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A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY AND SECURITY IN AWKA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed threat to democracy and security in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Three research objectives and questions were raised to guide the study. Three research hypotheses were tested in the study. The study adopted a descriptive research survey research design in order to conduct the study. Population for the study constituted 124,850 people from the 7 communities in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Sample size for the study is 399 respondents in Awka North Local Government Area, using the stratified random sampling technique. A questionnaire titled: Threat to Democracy and Security Survey Questionnaire (TDSSQ) which was constructed for the respondents, containing 12 items and design on a 4-point Likert scale, was used for data collection in the study. The research instrument was validated by three experts from Local Government Management Board, Policy Department and Measurement and Evaluation Experts in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Reliability of the instrument was established through a t- test. As a result, average coefficient reliability of 0.75 was obtained. Data collected were presented on tables, were analyzed using frequencies and simple percentages. The hypotheses were tested using Pearson product Moment Correlation Coefficient statistics at level of 0.05significance. Findings of the study indicated that the security agencies, Judiciary, as well as the masses had little impacts on the protection of life and property in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. From the findings of the study recommendations were made and among them included that the government at all levels should occasion effective training and retraining exercise to ensure the reformation of the security agencies; formulate policies and laws that could help improve the economic and social wellbeing of the members of the security agencies, and members of the judiciary, as well as educate Nigerians about their duties and obligations to realize the importance of getting involved in security matters in their communities; knowing that security matter is not exclusively for the government alone but, also for the masses.

Keywords: Democracy, Security agencies, Judiciary, Masses, Duties and Obligations, Policies.

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Introduction

The term democracy is derived from two Greek words "Demos" which mean "people" and "Cratus" meaning rule. This is ordinarily considered as peoples' rule. Modern democracy is a system which gives to individuals maximum freedom and periodic opportunities to choose their leaders and programmes (Onyenwigwe, 2017), Democracy suggests an arrangement in which different individuals and political parties compete in free and fair elections and the citizens use their franchise to determine who shall be their rulers for the period. According to Claudius (1962:2), representative democracy is a system which Aristotle called polity, which Madison in the federalists called democracy. He maintains that the requirements of such governments are three: The process for selecting policy making officers must be in the hands of the masses rather confined to the will of a few; the selective process must be free, in the sense that those who vote must have the opportunity to do so without coercion and fear of reprisal and; those elected must submit themselves to the people that elect them in order to be reelected in their second term. Akamere (2006) advocates that democracy is a culture and for him, it is people oriented in nature. Therefore the level of people' participation in democratic process and the nature of that participation will go a long way in determining the success or failure of the political system. Nwosu (2018) on his part points out that, good governance is the same thing as the principles of democracy which refers to a system of government based on good leadership, respect for the rule of law and due process, the accountability of the political leadership to the electorates as well as transparency in the operations of government.

There is a widely held belief that to achieve sustainable security, the people should be involved in the democratic and security process of the system. This means that the level of security in the democratic setting determines the level of sustainability and growth of the system; because the determining factor in any democratic society is the people (Umeh, 2018). For the fact that everybody cannot be involved in the government of the day, there is need for representative democracy. In this case, Agena & Odoh (2018) see democracy as a government that rule through consensus by the elected representatives of the people either through direct or indirect elections. However, in a democratic society, importance is placed on political rights such as; right to vote and to be voted for, speech, movement, assemble, publication and association. These rights are integral to democracy because, it provides wide range of opportunities for democracy to thrive in a political system. The objective of democracy is to enhance development in Nigeria communities. When people are involved in grassroot democracy, they will choose good leaders who will work for the community, protect their lives and properties (Adelakun, 2017).

Since the return of democracy to Nigeria in 1999, the democratization process has been hampered by a number of forces, most notably the phenomenon of insecurity.

It has done a lot of damages to Nigeria polity well-endowed in terms of natural and human resources. It is ironic that Nigeria remains one of the most under-developed countries of the world, largely because of the menace of insecurity (Odadan, 2021; Omotola, 2016). Despite official institutional mechanisms designed to tame the monster, the upsurge in the manifestations of diverse forms of insecurity since the inception of civil rule in 1999 has continued to be an impediment to the goals of socio-economic development and democratization (Akanbi, 2004; Odadan, 2021). However, successive Nigerian governments have always devised means of waging war again the menace of insecurity, with varying degrees of success.

Security is related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and protection of human and physical resources. It is a dynamic condition which involves the ability of a state to protect its citizen against threat and danger (Awa, 2021). In a state where there is insecurity, there cannot be development (Odadan, 2021). In line with this view, Ibeagwu (2022) assert that security provides the requisite enabling environment for citizens of any state or country to live, work towards socio-economic and political development of their society. Hence, the importance of security in the development of any society cannot be overemphasized.

National security is the ability to preserve the nations' physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution and governance from inside or outside disruption; and to control its borders (Odadan, 2021). National security is a premise for national socio-political and economic growth/development of any nation (Onyenwigwe, 2017). Peaceful nations attract foreign investors while, the domestic investors freely operate the economy with little or no tensions (Izuchukwu, 2014). The deteriorating security situation in Nigeria is worrisome. Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented level of insecurity ranging from intra-communal, inter-communal and inter-ethnic clashes; religious violence; armed robbery; assassination, kidnapping and "boko haram" insurgency (Mutiullah cited in Abubakar, 2011).

National security is best described as a capacity to control the domestic and foreign conditions that is necessary for the public to enjoy their own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and wellbeing (Maier, 1990). It is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structures and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might (Ewetan, 2013). National security maybe understood as a shared freedom from fear and want, freedom to live in dignity. It implies social and ecological health rather than the absence of risk, and is a common right (Ammerdown , 2016). Insecurity in Nigeria is causing developmental challenges such as endemic penury, high rate of unemployment, inured corruption, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate,

inadequate physical and social infrastructure, large domestic debt, and rising external debt profile (Ewetan, 2013). These problems have posed severe threats to socio-economic development in the country in that it stifles business and economic activities and discourages local and foreign investors (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014).

Security is an essential aspect of life. It is an assurance of self-preservation and stable environment. In a secure environment, people perform their activities without harm and fear of molestation (Ewetan, 2013). Achumba, Ighomerho cited in Akpor & Robaro (2013), defined insecurity as the state of being open or subjected to danger or threat of danger (danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury). Globally, insecurity constitutes threat to live and properties. Individuals and communities who are not only uncertain of what they face next minute or hour, but they are also vulnerable to threats and dangers when they occur (Omede, 2011). According to Beland (2005), insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. However, there has been no study to see if there is a relationship or correlation between threat to democracy and security in Awka, Anambra State thus, the need for this study - 'A threat to democracy and security (militants) in Awka, Anambra State of Nigeria'.

Have you ever wondered why security measures are in place and how they benefit us as individuals and communities? According to Odekunle (2016), security operatives to some extent play crucial roles in safeguarding our well-being, protecting our assets, and ensuring peace of mind. Considering awareness and exploring the benefits of having security measures in our daily lives, Onyenwigwe (2017) highlights the following:

i. **Safety and Personal Protection:** Security measures, such as surveillance systems, access control, and trained security personnel, provide a sense of safety and personal protection, pointing out that the security operatives often unlawfully arrest innocent persons while investigating matters. According to Muhammed (2016), security personnel act as deterrent against criminal activities, making individuals feel more secure in public spaces, workplaces, and residential areas, For him, it has been observed that they are not completely capable of combating crimes and protecting peoples' properties in the communities. Though, knowing that security is present helps create a safer environment for everyone to an extent.

ii. Prevention and Risk Mitigation: Security measures help prevent incidents and minimize risks. By implementing access control systems, monitoring entrances and exits, and conducting thorough risk assessments, security professionals can identify vulnerabilities and take proactive measures to mitigate potential threats. Prevention is key to maintaining a secure environment and reducing the likelihood of security breaches (Obialor, 2022).

iii. **Emergency Response and Crisis Management:** In times of emergency or crisis, security personnel are trained to respond swiftly and effectively. They play a critical role in managing emergency situations, providing guidance, and coordinating appropriate responses. Their expertise and training contribute to minimizing harm, maintaining order, and facilitating a prompt resolution to emergencies.

iv. **Protection of Property and Assets:** Security measures safeguard property and assets, whether they are physical assets such as buildings, equipment, or intellectual property. Through surveillance, access control, and alarm systems, security professionals help deter theft, vandalism, and unauthorized access. Protecting assets contributes to the overall well-being and prosperity of businesses and communities.

v. **Public Order and Crowd Management:** During public events, gatherings, or crowded spaces, security personnel ensure public order and manage crowd movements. Their presence helps maintain a peaceful environment, prevent conflicts, and address any disturbances promptly. Effective crowd management ensures that everyone can enjoy public spaces safely and without disruption.

vi. **Building Trust and Confidence:** Visible security measures, such as uniformed security personnel or signage, can instill a sense of trust and confidence in individuals. Knowing that security is in place fosters trust in public institutions, organizations, and venues. It creates an environment where people feel comfortable and confident in their surroundings, encouraging social interactions and community engagement (Onyema, 2021).

By raising awareness about the importance of security and its benefits, we can foster a collective understanding of the role it plays in our daily lives. Security measures enhance safety, prevent incidents, protect property, and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals and communities. People should appreciate the efforts of security professionals and work together to create a secure and harmonious society for everyone to thrive in (Onyekaba, 2021). The presence of crime is a threat to the security and welfare of the people. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) provides in Section 14(2) (b) that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. To this end, various arms, levels and agencies of government have come together to form a superstructure towards ensuring that deviants are punished and their acts assuaged in society. Each independent structure works together to form the superstructure known as the criminal justice system. The act in which the superstructure is steered towards achieving its goals which are: justice for the suspect, victims and society can be termed the administration of the criminal justice system (Onyenwigwe, 2017).

There is universal agreement that judiciary has and is playing a role in realm of social and economic development as an

independent arbiter particularly in the enforcement of rights (Ewetan, 2013). Consequently, creating accountable and impartial court systems that will be responsive to public needs is not enough but, must also be efficient and accurate to ensure government is responsive to its constitutional obligations, secure property rights, reduce uncertainty, and promote social and economic development. Incidentally, in this new democracy, Nigeria has extended the areas of economic and social development to creative applications of the law. This is because economic and social development depends on an effective legislation and judicial system (Umeh & Ubah, 2022). Corruption has a direct impact on the validity of human rights, largely because of two reasons. On one side, corruption deprives societies of important resources that could be used for basic needs, such as public health, education, infrastructure, or security. On another side, corruption has direct damaging consequences in general on the functioning of state institutions, and in particular on the administration of justice. Corruption has decreased public trust in justice and weakens the capacity of judicial systems to guarantee the protection of human rights, and it affects the tasks and duties of the judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and other legal professionals (Onyekaba, 2021)). By seeking impunity, corruption has a devastating effect on the judicial system as a whole. One of the goals of human rights is to fight corruption and its implications on the administration of justice, as is to act against corruption through an independent and strong administration of justice. For this, the United Nations Convention against Corruption is a fundamental instrument for the protection of human rights (Dike, 2005).

According to Nwosu, (2018), corruption undermines the core of the administration of justice, generating a substantial obstacle to the right to an impartial trial, and severely undermining the population's trust in the judiciary. Corruption has a variety of faces, bribery being only one of them, another being political corruption, much more unattainable and imprecise. Its broad range of action enables it not only to influence the judicial system, but all the sectors of state administration as well. Edward (2022) illicit interferences with justice can also be violent, particularly when perpetrated directly by members of organized crime. These forays are intended to secure specific objectives, such as the closing of a particular case, or the acquittal of a given individual. Corruption and the Historical Responsibility of Justice Internal norms in different states and several relevant international instruments establish different ranges of obligations to confront corruption (Nye, 2015). However, while judicial systems are themselves the target of corruption and organized crime, it is precisely within judicial systems that societies have their main instrument to prevent and fight corruption. Article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption - a fundamental international treaty - emphasizes the decisive role of the judicial branch in the fight against corruption, and establishes that in order to

carry out this role effectively, the judicial branch itself must be free of corruption, and that its members must act with integrity. Substantive guidelines on matters of internal organization, which are fundamental to prevent and confront criminality, have been included in the Convention (Muhammed, 2016).

Crime is an area of life that nations and their citizenry must deal with. Crime is an act or omission forbidden by law and strongly considered as anti-social behaviour. Why crime exists or why people commit crimes has been subjected to inexhaustible theories. Adebakin (2012) posits that the community is a crucial pillar in the administration of criminal justice. For him, crimes are being committed in societies and it is committed by members of a particular society. He observes that from the time a crime is committed to the time of investigation, prosecution, conviction and post-correctional, society has an onus placed on it. The more criminals perpetrate their acts and walk scot-free in the community, the more they find recruits willing to join in committing crimes; hence, justice finds no place in such a community. The saying- "If you see something, say something", comes to play (Mabogunji, 2019). The community has to cry out to law enforcement agencies when a crime occurs when criminals are on the run or harboured in their vicinities. Section 20 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (ACJA) allows for arrest made by a private person for offences the Police are entitled to arrest without a warrant. The Act in Section 23 further states that persons arrested in that manner shall be promptly handed over to the Police. The referenced sections of the ACJA make the idea of community policing statutorily introduced by the Police Act in Sections 113 to 119 of the Police Act 2020 a laudable step towards an efficient criminal justice system.

Members of the Community should be generous in giving the Police full and fair details of the crime committed and persons involved in the criminal situation when they have the information during the investigation. The Police should prove themselves worthy of the Public's trust. Politicizing criminal matters is utterly odious. The Government should greatly minimize their influence on the criminal justice administration and allows its agencies to operate in good faith. With solid synergy between the Police and the Public, the criminal justice system is made more effective. Information gathered via police investigation and potentially with the community's help makes prosecution in Court smoothened. Such aware members of the community should not also shy away from testifying in court (Adebakin, 2020). This will grant justice to the community, the victim, and even the suspect in all cases. When found guilty of the offence based on evidence and punished commensurately, it sends a warning to other members of the community, especially the younger ones that crime committal is a way to rot (Akaubi, 2014).

After sentencing, convicts are withdrawn from society and handed over to the appropriate correctional institution for custodial or non-custodial reprimand or both. Upon completing the terms of the

sentence, the convicts get released to society. When released, such persons sentenced are deemed reformed and rehabilitated (Akinnola, 2013). It should be a norm that society does not stigmatize ex-convicts; instead, they should help them get reabsorbed into society. There should be no discrimination; the community should help them settle down and have a livelihood. If the community makes their post-correctional reengineering difficult, they get hardened in their criminal ways or depressed and may run into psychological issues if not swiftly helped. The criminal justice system in Nigeria should put more emphasis on reintegrating offenders back into society as law-abiding citizens after they have served their sentences in accordance with the letter of the law rather than just punishing them alone (Aleyemi, 2022).

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria is endowed with both human and natural resources but, her citizens are suffering from severe pangs of hunger and difficulties. This scenario has prompted many youths to engage in nefarious and precarious activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, abduction, killings, etc. Youths who are leaders of tomorrow are neglected. Studies such as Erondu (2010) and Izuchukwu (2014) have affirmed that Nigeria is characterized by significant insecurity which is largely a function of government failure and lackadaisical attitude towards the poor masses.

Regrettably, insecurity in contemporary Nigeria has continued to grow in leaps and bounds in the country ever since the emergence of the democratic rule. The collapse of all the previous _republics, the aborted first, second and third republics, all had something to do with corruption and insecurity (Omotola, 2016). As old as the country itself, insecurity has emerged as a serious issue in the fourth republic. The situation further deteriorated during the period under Muhammed Buhari administration in Nigeria. During this period, the state did not only become 'prebendal', but also predatory. Presently, one of the major threats to the fledging fourth republic is insecurity.

Despite the advances in the fight against insecurity, the return of the country to a path of democracy in 1999 has not been able to tame the insecurity. Rather, it has, as argued by Omotola (2016) soared and assumed the dimension of a scourge, as no arm or level of government is exonerated, hence the study.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine threat to democracy and security in Awka North L.G.A,. Anambra State of Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To ascertain whether or not the security agencies have succeeded in the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A, of Anambra State.
2. To examine the impact of judiciary on the security of life and property in Awka North L.G.A,, Anambra State.
3. To find out the extent to which the masses have helped in the protection

their lives and properties in Awka North L.G.A,, Anambra State.

Research Questions

Based on the objectives, the following research questions were posed for the study:

1. In what ways have the security agencies succeeded the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A, of Anambra State?
2. What are the impacts of judiciary on the protection of life and property in Awka North L.G.A, of Anambra State?
3. To what extent have the masses helped in the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North L.G.A, of Anambra State?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the conduct of the study:

Ho1: Security agencies have no impact on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A. of Anambra State. .

Ho2: Judiciary has no impact on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A. of Anambra State.

Ho3: The masses have not helped in the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North L.G.A.of Anambra State.

Research Method

The study adopted a survey research design. The population of the study comprised all the people of Awka North Local Government Area, Anambra State, with the population size of (124,850) respondents. Total sample size of 399 respondents, were randomly selected out of 7 communities (Awba, Ofemili, Ugbene, Ebenebe, Amansea, Ugbenu and Mgbakwu) in Awka North Local Government Area, Anambra State. A questionnaire titled: Threat to Democracy and Security Survey Questionnaire (TDSSQ), which was constructed for the respondents, containing 12 items and design on a 4-point Likert scale, was used for data collection in the study. The research instrument was validated by three experts from Local Government Council, Policy Department (Measurement and Evaluation Experts) in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Reliability of the instrument was established through a t- test. As a result, average coefficient reliability of 0.75 was obtained. Data collected were presented on tables, were analyzed using frequency counts, simple percentages and mean. However, the hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics. The decision rule for interpretation of the results of the data analysis was that of mean score of 2.5 and above, which was regarded as agreed/ accepted while, below 2.5 was disagreed/ rejected.

Presentation of Results

Research Question 1: In what ways have the security agencies succeeded in the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A, Anambra State?

Table 1: Mean Response on Security Agencies and Protection of life and Property

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African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
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No. of Questionnaires returned = 380

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	FX	MEAN	DECISION
1.	There is no strategic and regular Police patrol in the communities.	175(46.1 %) 700	110(28.9 %) 330	55(14.5%) 110	40(10.5%) 40	1180	3.11	Agreed
2.	The security operatives do not unlawfully arrest innocent persons while investigating matters.	40(10.5%) 160	72(18.9%) 216	110(28. %9) 220	158(41.6 %) 158	754	1.98	Disagreed
3.	Security operatives are not capable of combating crimes and protecting peoples' properties in the communities.	140(36.8 %) 560	130(34.2 %) 390	58(15.5%) 116	52(13.7%) 52	477	2.94	Agreed
4.	Security operatives often maliciously prosecute innocent people..	150(39.5 %) 600	110(28.9 %) 330	70(18.4%) 140	50(13.2%) 50	445	2.95	Agreed
	Grand Mean						**2.75**	Agreed

Source: Survey Data, 2024

Table 1 revealed that the respondents in items 1, 3 and 4 with mean scores above 2.50 agreed that the security agencies did not succeed in the protection of the life and property of people in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. While only the respondents in item 2 with mean score below 2.50 disagreed. Meanwhile, the grand mean for research question 1 is 2.76 which showed that the security agencies did not succeed in the protection of the life and property of people in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Research Question 2: What are the impacts of judiciary on the protection of the life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A, of Anambra State?

Table 2: Mean Response on judiciary and protection of the life and property.

No. of Questionnaires returned = 380

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	FX	MEAN	DECISION
5.	The judiciary is said to be the hope of a common man but, it often does not protect people's life and property in the communities.	161(42.14%) 644	109(28.7%) 327	63(16.6%) 126	47(12.4 %) 47	1,144	3.01	Agreed
6.	The judiciary is not for the poor, it is meant for the reach.	152(40.0%) 608	1131(29.7 %) 339	70(18. 4%) 140	45(11.3 %) 45	1,132	2.98	Agreed
7.	Election matters have not made people to lose confidence in judiciary.	38(10.0%) 152	81(21.3%) 243	154(40.5 %) 308	107(28.2 %) 107	810	2.13	Disagreed
8.	Judiciary often promotes irregularities and crimes.	166(43.7%) 664	93(24.5%) 279	66(17.4%) 132	55(14.5 %) 55	1,130	2.97	Agreed
	Grand Mean						**2.77**	**Agreed**

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Source: Survey Data, 2024.

Table 2 showed that the respondents in items 5, 6 and 8 with mean scores above 2.50 agreed that there was little impact of judiciary on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. While only the respondents in item 7 with mean score below 2.50 disagreed. Again, the grand mean for research question 2 is 2.77 which established that there is little impact of judiciary on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Research Question 3: To what extent have the masses helped in the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State?

Table 3: Mean Response on masses and protection their lives and properties.

No. of Questionnaires returned = 380

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD	FX	MEAN	DECISION
9.	I do not like to get involve in security matters in my community.	139(36.6%) 556	131(34.4%) 393	60(15.8%) 120	50(13.2%) 50	1,119	2.94	Agreed
10.	Security matters are exclusively for the government and not for the masses.	170(44.7%) 680	115(30.3%) 345	54(14.2 %) 108	41(10.8%) 41	1,174	3.09	Agreed
11.	I do not like giving information to the security agencies regarding security matters in my community.	160(42.1%) 640	99(26.1%) 297	65(17.1%) 130	56(14.7%) 56	1,123	2.96	Agreed
12.	I do not have the right to arrest an offender even if the offence is committed in my presence.	35(9.2%) 140	84(22.1%) 246	151(39.7%) 302	110(28.9%) 110	798	2.1	Disagreed
	Grand Mean						**2.77**	**Agreed**

Source: Survey Data, 2024.

Table 3 revealed that the respondents in items 9, 10 and 11 with mean scores above 2.50 agreed that the people had not helped enough in the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. While only the respondents in item 12 with mean score below 2.50 disagreed. Furthermore, the grand mean for research question 3 is 2.77 which underscored the fact that the people do not help enough in the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one: Security agencies have no impact on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A., of Anambra State.

Table 4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics

Variable	Mean	SD	R
Decision			
Security agencies	1.20.		
	2.75	0.69	Sig.

Impact on curbing militants and protecting the life and property of people				

Table 4 showed that since the calculated value of r, 0.69 is more than 0.5, the researcher accepted the alternative hypothesis and rejected the null hypothesis. Which means that there is significant relationship between security agencies and protection of the life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A., Anambra State as; the r calculated value is above 0.5, showing that there is significant relationship between the two variables under study. Based on this, the researcher, therefore hold that, security agencies have little impact on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A., Anambra State.

Hypothesis two: Judiciary has no impact on the protection of life and property of people in Awka L.G.A. of Anambra State.

Table 5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics

Variable	Mean	SD	R	Decision
Judiciary	2.77	1.19.	0.74	Sig.
Impact on the protection of life and property of people				

Table 5 indicated that since the calculated value of r, 0.74 is more than 0.5, the researcher accepted the alternative hypothesis and rejected the null hypothesis. Which means that there is significant relationship between Judiciary and the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A., Anambra State as; the r calculated value is above 0.5, showing that there is significant relationship between the two variables under study. Based on this, the researcher, therefore hold that, Judiciary has little impact on the protection of life and property of people in Awka North L.G.A., Anambra State.

Hypothesis three: The masses have not helped in protection of their lives and properties in Awka L.G.A. of Anambra State.

Table 6: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics

Variable	Mean	SD	R	Decision
The masses	2.77	1.18.	0.72	Sig.

Curbing militants, protecting their lives and properties

Table 6 showed that since the calculated value of r, 0.72 is more than 0.5, the researcher accepted the alternative hypothesis and rejected the null hypothesis. Which means that there was significant relationship between the masses and protection of their lives and properties in Awka North L.G.A. of Anambra State as; the r calculated value is above 0.5, showing that there is significant relationship between the two variables under study. Based on this, the researcher, therefore hold that the masses have little impact on the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North L.G.A. of Anambra State.

Discussion of Findings

The analysis of question one revealed that security agencies had little impact on the protection of live and property of people in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State, which is in line with the alternative hypothesis earlier postulated. This finding is in consonant with Odekunle (2016) who submitted that, security operatives to an extent play crucial roles in safeguarding our well-being, protecting our assets, and ensuring peace of mind. Supporting this, a president general of one of the communities, while in an interview with him, stated that there was no regular Police patrol in their communities. Corroborating this position, Onyenwigwe (2017) advocated that security measures, such as surveillance systems, access control, and trained security personnel, provide a sense of safety and personal protection, pointing out that they often unlawfully arrest innocent persons while investigating matters. According to Muhammed (2016), security personnel act as deterrent against criminal activities, making individuals feel more secure in public spaces, workplaces, and residential areas, however, he noted that it has been observed that they are not completely capable of combating crimes and protecting peoples' properties in the communities.

The analysis of question two revealed that Judiciary had little impacts on the security of life and property of people in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State, which is in tandem with the alternative hypothesis earlier postulated. Further assessment indicated that the judiciary has not lived up to expectations which gave rise to insecurity in the country. This finding is in conformity with the discovering of (Onyekaba, 2021)), who held that corruption has decreased public trust in justice and weakens the capacity of judicial systems to guarantee the protection of human rights, and it affects the tasks and duties of the judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and other legal professionals. This position has been supported by Dike (2005) when he observed that by seeking impunity, corruption has a devastating effect on the

judicial system as a whole. He also noted that one of the goals of human rights is to fight corruption and its implications on the administration of justice, as is to act against corruption through an independent and strong administration of justice. Corroborating the result, Nwosu, (2012), stated that corruption undermines the core of the administration of justice, generating a substantial obstacle to the right to an impartial trial, and severely undermining the peoples' trust in the judiciary. Corruption has a variety of faces, bribery being only one of them, another being political corruption, much more unattainable and imprecise. Edward (2022) on his part observed that corruption's broad range of action enables it not only to influence the judicial system, but all the sectors of state administration as well, pointing out that the illicit interferences with justice have evidence violence in Nigeria, particularly when perpetrated directly by members of organized crime.

The analysis of question three revealed that the masses had little help in the protection of their lives and properties in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State, which is in agreement with the alternative hypothesis earlier postulated. Further finding also established that the people thought that security matters are exclusively for the government and not for the masses; for that reason, they did not like to get involve in security matters in their communities. This result is supported by Adebakin (2012), when he posited that the community is a crucial pillar in the administration of criminal justice, noting that crimes are being committed in societies and it is committed by members of a particular society. He also observed that from the time a crime is committed to the time of investigation, prosecution, conviction and post-correctional, society had an onus placed on it. The community has to cry out to law enforcement agencies when a crime occurs, noting that criminals are harboured in their vicinities. This position is rein-enforced by Section 20 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (ACJA) which allows for arrest made by a private person for offences the Police are entitled to arrest without a warrant. The Act in Section 23 further states that persons arrested in that manner shall be promptly handed over to the Police. The referenced sections of the ACJA make the idea of community policing statutorily introduced by the Police Act in Sections 113 to 119 of the Police Act 2020 a laudable step towards an efficient criminal justice system.

Conclusion

It has been meaningful analyzing the threat to democracy and security in Awka North Local Government Area, Anambra State of Nigeria. Security is related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and protection of human and physical resources. It is a dynamic condition which involves the ability of a state to protect its citizen against threat and danger. Security agencies and judiciary have not lived up to their expectation which gave rise to insecurity in the country. A synergy between the Police and the Public, the criminal justice system is not effective. Information gathered via police investigation and potentially with the

communities help make prosecution in Court smoothened. Such aware members of the community should not shy away from testifying in court (Adebakin, 2020). This will grant justice to the community, the victim, and even the suspect in all cases. When found guilty of the offence based on evidence and punished commensurately, it sends a warning to other members of the community, especially the younger ones that crime committal is a way to rot. The more criminals perpetrate their acts and walk scot-free in the community, the more they find recruits willing to join in committing crimes; hence, justice finds no place.

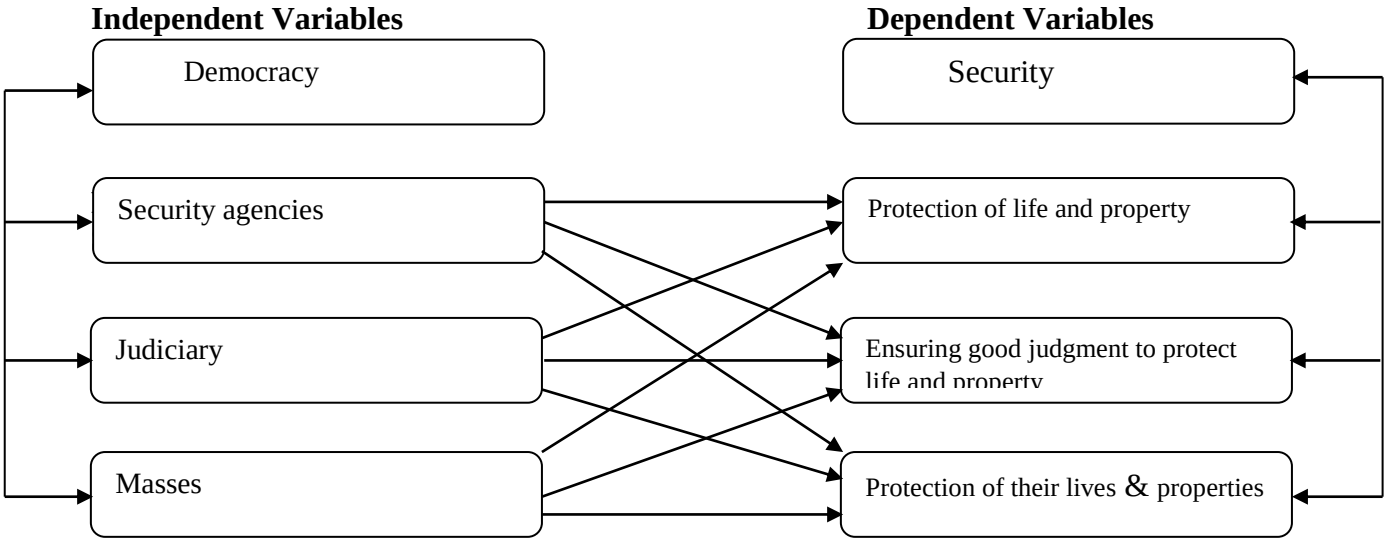
Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made that:

1. The government at all levels should occasion effective training and retraining exercise to ensure the reformation of the security agencies. Again, the role of Nigerian government must include the formulation of policies and laws that could help improve the economic and social wellbeing of the members of the security agencies, as well as the citizens.
2. The government at all levels should strengthen anti-corruption laws/agencies to ensure the effective functioning of the judicial system in Nigeria.
3. The government at all levels should embark on aggressive enlightenment in the political platforms and media through jingles, while holding or organizing political stakeholders' forums to educate Nigerians about their duties and obligations, as well as make them realize the importance of getting involved in security matters in communities. Again, there is need for people to know that security matter is not exclusively for the government alone but, also for the masses, by giving information to the security agencies regarding security matters in the communities.

Contribution to Knowledge

This study has contributed to knowledge by analyzing the basic threat to democracy and security which covers the security agencies, judiciary and the masses. This study has contributed to knowledge by focusing on threat to democracy and security. It also used Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State as a focal point State which is a contribution to knowledge. This study has contributed to knowledge by utilizing distinct research methodology from what has not been used by past researches. Here, survey research design was used and data were collected through primary source (questionnaire). The data was analyzed using simple percentage, mean statistics and PMCS. The final contribution to knowledge is presented in the model below:



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