Christianity and The Challenges of Kidnapping and Banditry in Nigeria

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Abstract

Kidnapping and banditry have been a bad omen and menace in human history. The acts of kidnapping and banditry as observed in the history are not new crimes, as most nations of the world have been hit by this criminality, and in recent years, Nigeria is experiencing its expanded toll in almost all the States of the nation and the Christian church as human organization is not an exception. The church in Nigeria has been affected by the evil of kidnapping and banditry that are currently ramping the nation. The paper deployed history, sociology and phenomenology, to assess the criminal acts of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria and its challenges to the Christian Churches vis-a-vis Nigerians at large. The paper is guided by conflicts theory of Karl Marx and functionalism as advanced by Emile Durkheim to explain some of the reasons why kidnapping and banditry have continued to persist in Nigeria. The paper observed that kidnapping and banditry are being carried out by criminal elements in Nigeria, and, factors like unemployment, religious fanaticism, get- rich-quick mentality, poor security, failed leadership among others have been identified as the causes of these heinous crimes against humanity. The findings show that many Christians vis- a- vis Nigerians, are suffering the agony of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria. The paper observed that if the government fails to show strong will, to curb these heinous crimes, the Christian Church as human institution and Nigerians at large would continue to suffer at the hands of kidnappers and bandits. This paper therefore recommends, among others, that the Christian Church and the Nigeria government should work together to curb the menace of kidnapping and banditry that are currently rampaging the country.

Keywords: Christian Church, kidnapping, banditry, challenges, Nigeria

Introduction

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with an estimated population of 209,843,780 as at March, 2021, based on projections of UN data. It is a Federal Presidential Republic. The nation is divided into 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja (European Asylum Support Office, 2021). A country blessed with both human and material resources, has in recent years, devastated with all sort of criminality. As observed, "The crime rate in Nigeria in the past few years is very high, so high that the citizens cannot sleep with both eyes closed. Cases of kidnapping, cultism, armed robbery and terrorism are heard in the State Capital, Abuja and across each of the nation's States everyday (Egwemi,2020). In the same vein, Kehinde and Toyin (2017) observed the "threat of human and material security range from the menace of illegal militia groups, ethnic and religious conflicts, terrorism, armed robbery, the high rate of commercial kidnapping, and political assassinations, to sabotage and environmental degradation. Describing the security situation in Nigeria, County of Origin Information Report, June, 2021 affirmed that " Nigeria's long -standing security challenges continued in 2019 and 2020 and" have been traced to militant Islamists; predominantly active in the north-east region; in the North -West and North Central States violence crimes like armed banditry ,kidnapping has emerged , while in South -West States, criminal gangs are operating, in the Middle Belt farmers and herders violence, vis-a-vis banditry and kidnapping; in the south-east States Biafra separatist, unknown gunmen, other criminal gangs, in the South -South region, oil militants, kidnappers and other crimes, had been reported. This report reveals that no part of the country is free from crimes relating to kidnapping and armed robbery. Of course, kidnapping and banditry are interwoven based on their characteristics, even though they are not synonymous. In Nigeria, many criminal gangs, cultist groups, militant groups, ethno-religious militia groups, political thugs, separatist groups have emerged and their activities are challenging to Nigerians, and Christians are not exempted. It is this background, that this paper is set to investigate Christianity and the challenging of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria.

Clarification of Terms

Christianity

The paper discussed Christianity from three points of view as thus, a set of beliefs, a way of life and a community of people (Hedrick, 2008). Christianity is the good news concerning a historical person, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who, on the royal seed of David, and demonstrated to be the son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead (Gooding et al, 2014).. His fellowers are called Christians. They believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and saviour of mankind. As observed, the Christian Faith has survived schism and controversy, persecution and war, hereby and apathy, and still it is the largest religious system on the earth (Baham, 2020). In Nigeria today, the Christian Faith is

indirectly under attack and persecution, ranging from abduction, rape, killing, looting, destruction of predominantly Christian's villages, which is the focus of this paper.

Kidnapping

The term Kidnapping is derived from the word "Kid" which means Child, and "Nab" which refers to, as "to Snatched." Kidnapping has become synonymous with abduction since 1768. Kidnapping has been described as a situation where a person or a group of persons are forcily seized and transported to a destination where they are held against their will in an unlawful confinement (Aibalgbee, 2011). Kidnapping is a criminal act,in which an individual or group of persons is lured away and confined illegally. Kidnapping, According to Ibrahim et. al. (2020) is a case when someone is said to have been sported and held for whether ransom or illegal non-consensually. It is also "any illegal detention of a person or people against their will regardless of age for ransom" (Chidi, 2014). Furthermore, kidnapping is a false imprisonment in an illegal confinement of an individual against his or her own will by another individual in such a way as to violate the confined individual's right to be free from the restraint of movement.

Banditry

The term banditry is simply synonymous with armed robbery, armed thuggery or Sea Piracy, while a bandit is a thief, a robber, a cultist, an unknown gunman, a pirate, a kidnapper, a looter, a killer, an ethnic-religious militia, as in recent years in Nigeria, opt to be a terrorist among other names, Nigerians are calling them. Banditry has been described as an incidence of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raid. The act of banditry involves the use of force or threat to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill (Okoli and Okpaleke as cited in Ugwu, 2019). According to Slatta (as cited in Wahira, 2013), Banditry is the act of taking away of property by force or the threat of force, often by a group, usually of men. It has been observed that, their quest, is to loot or to rob, to assault, to liquidate a person or group of people based on political or religious vis-a-vis ideological considerations. Banditry as observed by scholars, would be classified based on "intent" or "motive," which may have arisen from politics, economics, social injustice, and religious bigotry, among other variables. For instance, social banditry would emanate or motivated by the intent to protest against social inequality and to redistribute wealth within a given Society. While, political or economics banditry has been linked to material accumulation (Ugwu, 2019); religious banditry as in Nigeria today, would have been motivated by claims that some religions seemed to be superior to others, under guise of ethno-religious militia, who now rob, rape, rustle, kidnap, kill, among heinous crimes as in the country .

History of Kidnapping and Banditry in Nigeria

The history of kidnapping and banditry are not peculiar to Nigeria, as these crimes are perpetrated across the world, such as Mexico, America among other nations. These barbaric and heinous crimes were also recorded in the Bible, (Exodus 21:16, Deut. 24:7, Gen. 40:15, Judges 21:20-23, 9:25). Kidnapping and banditry had been linked to 18th and 19th century slave trade, during which million of Africans were forcibly confined and sold to New world. As Fleck (2013) observed, "Over the period of the whole trade, more than 3.5 million slaves were shipped from Nigeria to America." Banditry crime was recorded, in 1901 at the Northern part of the country before Nigeria's independence and after Nigerian's independence, history of crimes was linked to aftermaths of the civil war, which led to the proliferation of arms.

On the other hand, " the root and rise in hostage taking in Nigeria's Niger Delta can be traced to what Townsend referred to as 'natural resource nationalism'-the tendency to seek bigger shares of the returns from natural resource"(Aibalgbee, 2011). As revealed, the Niger Delta armed insurrection did not begin recently; it started when an Ijaw nationalist, named Isaac Adaka Boro, led an armed campaign for greater Niger Delta autonomy, resource control and self - determination for the inhabitants of the Niger Delta. Boro led group attacked a police station, raided the armory and kidnapped some officers, at Yenagoa, on 23rd February, 1966. However, the current history of kidnapping has been linked to Niger Delta region when militants in February, 2006, abducted some oil workers ostensibly to draw attention to the deplorable situation of the oil rich Niger Delta region of the nation, Nigeria (Obarisiagbon, E. I. Pdf). According to Ibrahim et .al (2020) kidnapping in the Niger Delta was politically motivated. As they observed, Political kidnapping, was introduced by the Niger Delta militants who targeted foreigners, especially Americans and the British, mainly to draw attention to their plight of the environment. Aibalgbee (2011) was specific when stated that "Niger Delta militants introduced worrisome dimension of kidnapping and hostage taking in 2006."

On January 11, 2006, four oil workers, Mikko Nicheri (Bulgarian) Harry Ebanks (Honduras), Arnold Laundry (American) and Nigel Watson Clark (Briton) were kidnapped and taken hostage in Bayelsa State after the declaration of Operation Orido Danger by MEND. It was observed that, on 24 December, 2006, incident of kidnapping was recorded, with 118 persons abducted in Niger Delta. The initial intent and motivation of the militants was influenced, subsequently, kidnapping for ransom started in the Niger Delta, when an international oil company negotiated with the militants and paid 300, 000, as ransom to release one of their expatriates.

In recent years in Nigeria, kidnapping and banditry have become lucrative business, hardly will any State, region be exempted from it. Although, the militants surrendered their arms and ammunition and stopped the kidnappings. Today, kidnapping vis-a-vis banditry has spread into northern, western, eastern part of the country that a day hardly pass on without the incident of these heinous crimes.

Theoretical frameworks

This paper used Conflict theory by Karl Marx, and functionalism theory purported by Emile Durkheim, to explain why Kidnapping and banditry has persisted in Nigeria. Conflict theory purported by Karl Marx, argues that scarcity is the root cause of perpetual conflict in the society, because of competition for limited sources. The theory holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than by consensus and conformity. The conflict theory revealed that those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and powerless.

The conflict theory is relevant, as it explains why kidnapping and banditry has persisted in Nigeria. For instances, Herders and farmers conflict has been linked to competition and grab for land space, and the environmental degradation and economic space in Niger Delta, have been linked to the kidnapping of oil company's workers by militants. In the same vein, the contention for religious and ethnic space has resulted to the current kidnapping and banditry in the northern Nigeria. The alleged kidnapping of wealthy Nigerians (by criminal gangs) had been linked to competition and grab for limited sources (wealthy and power), etc . As observed, "resource competition, weak states, (including anti -grazing laws, and land grabs) ethnic and religious prejudice and breakdown of pastoralist oversight arrangements," have been attributed to the root cause of kidnapping and banditry in the north. As revealed, "farmers in conflict areas are predominantly Christian while herders or pastoralists are predominantly Muslim and (for about 90 percent) Fulani." As observed, "the conflict has escalated, ethno-religious tensions have been exacerbated and the conflict has been used for political gain." The assertion above, explain how it affects the Christian Church, against the premise that ethno-religious dysfunction, has been linked to political and economic gains, hence, kidnapping and banditry persist.

The functionalism theory argues that social phenomenon can be explained in terms of the role in the existence and survival of the larger society. The theory reveals that, there is inter-dependence of various parts within the system. This means that, the function of a part of a system usually affects the whole's system. This theory reveals that, society is made up of different parts, each of which is designed to fill different needs, and each of which has particular consequences for the form and shape of society (Durkheim, 1897). This

theory is relevant as it explains the reasons why kidnapping and banditry have persisted in Nigeria. As observed by scholars, Nigeria is a system, that composes of presidential part, legislative part, the judicial part, the Nigeria Police Force as a part, the Nigeria Arm Forces as a part, the governors as a part, and even religions as a part. It has been observed that, dysfunction of each of this part of Nigeria's system, has affected system as a whole, and the resultant effect's today, is the increasing of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria. For instance, each of this part has contributed to the woes in Nigeria, and the failed policing, protection of life and property of her citizens. As observed, jihadist, Islamic extremists, and Christian's militias, has allegedly involved in this heinous crime of kidnapping and banditry. "In 2011, Al Jazeera reported that a series of church bombings had taken the lives of 40 worshippers in Abuja areas." It has been alleged that, Boko Haram and other Islamic jihadists, perpetrates kidnapping and banditry in the north, and "the primary victims of both groups are targeting Nigeria's poorest and least protected Christian populations." This heinous crime in South, particularly in the Niger Delta was linked to militants in 2006. Primarily, dysfunction of the Nigeria's system has contributed to the persistence of kidnapping and banditry in the country.

Causes of kidnapping and Banditry in Nigeria

The root causes of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria has been linked to the following: unemployment, poverty, poor electoral system, illegal use of information and communication technology, get rich quick mentality, proliferation of arms and weapons, ethno-religious violence, dysfunctional security system, corruption, greed, dysfunctional leadership, among other variables. And because of space, some of these variables will be discussed accordingly.

Unemployment

The alarming rate of unemployment among the Nigeria's youths vis-a-vis citizens, has contributed to the increase rate of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria. Of course, days have gone when one after graduation from high school or apprenticeship, is cocksure of employment in Nigeria. It has been worsened in this global pandemic period, of course, the unemployment in Nigeria has rose to 23. 29%. According to National Bureau of Statistics, "There are currently over 23.29 million people unemployed in Nigeria. The age bracket of 15-24 recorded the highest rate of unemployment with a total number of 5.26 million followed by the age bracket of 25-34 with a total of 7.46 million people unemployed bringing the youth unemployment rate to 42.48 % in Q4 2020." No doubt that the rate of unemployment has contributed to the increasing level of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria today. As it is often said, "an idle mind is the devil's workshop," in recent years, many Nigerians are now in devil's workshop, trying and struggling to make ends meet,

through the barbaric and heinous ways, which is totally unacceptable, yet is a reality in Nigeria.

Aftermath of Elections in Nigeria:
The electoral process and its after maths has been linked to the heinous crimes in Nigeria, as such kidnapping and banditry are the order of the day. As observed, "... Politicians seeking re-election in Nigeria usually take a violent turn and syndrome of win -at -all cost attitudes. Consequently, arms and classy weapons are imported into the system for war as part of the usual preparation for Nigeria's election ..." (Olaniyi, 2020). According to Ibrahim et. al. (2020) "Some thugs who are sponsored by politicians arrange for the kidnapping of their opponent; ... Some kidnap activities in Kaduna State were politically motivated" as they observed. Of course, some of weapons use in recent times by the kidnappers and bandits, have been blamed on Nigeria's dysfunction electoral system.

Ethno-religion Violence: the struggle for ethno-religious space in Nigeria, has been linked as the root causes of kidnapping and banditry in recent years. "In recent times, Nigeria National security had been threatening by a religious gang that believed that western education and culture were forbidden (Boko Haram)"(Ugah, 2020). According to Global Terrorism Index, "Boko Haram ranked as the second deadliest terrorist group in 2019." Some scholars have observed "...ethnic-based terrorist group, which much of the perpetrators include criminal gangs of bandits and cattle rustlers."

Failed Leadership
As Eche and Wobodo (2021) asserted "the rate of armed robbery, oil bunkering, kidnapping, cultism, among other crimes is a direct consequence" of a failed leadership in Nigeria. The government inability to prosecute persons arrested in respect of the various religious and ethnic crises fans violence and its continuity; while the weakness of law enforcement exacerbates the culture of impunity and robs the criminals justice system of the deterrence role (Uzorka and Omeh, 2020).. Of course, the primary responsibilities of every meaningful leadership is to protect live and properties of her citizens. The current kidnapping and banditry has been blamed on the lack of leadership will, to secure the nation.

Corruption:
Corruption simply means "the misuse of public power (by elected politician, appointed civil servant or any other person in the position of one form of authority or the other) for private gain (Adetunmbi, 2017) . As observed, "Nigeria nation is at the verge of collapse because of corruption manifested in form of militancy, kidnapping, murder, robbery,

nepotism, tribalism, embezzlement, bribery, power tussle, thuggery, and political violence, electoral fraud and religion violence"(Njoku, 2017). Of course, from the assertion above, kidnapping vis-a-vis banditry has been linked to corruption in Nigeria. The political elites have abused the entrusted power given to them by people, to manage their common wealth, hence, several criminal minded gangs, have taken into arm against the government, through kidnapping and banditry.

ICT:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been linked and blamed for crimes in recent times, vis-a-vis kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria. ICT's crime simply means an illegal act for which knowledge of ICT is essential for its successful prosecution (Barawi, 2003).. As observed, ICT devices and applications have aided kidnappers vis-a-vis bandits, to ask for ransom from the family of the victims (wobodo, 2020). Despite the fact, that ICT has been a veritable tool for the security agents in tracking and tackling the criminal's activities in Nigeria. Yet, Wobodo argues (2020) that ICTs have also helped the kidnappers or cult boys, bandits, militants, Boko Haram, etc to monitor the movement of their perceived victims. Therefore, ICT has contributed to the recent kidnapping and banditry vis-a-vis insecurity woes in Nigeria.

Challenges of kidnapping and banditry for Nigeria's Christian Church.

The challenges of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria would have not been a case for research if not the increasing rate of agony Nigerians vis-a-vis Christians are passing through on the hands of bandits and kidnappers. It has become a challenge because the government whose primary responsibilities was to protect life and property, has failed. Inspector General of Police, Idris blamed the challenge of kidnapping and banditry to Nigerian's " weak laws," and lack of adequate funds, ... (as cited in Ibrahim, et .al, 2020) There are evidence of these heinous and barbaric crimes that were leash against Christians by so called bandits and kidnappers, who have continued to, maim, rape, loot, kill, abduct Nigerians. It has become worrisome to the church, as several Christians in Nigeria had been abducted, raped, kidnapped, killed, and some Christian's dominated villages razed down, among other horrible experience of the church and her leaders.

Of course here, are some of the kidnapping and banditry attacks, targeted in whatever guise against the church: On 25th December, 2011, the Boko Haram attacked some churches in Madall, Jos, Gadaka, as well as Damaturu, and about forty one Christians were killed. The sect also killed thirty seven Christian's worshippers on 5th-6th January 2012 at Mubi, Yola, Gombi and Maiduguri. On April 8, 2012, a Church in Kaduna State was bombed, and thirty eight Christians lost their lives. In June 17, 2012, about forty Christians

were murdered in Kano by terrorists, and on 7th August ,2012, nineteen Christians were murdered in Deeper Life Bible Church by Boko Haram at Kogi State. The terrorist groups attacked Maiduguri and Potiskum, and twenty seven Christians were killed in that incident, the sect also murdered fifteen Christians at Masari village (Udochukwu ,2020).

On 6th September, 2013, Archbishop Ignatius Kattey, was kidnapped by gunmen at Rivers State. As cited in Wobodo (2020), "The Rt.Revd. Clement. N. Ekpeye, JP, AP, Bishop, Ang.Diocese of Ahoada in Rivers State was kidnapped at the bishop's court, along Odiemerenyi road, Ahoada, ..."

On 31st January, 2014 one hundred and six Christians were murdered by Islamic extremists at Konduga, Borno State, and on 15th,,,2014, ninety Christians were killed by this sect at Gwosa.

As reported on 2nd March 2014, there was an armed robbery attack in a church in Ibadan, in which a policeman was killed. On 14th April, 2014, two hundred and seventy six schoolgirls were kidnapped by Boko Haram at Chibok, Borno State, on 2nd June, 2014, about two Christians were killed in some of the villages by insurgents at Borno State. on 20-23 June, 2014, seventy Christians were murdered, while ninety one women and children were kidnapped by insurgents. On 13 December, 2014, about thirty five Christians were murdered, while eighty five were kidnapped at Gumsuri, Borno State (Udochukwu,2020).

As reported on 3rd March, 2015, pastorates in the Emmanuel Baptist Church Cathedral at Sabo Oke, llorin, Kwara State were looted by unknown gunmen. On 19 February, 2018, one hundred and ten Dapchi schoolgirls were kidnapped by the terrorist. As reported, on 24th September, 2020, armed men invaded a Church, raped a girl, shot another in her thigh, at Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. On 26th September, 2020, Fr Jude Onyebadi a Catholic Priest, was kidnapped by gunmen at Delta State. As reported, on 6 October 2020, armed robber attacked St Augustine Catholic Church, Makurdi, Benue State, and armed robber also attacked Apostolic Church, Gudugbe, Ewekoro area of the State as reported on 29 November, 2020 (Punchng. com -robbers...). As reported on 14th January 2021, pastor Kelvin Orumor was killed in Warri, Delta State by armed robber.

As reported on 19 May, 2021, bandits attacked Ungwan Gaida community, killed seven locals, razed houses, including Assemblies of God Church in Kaduna. On May, 2021, Hamayoni Ogedengbe a Deeper Life Pastor and ex-director of Ondo State Civil Service was kidnapped by unknown gunmen. On 25th April 2021, Bandits also attacked Haske Baptist Church, killed eight Christians, kidnapped several worshippers at Chikum,

Kaduna State (Channeltv.com.2021/04/25). As reported on 10 June, 2021, Redeemed Christian Church of God was attacked at Ogun State. On 25th July 2021, one hundred and twenty six students of Bethel Baptist School were kidnapped by armed bandits in Maraban, Damishi, Kaduna State (Vanguardngr.com.news). As reported on 27th September, 2021, Bandits attack on the Evangelical Church of Winning All (EVWA) during service, open fire on worshippers, at Gavaciwa, Kaduna State (dailypostng2021/09/...). According to Nigeria international organization for peace and social justice, " North -Eastern Nigeria is becoming increasingly uninhabitable for Christians as well as other minorities due to an upsurge in Islamist violence." Nigeria, a secular nation is in recent years deeply struggling to curb the menace of Boko Haram with its allied criminal groups, who now abduct, kill, rape Christians, and in furtherance, loot predominantly Christian villages in the northern part of the country. For instance, it was revealed that in Zamfara state alone, between June 2011 and May 2019 bandits in whatever guises have lost six thousand, three hundred and nineteen people; and three thousand, six hundred and seventy two were kidnapped, and three thousand, five hundred and eighty seven houses destroyed. It has been observed, that bandits had killed more Nigerians than Boko Haram, robbers, kidnappers, cultists, among other unknown or unknown gunmen in Nigeria. The question would have been, who are the bandits in the northern Nigerian? Of course, Nasi el-Rufai on 4th October, 2019 revealed that from an intelligence report, that bandits and kidnappers in the North West were working with Boko Haram members to attacks schools in the area (International Crisis Group pdf)..

The Senate has called president Buhari to declare bandits as a terrorist group. This call is as a result of their barbaric and heinous crime against Nigerians, although the call may not see the light of the day, while Christians Vis-a-vis Nigerians, have continued to suffer the challenges of banditry and kidnapping across the nation (Premiumtimesng. Com).

Also reported news on 29 September, 2021, revealed that, the Pope Francis has asked president Muhammadu Buhari to find ways to stop the killing of Nigerians across the country. The Pontiff, described the heinous crimes as senseless killings of Nigerians by suspected Jihadists, hence he called on the Nigerian's government to guarantee the safety of all citizens. The Pope observation supports the fact that, life in Nigeria, mostly Christians and ethnic minorities are worthless, as a day hardly go bye, without the news of kidnapping and banditry in the country. As observed, in the Ikwerre, and Rivers State at large, kidnapping, killing, looting, by cult groups, and alleged militants have been established to have affected the Christian church. According to Eche and Wobodo (2021) "This has affected the Church, as many committed members of the churches in the Ikwerre have fled for their safety while those outside the rural areas hardly visit their home church

on the ground of insecurity" (dailytrust. Com. end-killing...) The above assertion, is not peculiar to Rivers State, but it is a general phenomena in most States and localities in Nigeria, Christians have abandoned their churches because of activities of kidnappers and bandits /pirates in whatever garb in their areas.

Financially, the Christian Churches have paid ransom and even lost the lives of her members at hand of kidnappers and bandits. Apart from ransom, as observed, many victims of banditry and kidnapping were physically tortured and threatened to be killed. It was also observed that kidnappers and bandits often place their victims under psychological pressure and trauma. The trauma and psychological pressure are not experienced only by the victims but, their relatives, families, friends and institutions who also shared in horrible trauma, the agony and pressure of the bandits and kidnappers.

The challenges of kidnapping and banditry have persisted despite the efforts of the Nigeria's security agents, because the government lacks the political will, to secure lives and properties of her citizens. It is very regrettable, that the Christian Churches in Nigeria are faced with this unabated challenge of kidnapping and banditry across the nation.

Recommendations

This paper having investigated and established the challenges of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria vis-a-vis the Christian church, recommends the following:

1. The church should persistently advocate and pray against the menace of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria.
2. The Nigeria's government and the church should partner in the improvement of ICT aided security in the country.
3. The government at all levels should provide good governance in order to reduce poverty, unemployment, among other variables of crime in the nation
4. The Nigeria's government should enforce community policing to curb the menace of criminality in Nigeria.
5. There should be an ethno-religious dialogue, which may help to promote religious tolerance/ understanding among Nigerians.
6. The Nigeria's States should establish ranches as a source of income, with 70 percentages preference to their indigenous people, and 30 for other Nigerians. This would help to avert or stop the so called herders and farmers violence in Nigeria, which have metamorphosed into kidnapping and banditry.

Conclusion

We have explained the terms, Christianity, kidnapping, and banditry, which enhanced the enunciation of the paper. As established, kidnapping and banditry are not peculiar to Nigeria nation, as there are centuries history of these crimes. We deployed conflict and functionalism theories, which explained while these heinous acts have continued in Nigeria. In addition, the paper mentioned and explained the causes of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria. And strongly, the paper observed that Christian faith is faced with the challenges of kidnapping and banditry, as both lives and properties have been lost in the recent times.

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