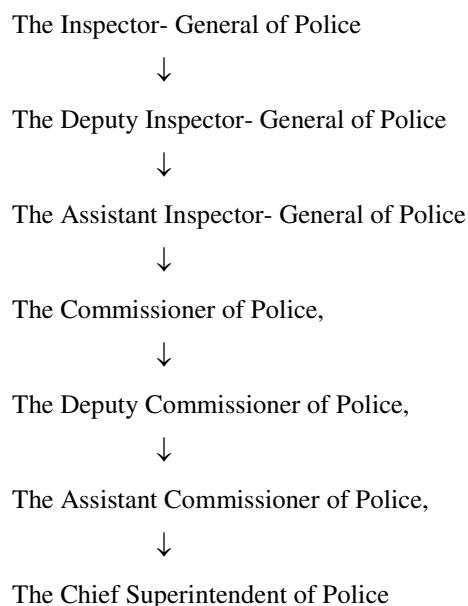
- i. The respondents sector (Police Station, detained people).
- ii. The respondents' village local government or Division (Akko and Gombe local government Areas).
- iii. The respondents' office of human rights, (officers and personnel).

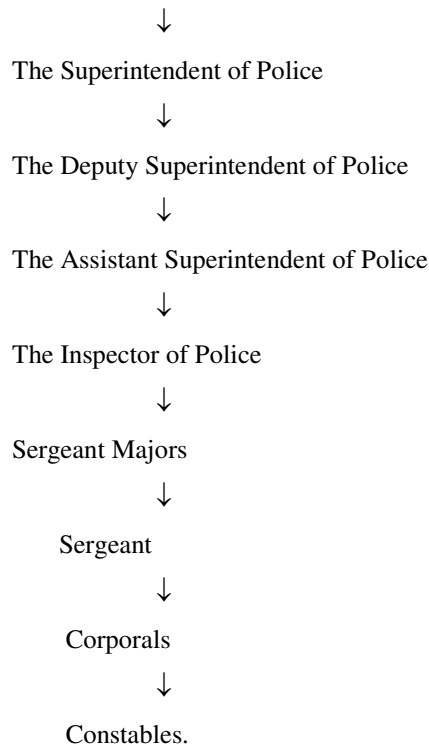
From the list of qualified respondents chosen based on the inclusion criteria, the systematic sampling will be used to finally select the respondents in each stratum with consideration to the computed minimum sample size.

IX. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE NIGEIAN POLICE FORCE (NPF)

The command structure also known to as the authority structure of the police force is predicated on the regiments' nature of the force and conducted along the force badge or ranks. This in accordance with section 215 (2) of the CFRN 1999 constitution, section 6 of the police act, 1990 laws provide that the force shall be commanded by the inspector general of police'' This simply means that orders, directives and disobedience or failure to carry out such instruction, directive or order, attract punishment. According to section 7 (1) of the police act, the next is the line to the inspector-general of police is the deputy inspector-general of police. Although this rank is not specifically mentioned in the constitution, it has legal banking because the police act is a law made by the national assembly in accordance with the constitution. According to section 7 (1) of the act, the deputy inspector-general of Police is the second in the command of the force and shall act so for him in the absence of Inspector-general of police. Section 5 of the act makes room for as many deputy inspector-general of police (DIGs) as the Nigeria police council considers appropriate. Every other rank below the Inspector-general of police, takes order of command from him, is the performance of their lawful duties. The office of the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) is provided for by section 5 and 8 of the Police Act: he shall act for the Inspector-General of Police in event of the absence of the Inspector-General Police and Deputy Inspector-General of Police section 5 of the police act, in accordance with the provisions of section 215 (2) of the Nigeria constitution, provides for the office of the Commissioner of Police. Who shall be in control of contingents of the Police Force stationed in the 36 states of the federation and Abuja FCT, Nigeria. He is subject, however, to the command of the Inspector-General of Police, or who – so – ever acts for him in his absence. Every other rank in the force is legally provided for by section 5 of the Police Act.

The command structure of the Nigeria Police can be presented in order of hierarchy as in the chain here under:





Regulation 273 of the Police regulation, cap 359 law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1990 is instructive on this issue. The Nigeria Police is administratively structured and divided into seven (7) departments A – G with each department charged with peculiar duties. Though duties are interwoven, they are distinguishable.

- I. ‘A’ department (Finance and Administration) This is the highest administrative/department of the Nigeria Police responsible for the finance and administration of the Nigeria Police Force. This department is headed by the deputy Inspector-General of Police ‘A’ department (DIG ‘A’) The Department has the following sections to actualize its functions:- (a) Central Administration. (b) Force Provost Marshall (c) Force public relations officer (FPRO) (d) Budget and Finance (e) Nigeria police force insurance (f) Nigeria police medical services
- II. ‘B’ Department of Operations (DOPS) This department is central to the police operational activities in Nigeria especially in the areas of crime prevention and maintenance of law and order. It is headed by a DIG ‘B’ and has different sections headed by an AIG, CP, DCP, and ACP. The sections are Air wing, Border patrol, Force animal, Force armament, Police mobile force, Federal operation (FEDOPS) ‘B’ department administration, Marine police, Force transport, Peace keeping, Department Counter terrorism unit (CTU) Special protection unit (SPU). Explosive ordinance disposal (EOD). Central motor registering (CMR)
- III. ‘C’ Department (Logistics and Supply) The ‘C’ department is a mixed technical business and administration concern of the Nigeria Police Force; it is headed by the Deputy Inspector -General of Police ‘C’ department (DIG ‘C’) The function of the department includes the following: Purchase and storage of police accoutrements which includes, shoes, belts, beret, caps, whistle, etc. Planning of building programmes. Construction and maintenance of police building and quarters. Arrangement of board of survey

and disposal of unserviceable/board vehicle, equipment, etc. Determination of costs of all equipment, e.g vehicles, planes, helicopters, wireless equipment, bomb disposal equipment, force animals, arms and ammunition and other riot equipment, boats, medical equipment, spare parts, printing equipment etc.

- IV. 'D' Department (Criminal Investigation Department). This department is the highest investigation arm of the Nigeria Police Force and is headed by Deputy Inspector -General of Police (DIG 'D'). Its function includes investigation and prosecution of serious and complex criminal cases within and outside the country. The department also coordinates crime investigation/prosecution throughout the force. For effective and efficient administration the Nigeria Police criminal investigation department is divided into sections with most of them headed by Commissioners of Police the sections are:-Administration, anti-fraud section, Central criminal registry (CCR), Interpol section, special Anti-Robbery Squad, 'X' Squad Section General investigation, special fraud unit, Homicide section, Forensic science laboratory, Anti Human Trafficking, legal section, Force CID Annex where we have one in Lagos and Kaduna.
- V. 'E' Department (Training) This is one of the seven departments in the Nigeria Police Force. It is headed by a DIG 'E' (training) it plans and coordinates all activities geared towards the training needs of the Force. The department equally coordinates the recruitment process of the force, staff and man power development, training and retraining of officers and men of the force. It is specifically saddled with the task of formulating and implementing policies on training and man power development of align the force with dynamic pattern of the society.
- VI. Other Department are 'F' department of research and planning, 'G' department (information communication technology) which are all headed by DIG 'F' and 'G'. 'F' department has the administration audit and inspection section. There is also the research and development section, there is also the community policing and strategy department, and there is also service section. The 'G' Department Information Communication Technology (department with the ICT section).
- VII. Others are the Force Intelligence Bureau as well as the office of the Force Secretary which is responsible for the general supervision and co-ordination of the activities and the drawing up of policy matters for the Force. Appointment to senior police officers in the force, promotion of senior police officers, posting and deployment of senior police officers, discipline of senior police officers, processing of matters of retirements and certificate of service of senior police officers, custody of personal records and files of senior police officers, implementation of policies and decisions of police council meetings as directed by the Inspector-General of Police, liaison with Police Affairs department on matters affecting senior police officers, career planning for senior police officers and liaison with police service commission on matters of senior police officers.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

The data collected for this study were statistically analyzed and presented below One hundred and twenty (120) questionnaire were distributed out of which six (6) were not returned. Therefore the analysis was based on the number of the retrieved questionnaire (114). Frequency and percentages were used in analyzing the

demographic characteristics of the respondents while Mean (X) and standard deviation (SD) were used in analyzing the research questions and results tabulated. Each table contains information on the responses to the research questions.

Table 4.1.1 Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Approximated % of the resp.
Male	80	70.18	70
Female	34	29.82	30
Total	114	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.1.1 above indicated that 80 respondents representing 70.18% were males while the remaining 34 respondents representing 29.82% were females. This indicated that the majority of the respondents were males.

Table 4.1.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Approximate % of the resp.
Single	48	42.11	42
Married	66	57.89	58
Divorced	0	0	0
Total	114	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.1.2 revealed that 48 respondents representing 42.11% were single, 66 respondents representing 57.89% were married. This shows that the majority of the respondents were married.

Table 4.1.3 Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Approximate % of the Resp.
18-25	18	15.79	16
26-35	51	44.74	45
36-45	26	22.81	23
46-59	14	12.30	12
60 and above	5	4.39	4
Total	114	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.1.3 shows that 18 respondents representing 15.79% are between 18-25 years, 51 respondents representing 44.74% are between 26-35 years, 26 respondents representing 22.81% are between 36-45 years, 14

respondents representing 12.30% are 46-59 years and 5 respondents representing 4.39% are 60 years and above. This shows that majority of the respondents are between 26-35 years of age.

Table 4.1.4 Profession of the Respondents

Profession	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Approximated % of the resp.
Student	16	14.54	15
Teacher	26	22.80	23
Public servant	37	32.47	32
Civil servant	24	21.65	22
Unemployed	9	7.89	8
Human Right Activist	2	1.75	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.1.4 revealed that 16 respondents representing 14.04% are students, 26 respondents representing 22.80% are teachers, 37 respondents representing 32.47% are public servant, 24 respondents representing 21.05% are civil servant, 9 respondents representing 7.89% are unemployed while the remaining 2 respondents representing 1.75% are human right activists.

Table 4.1.5 Educational Level of the Respondents

Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Approximated % of the resp.
Uneducated	1	0.88	1
Primary level	3	2.63	3
Secondary level	23	20.18	20
Tertiary level	87	76.31	76
Total	114	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.1.5 revealed that only 1 respondent representing 0.88% is uneducated, 3 respondents representing 2.63% possessed primary certificate, 23 respondents representing 20.18% are secondary school holders while the majority, 87 respondents representing 76.31% are in tertiary institutions and graduates. This indicated that the majority of the respondents possessed tertiary level of education.

Table 4.1.6: Mean and standard deviation of the respondents on the extent of police activities in protection of human right activities

S/N	Item Statement	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
1.	There is a deviation in human right protection in the Nigeria Police Force in Gombe state	31	44	10	29	2.68	0.34	Agreed
2.	Police activities in human right protection in Gombe state have fallen short of rules guiding human right protection	45	32	29	8	3.00	0.39	Agreed
3.	There is significant difference in police activities in human right protection in Gombe state compared to other states of the nation	17	37	29	31	2.35	0.08	Disagreed
4.	The activities of Police Force in the protection of human right in Gombe state is adjudge to be good.	17	33	49	15	2.40	0.52	Disagreed
5.	Human right protection in the Nigerian Police force in Gombe state is adequate and fair.	11	33	45	25	2.26	0.43	Disagreed
6.	The assessment of activities of the Nigerian Police Force in the protection of human rights in Gombe state is in line with the rules guiding human right.	9	30	38	37	2.10	0.41	Disagreed
7.	The inability of the Nigerian police force to discharge their duties gives other paramilitaries like civil defense to take charge of their duties.	10	43	47	14	2.43	0.79	Disagreed

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 4.1.6 revealed that the respondents agreed with items 1 and 2 with calculated mean score of 2.68 and 3.00 respectively which means that there is a deviation in human right protection in the Nigerian Police Force and also the activities of the personnel in the state have fallen short of rules guiding human right protection. However, the respondents disagreed with items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 with calculated mean score of 2.35, 2.40, 2.26, 2.10 and 2.43 respectively, because the items are below the cutoff point of 2.50 with corresponding standard deviation ranging from 0.08 – 0.79. This indicated that there is no significant difference in police activities in human right protection in Gombe state compared to other states. Also the activities of the personnel is adjudged to be fair and not exactly in line with rules guiding human rights.

Table 4.1.7: Mean and standard deviation of the respondents on the challenges facing Nigeria Police Force in the protection of human right in Gombe state

S/N	Item Statement	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
1.	Corruption is said to be one of the challenges facing Nigerian Police Force in the protection of the human right in Gombe state.	52	33	23	6	3.15	0.68	Agreed
2.	Lack of adequate training in handling human right related activities	49	58	2	5	3.32	1.68	Agreed
3.	Lack of proper disciplinary measures against violators of human rights in the Nigeria Police Force.	46	58	5	5	3.27	1.51	Agreed
4.	Too much workload and working hours lead to violation of human rights by the Nigeria Police Force.	21	21	44	28	2.31	0.21	Disagreed
5.	Inadequate welfare for the Nigeria Police Force by government	31	56	11	16	2.89	0.81	Agreed
6.	Nepotism	8	77	16	13	2.70	1.85	Agreed
7.	Poor salary and welfare of the Nigeria Police Force	31	69	5	9	3.07	0.73	Agreed
8.	Too much crimes by the citizens of the state	31	69	5	9	3.07	1.73	Agreed
9.	Inadequate number of Nigeria Police Force personnel in the state.	39	59	6	10	3.11	1.26	Agreed
10.	Lack of adequate supervision of the personnel	34	65	5	10	3.08	1.52	Agreed

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 4.1.7 shows that the respondents agreed with items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 with calculated mean score of 3.15, 3.32, 3.27, 2.89, 2.70, 3.07, 3.07, 3.11 and 3.08 respectively with corresponding standard deviation ranging from 0.21 – 1.85 as challenges facing Nigerian police personnel in protecting human right in Gombe state. This is because all the items have calculated mean score above the cutoff point (2.5). It shows that corruption, lack of adequate training, lack of proper disciplinary action against violators of human rights among the police personnel, inadequate welfare, poor salary, and nepotism, too much crime by the citizens, inadequate number of the personnel and lack of adequate supervision are the challenges bedeviling Nigeria Police Force in Gombe state. However, the respondents disagreed with item 4 with calculated mean score of 2.31 which is below the cutoff point. This means that working hours is not a factor leading to violation of human right by the police personnel.

Table 4.1.8: Mean and standard deviation of the respondents on the possible solutions to the challenges facing Nigerian Police in the protection of human right in Gombe state?

S/N	Item Statement	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
1.	Training and retraining of the personnel of the Nigerian police force is recommended as a measure to improve their activities in human right protection in Gombe state	39	59	6	10	3.11	1.26	Agreed
2.	Better salaries for the personnel can significantly improve the activities of police personnel in Gombe state.	31	69	5	9	3.07	1.73	Agreed
3.	Payment of incentives to those who respect human rights in the discharge of their duties will bring in harmony between the civilian and members of the Nigeria Police Force which will reduce the level of human right violation.	31	56	11	16	2.89	0.81	Agreed
4.	Involvement of religious and community leaders in advocating for peace will help in reducing crimes and improve the quality of service delivery by the Nigeria Police Force.	31	44	10	29	2.68	0.34	Agreed
5.	Avoidance of crimes by the citizens and providing the personnel with adequate facilities and strategies will improve the activities of NPF in protecting human right in Gombe state.	45	32	29	8	3.00	0.39	Agreed
6.	Adequate supervision of the activities of police personnel can improve their effort in protecting people's rights.	52	33	23	6	3.15	0.68	Agreed
7.	Creation of state police will reduce the workload and working hours of the personnel and improve their activities of human right protection	49	58	2	5	3.32	1.68	Agreed
8.	Instituting proper disciplinary measures against violators of human rights in the Nigeria Police Force will improve the activities on human right protection.	46	58	5	5	3.27	1.51	Agreed
9.	Nigeria Police Force are doing the needful in protecting human rights in Gombe state.	9	35	48	22	2.27	0.62	Disagreed
10.	Recruiting more competent personnel of the Nigerian	31	69	5	9	3.07	1.73	Agreed

Police Force will improve human rights protection
by the personnel.

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 4.1.8 indicated that the respondents agreed with all the item statements as possible solutions to the challenges bedeviling Nigeria Police Personnel in discharging their duties of human right protection in Gombe state. This is because all the items have calculated mean score above the cutoff point which is 2.50, with corresponding standard deviation ranging from 0.34 – 1.73 except for item 9 which has mean score of 2.27 which is below the cutoff point. This indicated that the personnel are not efficiently discharging their duties of human right protection in the state.

IX. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Based on the data analysis and the result presented, the following findings were made:

1. The activities of Nigerian police force in the protection of human right in Gombe state have fallen short of rules guiding human right protection. (See table 4.1.6)
2. The challenges bedeviling Nigeria Police Force in Gombe state include; corruption, lack of adequate training, lack of proper disciplinary action against violators of human rights among the police personnel, inadequate welfare, poor salary, and nepotism, too much crime by the citizens, inadequate number of the personnel and lack of adequate supervision of the personnel. (See table 4.1.7)
3. Training and re-training of the police personnel, improving their salaries and incentives, adequate supervision of their activities, taking appropriate disciplinary measures against violators of human rights among the personnel will help improve the activities of human right protection in the state. (See table 4.1.8)

X. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study clearly reveal that human rights violations by the Nigeria Police Force in democratic Nigeria have not in any way declined but rather, impunity for human rights violations thrives as the Nigerian government remains unwilling to go beyond lip service to human rights reform in this democratic era of the country. It was also discovered that the greatest and one of other biggest simple obstacles to the reduction or eradication of torture and other serious abuses by the Police in Nigeria is impunity. This implies the absence of deliberate efforts to ensure accountability for violations committed by the Nigeria Police Force personnel. Although the citizens know their rights to an appreciable level, they do not fight for their rights because they have neither power nor means to do so successfully; hence they have normalised the violations of their fundamental human rights by the Police. That's why even where they know the police action was wrong and illegal, they appear to feel powerless to register a complaint or seek redress, rather choosing to leave it to God for vengeance. The negative effects on the violations of human rights on the victims in our democracy, by the Police cannot be overemphasized. In a modern and civilized world of today, Nigeria must not be thrown back to

the dark state of nature in Hobbes Leviathan where individual freedom was despised by the strong and powerful. The extent of violation is grave. The failure of the police to abide by the provision of the constitution and democratic norms of respect for fundamental rights of people is answerable to psychological, political and socio-economic factors in addition to lack of adequate training, lack of adequate facilities nepotism, corruption, lack of proper or inadequate education of men of the Nigeria police “force” on human rights issues. The Police personnel continue to violate the fundamental rights of the people in Nigeria as clearly stated in the CFRN 1999 constitution amended.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of this research work, the followings are the suggested actions to be taken by the federal government of Nigeria and the Nigeria Police Force to ensure the elimination (or at least reduction) of violations of human rights by the Nigeria Police Force.

1. The federal government should immediately set up or establish an anti- human rights violation group within the police force that will investigate and bring to justice officers found to have violated the fundamental rights of the citizenry.
2. Publicly condemning and (immediate) sanctioning of erring police officers. This task has to be championed by the inspector general of Police and his management team.
3. After graduating from Police Colleges, recruits should be sent to various human rights organization in Nigeria for „practical” training on human right issues and implications.
4. Ensure the prompt payments of Police salary and improved welfare packages for officers” of the Force so that the temptation of violating the rights of the citizens could be reduced to the barest minimum.
5. Adequate and speedy compensation of victims, or victims” family (in the case of death) by reckless actions of security agents by the federal government. The cost of compensation should be deducted from the yearly budget of such security agencies.
6. Prompt trial of defaulters within a reasonable time. Professional and effective training of policemen on how to handle crowd and riot situations, so that the hitherto problem/excuses of accidental discharge and stray bullet can become a thing of the past.

XII. REFRENCCESS

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