

Recurrent Waves of Jailbreak in Nigeria: The Imperatives of Prison Intelligence and Dynamic Security Strategies in Managing the Nigerian Correctional Facilities

Dr. Temitope Francis Abiodun

Department of Peace, Security and Humanitarian Studies
Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Marcus Temitayo Akinlade

Department of Political Science and International Diplomacy
School of Social and Management Sciences
Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology
Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Akinde Blessing Onyi

Assistant Controller of Corrections, Nigerian Correctional Services
State Headquarters Office, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria

Adedotun Abidemi Daramola

Postgraduate Student, Peace and Conflict Studies Programme
Department of Peace, Security and Humanitarian Studies
Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies
University of Ibadan, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This paper painstakingly addresses the phenomenon of rising waves of prison or jailbreak in Nigeria. And as generally observed according to the dictates of Nigerian law, jail or prison break remains an illegal or unlawful act under which a prisoner forces his or her way out of the prison in a state. This phenomenon of jailbreaks has in one way or the other impacted negatively on the society and posed dangerous threats to national peace and security. The paper in its objectives endeavours to: highlight the series of jailbreaks that have taken place in Nigeria and the various techniques employed by the escapees; interrogate the causal factors of jailbreaks in the country; and also examine the roles of prison intelligence and dynamic security in curtailing the menace. The study makes use of the regulatory capture theory to explain the bane of the phenomena while descriptive and content-analysis techniques are adopted. With the aid of primary and secondary data, the paper is able to reveal that; corruption, ineffective Correctional Service Arms Squad and Intelligence Unit, lack of prison intelligence and dynamic security, among others have weakened the Nigerian Correctional facilities' security and led to incessant jailbreaks in Nigeria. The paper, however, recommended; putting in place a very sensitive nature of prison information and intelligence; establishing a prison intelligence management board; adopting a multi-agency approach security

strategy; and training of prison-based intelligence officers for intelligence gathering and information sharing as strategies of curtailing the rising spate of jailbreaks in Nigeria.

Keywords: Prison intelligence, Dynamic security strategies, Nigerian Correctional Service, Jailbreak, Regulatory capture theory, Corruption.

INTRODUCTION

The origin of Western prisons service in Nigeria is traceable to the colonial regime in 1861 during the time their administration was pre-occupied with the bane of safeguarding their businesses and also to protect the missionaries (Orakwe, 2018). And by 1861, the then Acting Governor of Lagos Colony who was also British merchant in Lagos, put a police force of about 25 constables in place; followed in 1863 by the establishment of four (4) courts which included: a police court meant to resolve minor disputes, a criminal court meant to try more serious cases, a slave court meant to try cases arising from the efforts to abolish the trade in slaves, and as well a commercial court meant to resolve disputes arising among the colonial merchants and traders (Nigeria Prisons Service, 2018). It is no more a new knowledge that a prison is built in order to take custody of legally detained people, towards identifying causes of their ill-behaviours, and as well retraining them to become more functional in the society (Orakwe, 2018). In other way, the existence of prison in a state is meant to punish, deter, and reform convicted criminals.

The Nigeria's Prisons Service (now Nigerian Correctional Services) is headed by the Controller General of Prisons, and the 'Services' is a government agency situated under the Ministry of Interior and is administered by a body known to be the Civil Defense, Correctional, Fire and Immigration Services Board (CDCFIB 2019). The modern Nigerian Prison Service (now Correctional Services) derives its operational powers from the Nigerian Correctional Service Act (2019). This Act repels CAP P29 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. The Nigerian Correctional Service Act (2019) divides the Service into both Custodial and Non-Custodial Services (Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019).

The agency has power according to Section 10 of the Act in: taking into custody all persons legally interned; providing safe, secure and humane custody for inmates; conveying remand persons to and from courts the motorized formations; identifying the existence and causes of most of the anti-social behaviours of prisoners; conducting risk and needs assessment aimed at developing appropriate correctional treatment methods for reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration; implementing reformation and rehabilitation programmes to enhance the reintegration of inmates back to the society; initiating their (inmates) behaviours modification by providing the medical, psychological, spiritual and counseling services for all offenders including violent extremists; empowering inmates through the deployment of educational and vocational skills training programmes, and facilitating incentives and income generation through Custodial Centres, farms and industries; administering borstal and related institutions; and as well providing support to facilitate the speedy disposal of cases of persons awaiting trials and administer Prisons farms and industries for this particular purpose and in the process generate revenue for the government (www.prisons.gov.ng; Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019).

For the past two decades now, the Nigerian correctional centres across the states have witnessed one form of jail or prison breaks or the other (Ripples Nigeria Report, 2017). Various prison breaks have taken place at the prisons in: Kogi, Ekiti, Ondo, Minna, Bauchi, Damaturu, Owerri, among others in the Nigeria. However, despite the various forewarning signals, prison officials have usually been caught up in one prison break or the other in the country; as the inmates broke loose after the expiration of the ultimatum and forewarning rolled out to the Service by the hoodlums. Information on impending riots or prison breaks are usually rolled out to the prison officials before the incidents occur; and a good number of these “breaks” are known to the authorities beforehand but they would never take any viable measure to forestall the phenomena (Jack, 2016). And most of the time, the Prisons Armed Squad usually relay such break attempts to the Office of the Comptroller General more than a week before the incidents take place, but the major problem there is that the intelligence reports are frequently swept under the carpet as a result of corruption that has eaten deep into most of Nigerian institutions (Ripples Nigeria Report, 2017).

Moreover, the physical environments of Nigerian prison cells are highly disgusting and this look suffices to give people visiting correctional centres in the country a dread attack. The Nigerian correctional centres (prisons) are usually overcrowded with the condemned, dying and awaiting trial inmates; while a number of cells are kept for some wealthy inmates who usually serve out their terms in “pleasure” (Falayi and Ajaja, 2018). And despite the prisons congestion across the country, the rich or wealth inmates usually get themselves in conducive prison spaces or environments – all these attest to some of the reasons the ‘unfavoured’ inmates go aggressive to ensure they escape from the prison at all cost. By the way, most prisoners hate living in prison while a significant number of them has accepted their fates because they are usually subjected to appropriate security measures and unfair treatment – they would try to escape or disrupt the normal routine of the prisons service (Chris, 2014; Chuks, 2014).

However, above remain the reasons security measures to which prisoners are subjected should be made minimum and necessary in order to achieve a secure custody. Observations have been made that numerous illicit items or objects are smuggled into prisons during the various social visits; and as a result of these problems, this study is conducted to ensure there is consistency of application of procedural adoption and application of prison intelligence, and dynamic security in a bid to save the Nigerian prisons from incessant jailbreaks. The study in its objectives therefore poised to; highlight the series of prison breaks that have taken place in Nigeria and the various techniques employed by the escapees; interrogate the causal factors of jailbreaks in the Nigeria; and finally examine the roles of prison intelligence and dynamic security in containing the menace.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Concept of Prison Intelligence

Intelligence has a number of definitions but can be best described to be the predictive, accurate, relevant and timely hypothesis emanating from objective-driven collection, collation, evaluation, and value added analysis of all available significant information (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020).

Information + Analysis = Intelligence

In this regard, criminal intelligence can also be defined as: the product or service resulting from the analysis of past and present activity to predict future activity and suggesting the accomplishment of alternative trends of action that may be taken to interdict the impact of a threatening crime group engagement in a state. This definition, however, gives an explanation of criminal intelligence in expressions of the analysis of previous and present data to predict future behaviour. Such an examination is useful to investigators, as it has the potential to promote the investigation by providing leads and defining gaps in information. The objective is to identify threats before they manifest themselves in actions, by analyzing information and reducing uncertainty, so that managers can make appropriate decisions (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020). Such measures could be identifying the chance of escape by a prisoner; in which case, the prisoner is moved to a more secure institution, their classification changed or additional measures put in place to manage the risk. Another paradigm is the trafficking of drugs by a visitor to an inmate, which should definitely result in the inmate being placed on closed (restricted contact) visits or their visitor being thoroughly searched prior to the visit. It enables, when effective information sharing takes place with the police, the police to search the visitor prior to a visit and make an arrest if drugs are in possession (UNODC, 2015).

The intelligence function is a critical component of any organization. However, within the law enforcement agencies, the military and commercial business, intelligence and analysis are normally deployed by senior managers in the decision-making process. Intelligence helps to reduce uncertainty and to focus resources in the right areas (Innovative Prison System, 2020). Imprisonment is not necessarily a deterrent to continued criminal behaviours. By the way, numerous prisoners usually continue with their criminal activities while in prison; these usually take the form of operating illicit businesses, attempting to radicalize other prisoners, and sustaining gang related activity in the prison (UNODC, 2015). In the same vein, inmates may also sneak out to maintain their outside criminal activity, including directing terrorist operations, operating drug syndicates and serious crime gangs. International trends have however revealed that criminal networks usually continue to exist within correctional centres. Criminals make contacts while in prison and, in some cases, extend, their criminality beyond the prison system. Moreover, many prisoners also plan escapes and initiate activities intended to undercut the good order of the correctional centres. Others will seek to corrupt or manipulate staff and attempt to have things smuggled into the prison (Innovative Prison System, 2020).

In order to ensure that the correctional service authorities can identify these activities, all prison facilities should have in place a structured prison intelligence system to enable security and related information to be collected and evaluated in a very secure environment, consistent with national legislation, in order to meet security and intelligence objectives. All prison staff should have the responsibility to actively gather security information and pass this information to the security department (Australian Corrections Management, 2011). This concept, however, remains a very imperative aspect of dynamic security and requires staff to actively engage, and maintain professional relationships, with prisoners if they are to obtain good quality information. It is therefore established that prison intelligence systems remained in existence for many years. Indeed, although it has only recently been formalized in many jurisdictions, many of the basic (and intuitive) approaches of intelligence work are the same. For instance, prison personnel have always attempted to identify the common thread that links clues about what is happening in prison, or keep a mental note of the habits of particular prisoners, or

cultivate special relationships with some prisoners who provide inside information (UNODC, 2015).

Prison Intelligence Process and Cycle

Intelligence in actual sense remains information to which “something” has been added. That “something” is the intelligence process. The intelligence process reduces the element of chance. It should not be confused with some “magical” ability to read the future, and is only ever advisory (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020). It is all about deciphering information to give it a meaning. For a layman’s comprehension, intelligence might be described as processed information. Within the confines of prison and law enforcement milieu, intelligence can also be described as information that has been processed—acquired, exploited and protected—to decide upon and support criminal or disciplinary investigations or staff interventions to prevent/eliminate threats to the good order and security of the prison. It is important to remember that the burden of proof, when dealing with information analyzed as part of the intelligence process, is different to the evidentiary burden required in the criminal courts of many jurisdictions (Innovative Prison System, 2020). Therefore, anyone deploying intelligence should remember to bear in mind that, unless or until conclusively proved by further facts, conclusions reached by way of the intelligence process are presumptions on the author’s part.

Intelligence Process and Cycle

The intelligence process consists of a series of functions which, in their totality, validate and provide broader meaning to raw information. The functions in sequence are directing or tasking, collection, evaluation, collation, analysis, dissemination, and re-evaluation. This order of functions is usually referred to as the intelligence cycle, by which raw information is converted into useful intelligence that can be used for decision-making. Direct or task, collect, collate, analyze, evaluate, and disseminate (Innovative Prison System, 2020).

Directing or Tasking

The first phase of the intelligence cycle in a state involves tasking and giving directions. Intelligence analysis is driven by the needs of the end users of the analytical products, that is, the prison administration. The analytical effort is thus directed through directing by prison management, which takes the initiative at this stage of the cycle (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020). And having discussed this, the principle of partnership however requires that both the consumer and the provider share a responsibility for working together to ensure that the requirements for the analytical product are plainly defined and comprehended by both sides. Accordingly, directing (tasking) involves the formulation and prioritization of them prison administration’s information needs; identifying and organizing personnel and resources; developing a collection plan; and assigning tasks to various prison operators and intelligence staff (UNODC, 2015).

The correctional service administration should have an overarching tasking and coordination process for intelligence gathering in all of its establishments. It should also appoint a senior officer to lead on security and intelligence matters (Trout, 2019). This officer needs to create a sub-committee comprising the heads of each prison intelligence management board, with representatives from the police and probation service. It is this sub-committee that agrees on the security and intelligence strategic priorities for the department as a whole and for individual establishments. The prisons security department needs to have some requirements

on which to authorize their staff to collect and report intelligence on as follows: drug trafficking; organized gang-related activity; drug trafficking; escape planning; planned attacks on staff or other prisoners; illicit communications using mobile phone and internet; radicalization and violent extremist activity; bullying of vulnerable prisoners; and risks to safety and security, order and control of the prison respectively (Trout, 2019).

Collection

Any intelligence process is only as good as the information that is collected. Also, information collection is the directed, focused gathering of information through overt and covert means, from all possible sources (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020). These may include prison databases; court documents; information from staff, prisoners and third parties (e.g. law enforcement agencies); other prison units, e.g. security units, investigators and escort units; footage from cameras; the results of searches; the media and social networks; and any other source legally accessible to the intelligence unit. Importance of prison staff in information collection is paramount. In some ways, the prison environment lends itself to basic intelligence collection, as the principal subjects are incarcerated (Trout, 2019). Within the prison context, information gathering is primarily through prison staff. They are the most important (and often most underutilized) source for prison intelligence, as staff are in constant contact with prisoners and are the first to attend incidents. Staff may be told something by a prisoner, have observed something, heard something or read something (United Nations, 2013). The more developed the concept of prison intelligence is, the greater the volume of information and intelligence contributed by these staff.

Evaluation

Evaluation involves an assessment of the reliability of the source and the quality of the information. All information should be examined to evaluate the reliability of the source and the accuracy of the information (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020). A specially trained member of prison staff should evaluate the information as it is received. A process should be in place to supervise and ensure quality information after submission. Feedback to the member of staff who gathered the information and to the evaluator is important if future evaluations are to improve (Trout, 2019). An internationally used formula, known as the Admiralty Code, is designed to give an alphanumeric value to this assessment. The components of the code represent a graded scale of measurement ranging between high probability to probable inaccuracy (UNODC, 2006). Where an assessment is impossible to make in the circumstances, an additional code is included. Each component must be considered carefully and independently of each other.

Collation

Following evaluation in the process, all records and logs are received, either on paper or electronically, should be collated, filed, cross referenced and ordered, ready for analysis. Collation involves the organization of the data collected into a format from which it can be retrieved and analyzed (Osifodunrin, 2013). However, collation requires examining all available information to quantify its contents and sorting similar information into logical groups, thereby converting raw information into formats that can be used by analysts and investigators. Regardless of any specific attribute of activity under investigation, it will generally contain information relating to people, places, objects and events (Osifodunrin, 2013). During collation, the prison system is required to carry out some groupings into: *People*

(both identifiable and not including their relationships to each other); *Places* (identified locations within the prison, yards, accommodation, workshops among others); *Things* (telephone numbers, drugs, knives, escape equipment, home-made weapons, alcohol brewed in prison, among others) (Trout, 2019).

Analysis

Analysis involves the careful examination of information to discover its meaning and essential features. The analysis stage of the intelligence process is a key one. Analysis can be described as in-depth examination of the meaning and essential features of available information (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020). Analysis highlights information gaps, strengths, weaknesses and suggests a way forward. There are two basic categories of analysis: strategic analysis, which takes a higher “helicopter” and a longer term perspective; and tactical analysis, which focuses on immediate, operational issues. Strategic information and intelligence considers trends and emerging threats (Rudy, 2019). In the same vein, tactical information and intelligence gaze at an existing situation or current operation, often in real time. Analysis therefore considers information in perspective, draws conclusion as to what it means, highlights gaps in existing knowledge, suggests what is likely to happen next and makes recommendations as to possible future action (Abiodun and Dahiru, 2020).

Therefore, unequaled prison intelligence products remain highly cogent, concise and accessible with clear and unequivocal recommendations justified by strong evidence. An important aspect of analysis is hypothesis development (Trout, 2019). The term hypothesis development simply refers to the development of alternative theories as to what a collection of information may mean. Generally, more than one hypothesis can be developed from the same set of data. The elements of a hypothesis are: *Who* (key individuals); *What* (criminal activities); *How* (method of operation); *Where* (geographic location); *Why* (motive); and *When* (past, present or future) (Lee, 2006).

Dissemination

The dissemination stage involves the release of the results of analysis to the client, i.e. prison management (Dunbar, 1985). The dissemination process can take various forms, such as: structured formalized reports; structured and formal oral presentations with supporting documentation; weekly overviews in the form of bulletins; and ad-hoc briefing to intelligence and investigative teams (UNODC, 2015). It is established by the various scholars that dissemination phase usually completes the initial cycle of the intelligence process. However, the intelligence briefs present the findings of an analysis. The product should be clearly succinct and adequately present only those findings that are relevant to the specific issue or trend. Intelligence practitioners must critically evaluate their own analysis to ensure that the final product clearly articulates the intelligence that is critical for managers to make informed decisions (Lee, 2006). The purpose of the intelligence brief is to provide a summary of an issue to enable timely tasking. It can also be used to report updates on existing products. The intelligence brief facilitates more efficient and timely reporting of emerging issues, due to the reduced workload in providing a summary of the issue rather than a comprehensive assessment (Dunbar, 1985).

Concept of Dynamic Security

The concept of security in prisons actually goes beyond the physical barriers to prevent escape but depends on an alert staff who usually interact with prisoners, who have an awareness of what is going on in the prison and who ensure that prisoners are kept active in a positive way - this is known as “dynamic security” (Innovative Prison System, 2020). The concept of dynamic security therefore means the basic knowledge or awareness of what operates in a prison in addition to provision of safety and security background against which the whole range of activity making up the life of a prison takes place (Onah, Adeniyi, and Eneh, 2019). Dynamic security has the potentials of engaging inmates individually and gaining both material and intuitive insights into the operation of the prison. The concept focuses on: positive relationships, communication and interaction between the staff and prisoners; professionalism; gathering relevant information; gaining insights into and improving social climate of the punitive institution; understanding personal situation of the prisoner; communication, positive relations; and exchange of the information among all employees” (Innovative Prison System, 2020). The indispensable elements of dynamic security entail both: physical and procedural security measures known to be fundamental elements of a prison though the arrangements may not be sufficient toward ensuring that prisoners do not escape (Jombo, 2016).

This concept is often described as dynamic security and it is increasingly becoming adopted globally. However, if effectively attained in any setting, dynamic security allows prisoners to feel comfortable when approaching prison staff before problems escalate. It is, therefore, imperative that members of staff take every opportunity to interact directly with prisoners and avoid retreating behind doors, into corridors or offices and stations unless required to do so. Dynamic security is not just about preventing prisoners from escaping. It is also about maintaining good relationships with prisoners and being aware of their moods and temperament (UNHCHR, 2005). Dynamic security as a prison security strategy comes into fruition when the corrections officers embrace both the professional and constructive relationships with the inmates.

As espoused by the Innovative Prison System (2020), prison officers should develop and sustain professional relationships with prisoners. Dynamic security occurs when corrections officers interact and engage with prisoners during the course of their work by: Regularly walking through the area in which they are posted; talking to inmates, gaining their trust and building relationship; checking prisoners’ physical welfare during musters and head checks; maintaining a consistent approach to inappropriate behaviour; encouraging positive behaviour and addressing negative behaviour; engaging in case management process; following up on requests in a timely manner; and remaining calm during incidents (Australian Corrections Management, 2011).

According to Australian Corrections Management (2011), dynamic security also entails both the strategic communications and surveillance, physical and procedural security measures in prisons management and they are adequately addressed as follows:

Physical security

The fundamental aspect of correctional centres security management is the physical security of the institution. The aspects of physical security, however, include the architecture of the

correctional buildings, the strength of the walls of those buildings, the bars on the windows, the doors and walls of the accommodation units, the specifications of the perimeter wall and fences, watchtowers and so on (Australian Corrections Management, 2011). These activities also include the provision of physical aids to security such as locks, cameras, alarm systems (internal and external), x-ray machines, metal detectors, radios, handcuffs and such like. In addition, good practice is to actually set minimum physical security standards for each type of prison, and for each element within that prison. Therefore, the specification for perimeter security, for instance, may include an outer concrete wall, and an inner prison mesh type fence. However, the height, width, foundations, building materials and method of construction would be adequately specified, along with the distance between the wall and fence, the type and location of perimeter lighting, perimeter alarm system and a CCTV system to trigger the cameras when a perimeter alarm is activated (Avakian, 2000).

However, in designing the physical aspects of security, Avakian (2000) opined there is need to be an equilibrium between the best way of attaining the required security level and the need to respect the dignity of the individuals involved. But other way round, physical aid to security using cameras, monitoring and alarm systems is adjudged to usually intrude on personal privacy. In the same vein, the use of physical security instruments such as chains, handcuffs and fetters that are applied directly to inmates can be a contentious issue in one way or the other (National Archive, 2014). This is the reason the European Prison Rules 68 submit that: (i) the use of chains and irons shall be prohibited; (ii) handcuffs, restraint jackets and other body restraints shall not be used except; and (iii) if required, as a precaution against escape during a transfer, provided that they shall be removed when the prisoner appears before a judicial or administrative authority unless that authority decides otherwise (UNODC, 2015).

Procedural security

It is therefore imperative that physical security is complemented by other forms of security. Security therefore requires effective systems and procedures, well coordinated both nationally and locally. In addition, procedures usually play a significant role in preventing escapes and are regarded as a fundamental aspect of prison security (Rudy, 2019). Correctional members of staff are to learn or get educated, how to perform a security-related task through procedures. Meanwhile since the human memory is prone to play tricks on humanity, it is highly likely that most people will forget how to do a task that is not repeated with great frequency, hence the need for procedures. In each correctional centres, there should be a clearly understood set of procedures that describe how and when staff should carry out certain functions. Procedures are becoming more critical as the use of advanced technology increases, especially when it comes to procedures for monitoring with the CCTV, perimeter security systems, and electronic locking (Avakian, 2000). However, the system and procedures of accounting for prisoners is crucial to the security of the prison and the safety of both staff and prisoners. Summarily, a count is taken to be a physical acknowledgement of the number of prison inmates in certain locations. The number of prisoners in each area is compared with the number assigned there (Rudy, 2019).

Communications and surveillance

Inmates usually retain, within certain limits, their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their right to family life and not to be totally isolated from society. In some circumstances, prisoners may be prevented from physical contact with friends and family, in

case there are existing security reasons for doing so (Prison Administration, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Croatia, 2014). The correctional service administration's duty to encourage communication with the outside world must be balanced against the risks that may be associated with the ability of prisoners to communicate with those outside. Communication must be managed to prevent crime, inhibit the trafficking of unauthorized items, ensure the protection of the public from unwanted communications, and prevent escapes (Rudy, 2019).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Regulatory Capture Theory

The study is best discussed within the confines of the capture theory which was adequately developed by Nobel Laureate, George Stigler (1971) as cited in the work of Onuoha (2008). Within the context of the research work, it is therefore required to search for a theory to explain the ineffective prison administration and incessant jailbreaks in Nigeria, because, suitable theories have not been employed to analyze the problem at hand. For instance, Jombo (2016), blamed it on prison congestion, lack of rehabilitation and correctional equipment in Nigerian correctional centres. Anisukwu *et al.* (2015), argues that it is as a result of poor quality and quantity of prison food, overcrowding, lack of medical facilities and personnel, poor sanitation and incessant death among inmates. Omale (2013) in his research identified lack of water supply, corruption/favouritism, inadequate staffing of prisons deprivation of certain perceived rights and privileges, trafficking by staff and inmates, non-production and reproduction of awaiting trial persons to court.

While all these are internal causes of jailbreak it would be pertinent to note that insurgency, proliferation of firearms, criminal activities, economic, political and social crisis has led to many jailbreaks in recent times and this is external to the correctional service. Therefore, capture theory is a set of interrelated assumption employed to explain and understand how regulatory agencies are captured by the regulated concerns or interests, thereby distorting the original intention of government for creating the agencies (Kenton, 2019). When a special interest seizes regulatory agencies to further their own interest against the public interests for which they are established, the regulatory agencies are said to have been captured (Onuoha, 2008). Thus, a government agency suffering regulatory capture is called captured agency (Kenton, 2019).

However, the regulatory capture occurs because groups or individuals with a high-stake interest in the outcome of policy or regulatory decisions can be expected to focus their resources and energies in attempting to gain policy outcomes they prefer (Lee, 2006), and this can happen by successfully capturing influence with the connivance of the correctional centres' members of staff, thereby aiding the inmates escape from the various custodies in Nigeria And as earlier corroborated and emphasized by Anichukwu, et al, (2015); Amobi, 2018, Chuks, 2014; Atolagbe, 2014; Becky, 2016; Arowojolu, 2014; The Paradigm Report, 2015; Stigler, 1971; and Kenton, 2019), jailbreaks occur in the Nigerian correctional facilities as a result of corruption among the officers of the Service, ineffective dynamic security and intelligence from the Correctional Officers, poor quality and quantity of prison food being served to the inmates, poor economy in the country, overcrowded facilities, lack of medical facilities and personnel, poor sanitation and incessant death among inmates respectively.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employed a case study design which enabled the researchers to gather adequate data and interrogate the subject matter while the Regulatory Capture Theory was adopted as framework. As submitted by Bromley (1990), this means a systematic inquiry into an event or set of related events which aims to describe and explain the phenomenon of interest. The study area covered some selected states from each of the six (6) geo-political regions of North-East, North-West, North-Central, South-West, South-South, and South-East that made up Nigeria. The choice of the selected states or areas of study was predicated on the fact that the correctional facilities in the locations have recorded one form of jailbreak or the other in recent time. Data were gathered from primary and secondary sources with significant reliability index. 280 copies of questionnaire were administered on respondents that were selected using a purposive stratified random sampling technique. Also, the study made use of non-participant observation to observe the multiplicity of the jailbreak mishaps in the selected states; and Key Informant Interview Guide utilized, following the respondents' vast knowledge on security, correctional service, intelligence, border security, and management in Nigeria.

The respondents included; officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Department of State Security, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Army, Nigeria Immigration Service, and Customs Service. Others included security experts, members of selected civil society organizations, selected freed inmates or ex-convicts and the selected residents in the communities and states, Oyo (Ibadan), Lagos, Ogun (Shagamu), Kogi (Koto-Karfe), Ekiti (Ado-Ekiti), Ondo (Akure), Edo (Benin City), Niger (Minna), Bauchi Yobe (Damaturu), Imo (Owerri), Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), among others, where incident of jailbreaks since occurred in the country. The secondary sources of data for the study included: existing literature or books, internet data, journals, newspapers, conference papers on the phenomenon, Nigeria Correctional Service reports on prisons matters, and other relevant publications on jailbreaks in Nigeria. In the course of the study, the researchers made use of the Ondo State Public Library, Akure, Ondo State, to construct the impact index of the phenomenon on the study while the findings were descriptively and content-analyzed.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Respondents' Data

Gender of the Respondents

Serial No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Male	180	51.26
2.	Female	100	48.73
	Total	280	100 %

Age of the Respondents

Serial No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	18-30	85	41.16
2.	31-45	60	31.06
3.	46-55	50	17.92
4.	56 and Above	75	9.84
	Total	280	100 %

Educational Qualifications of the Selected Respondents

Serial No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	SSCE	60	19.70
2.	OND/Equivalent	70	24.75
3.	BSc/HND	115	50.25
4.	Masters/PhD	35	5.30
	Total	280	100 %

Employment Status of the Respondents

Serial No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Employed	110	25.25
2.	Unemployed	90	55.55
3.	Self Employed	80	19.19
	Total	280	100 %

Locations of the Respondents

Serial No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Ado-Ekiti (Ekiti)	35	4.0
2.	Akure (Ondo)	40	6.0
3.	Minna (Niger)	22	9.0
4.	Ibadan (Oyo)	25	14.0
5.	FCT (Abuja)	28	20.0
6.	Damature (Yobe)	24	21.0
7.	Lagos	25	15.0
8.	Benin-City (Edo)	20	7.0
9.	Shagamu (Ogun)	26	9.0
10.	Bauchi	21	7.0
11.	Koto-Karfe (Kogi)	14	5.0
	Total	280	100 %

Source: Field Research Survey, 2019.

Research Question 1: What have been the factors responsible for jailbreaks in Nigeria? Can you also highlight the cases?

Factors/Reasons Fuelling Jailbreaks in Nigeria	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Corruption, ineffective or lack of prison intelligence, low-level or absence of dynamic security, connivance between the inmates and correctional officers, poor state of correctional facilities, non-respect for fundamental human rights, poor sanitation, feeding problem, among others.	Strongly Agreed	270	74.17
	Undecided	10	25.13
	Total	280	100 %

Source: Field Research Survey, 2019.

Highlights of the cases of jailbreaks and causative factors in Nigeria

According to the Nigeria Correctional Service (2018), there are currently 240 correctional facilities in Nigeria and the official capacity of the centres is put at 50,1530 inmates. As revealed by the study, jailbreak is an illegal act or situation as espoused in Nigerian law, under which a prisoner forces his or her way out of a prison. In other words, it could as well be conceptualized as attacks on the Nigeria Correctional Service by unknown gunmen, terrorists, armed robbers, and assailants with the main purpose of freeing some of their convicted or incarcerated cohorts in crime. And as soon as this ugly incident takes place, efforts are usually put in top gear by the officers of the Service in conjunction with other sister security agencies to get the escaped inmates re-arrested and returned to the prisons. The cases of jailbreaks in Nigeria are highlighted as follows:

The Abuja Department of State Security (DSS) attack

The Abuja Department of State Security (DSS) attack was actually described to be a well-coordinated terrorist attack by the Islamic group known usually as 'Boko Haram' on the Department of State Security in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and it occurred on 31 March 2014 in a bid to get themselves (convicted terrorists) escaped from detention. This attack led to the demise of twenty-one (21) terrorists who attempted to escape from the detention, leaving two (2) security personnel severely injured. The jailbreak actually took place on Sunday, 31 March 2014 early in the morning, as one of the DSS personnel went into the detention to serve the inmates' breakfast. And in a bid to return to his office, he was disarmed by one of the terrorists who hit him on the head with his handcuff in an attempt to escape; and this action drew the attention of other armed guards who shot in the air to stop their purported plans. This effort of the armed guards remained in futility until the army officers were eventually drafted in to suppress the revolution (Field Survey, 2019).

The Agodi jailbreak

The Agodi jailbreak happened to an attack on the Agodi Minimum Security Prison located at Agodi area in Ibadan, Oyo State by condemned criminals. During the uprising, eight (8) inmates died on the spot in their attempt to escape, leaving eighteen (18) others critically injured. The uprising occurred on 11 September, 2007, and certain groups of condemned criminals and awaiting trial prisoners who attempted to escape from the prison were masterminds. The ugly incident occurred when a correctional officer or warder on duty was trying to serve the prisoners their breakfast; and as they observed the door was opened, they rushed out of the cell with full force; beat up the officer with an attempt to set other prisoners free from their various cells. As this unlawful act was ongoing, the Nigerian Police officers arrived at the scene to arrest the prison break and this eventually resulted in a clash between the inmates and the police. This scenario led to the death of eight (8) inmates and serious injury of eighteen (18) others. Therefore the Agodi jailbreak was termed to be unsuccessful as no prisoner escaped from the prison. The aggrieved prisoners in Agodi prison actually attempted to escape over the fear of getting inadequate medical care as corroborated by (Mauren, 2007).

The Ekiti jailbreak

The Ekiti jailbreak was another attack that took place on the federal prison in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State by sixty (60) unknown gunmen who invaded the facility on 30 November, 2014. This attack later resulted in the escape of 341 prison inmates leaving a prison official dead, while the

sum of ten (10) prison inmates were re-captured during the attack, and sixty-seven (67) escaped prisoners were re-arrested and returned to the prison (Field Survey, 2019).

The Damaturu jailbreak

Another attack was the Damaturu jailbreak that was unleashed on the Jimeta prison in Damaturu, Yobe State in the north-eastern region of Nigeria by forty (40) gunmen suspected to be members of the deadly terrorist group known as Boko Haram on Sunday, 4 June, 2012. The attack was investigated to have been an attempt to rescue convicted members of Boko Haram; and during the uprising, the respondents interviewed revealed that forty (40) prisoners successfully escaped from the facility while seven (7) of them were shot dead prison armed guards, and one prison officer got killed in the process. The Boko haram terrorists attacked Damaturu prison through the Emir's palace during curfew hours that was imposed by the Yobe State government. The entrance of the terrorists, however, swiftly drew the attention of the Correctional Service Armed Guards and other security agencies within the prison, resulting in an exchange of gunfire between the Boko Haram and security personnel. The escaped prisoners were largely Boko haram terrorists (Field Survey, 2019).

The Edo jailbreak

In the course of this study, the Edo correctional centre had witnessed two (2) major jailbreaks. First, there was an attack on the federal maximum security prison located at Oko, Benin City, Edo State on Sunday, 19 August, 2004 by gunmen suspected to be armed robbers in an attempt to rescue their members who were mostly condemned inmates. During the attack, twelve (12) prisoners were able to escape from the prison, having detonated an explosive to blow off the prison gate, but no death or severe injuries were recorded from the attack. In another prison break that took place on Monday, 19 October, 2020 when the various thugs or miscreants that hijacked the then ongoing national #ENDSARS protests, in their large numbers, attacked the prison facility, 1,993 inmates were set free. During the attack, three (3) police stations were looted and razed down in a wave of violence for the Governor of Edo State, Mr. Godwin Obaseki to immediately impose a state-wide 24-hour curfew in the state (Field Survey, 2019).

The Lagos jailbreak

In another scenario, there was an attack on Lagos correctional facility on 10 October, 2014 where five (5) prisoners escaped from the Kirikiri Medium prison during the prisoners' protest or riot that resulted in a jailbreak. This incident left 20 prisoners dead and eighty (80) others injured, and twelve (12) escaped. After the incident, five (5) condemned escapees, namely (Ayodeji Bello, 32, Saibu Abdul Razak, 21, Adebayo Dada, 24, Desmond Isaac 35 and Peter Kingsley, 29) were launched a manhunt after by the Inspector General of Police after the incident. The prison break was investigated to be a follow up to a riot that sparked off following the torture of one of the prisoners for several hours by the security personnel in the prison. This incident left 20 prisoners dead and eighty (80) others injured, and twelve (12) escaped.

The Ogun jailbreak

The Ogun jailbreak occurred on 4 January, 2013, at the Shagamu Minimum Prison in Ogun State, Nigeria where the attack resulted in the escape of twenty (20) prisoners while leaving numerous prison officials, and other inmates critically injured. After the uprising, four (4) escapees were re-arrested by the Prison Armed Squad of the facility.

The Ondo jailbreak

It was a black day in the state when the Olokuta Medium Security Prison was attacked on 30 June, 2013 in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria by fifty (50) heavily-armed gunmen suspected to be armed robbers. The attack led to a jailbreak where the escape of seventy-five (175) prisoners was recorded and two (2) people dropped dead, and a prison warder fatally injured. After the incident, the sum of fifty-four (54) escaped inmates were re-arrested and returned to the prison (Field Survey, 2019).

The Bauchi jailbreak

There was a jailbreak that occurred at Bauchi correctional centre in Bauchi State of Nigeria where fifty (50) gunmen who were Boko haram terrorist group members laid an ambush to the facility on 7 September 2010 in a bid to free their incarcerated members. The attack eventually resulted in the escape of 721 prisoners, and five (5) people were shot dead with six (6) prisoners critically injured.

The Kogi jailbreak

Also on November 2, 2014, an incident of jailbreak was recorded in Koto-Karfe Federal Medium Security Prisons in Kogi State, Nigeria where the attack on the prison facility was coordinated by gunmen who were members of Boko haram terrorist group. The prison break led to the escape of 144 prisoners but an inmate was shot dead while forth-five (45) escaped prisoners were re-arrested by the coalition of security personnel in the state.

The Minna jailbreak

This actual jailbreak occurred on 6 December 2014, just a week after the coordinated attack on the Ekiti prison break. The Minna Medium Prison was attacked by only three (3) heavily-armed gunmen who were mainly armed robbers that came to rescue or set free their criminal colleagues in the prison. The attack resulted in the escape of two hundred and seventy (270) inmates while a security officer was critically injured though no death was recorded in attack. In all, the cases of prison breaks in Nigeria are majorly attributed to high level of corruption on the parts of the Nigerian Prisons Service officials, inadequate funding of the prison operations, dilapidated or deteriorating state of prison facilities, lack of staff motivations, inadequate security features such as CCTV, motion sensors, absence of high-perimeter fencing with barbed wires or electrified security objects on the walls.

The Owerri jailbreak

There was a devastating attack by a large number of unidentified gunmen on the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) headquarters on Okigwe road, Owerri, Imo State which inadvertently led to a jailbreak that occurred on April 12, 2021 where no fewer than 1,844 eventually escaped. Before the gunmen executed the attack on the correctional facility, they first advanced to the Police headquarters very close to the centre and set the whole place ablaze. **Source:** (Field Survey, 2019, KII, 2020; and Field Survey, 2021).

Research Question 2: What are the various techniques employed by inmates in executing jailbreaks?

The study in its findings revealed that several techniques have been employed by the inmates or external attackers to facilitate jailbreak to include:

a. Physical Method

Physical method has remained the key technique adopted by the perpetrators of prison breaks in Nigeria in recent times. The technique involves the deployment of arms and explosives such as dynamite to suppress the prison armed guards and other officials resulting in grave fatalities. Jailbreak remains pervasive in all Nigerian correctional facilities. Many cases of prison breaks have been reported. This had resulted in the escape of over 2,000 inmates across the Nigerian correctional facilities. In recent years, a significant increase in the number of attacks on the external perimeter of correctional facilities has been witnessed in attempts to liberate high-security prisoners. These attacks have been mounted by terrorist groups, drug cartels and criminal gangs (KII, 2019).

b. Rescue through Air-lifting of Inmates

Under this method, the attackers come in full force using a helicopter to air-lift their criminal colleagues after wrecking havoc and attacks on the prison facilities. They are fully aware that there may not be any escape route for the prisoners in the city centres, hence the need to rescue the escapees using a helicopter and they fly to their safe zones.

c. Digging moats and ditches

The prisoners also engage in digging moats and ditches right from their prison cells and they can start working on these for months or even years without any of the prison officials suspecting such an action is being carried out by the inmates. This is possible after smuggling in all the digging objects into their cells with the help of corrupt prison officials (KII, 2019).

d. Creating blast zones with the prison facility

This may take a longer time as surveillance and surveys are required in the process. The inmates may decide or plan to create some blast zones or areas where some destructive explosions can be detonated; this may result in the death or injuries for several people; and in the process, every one scampers for safety, giving them opportunities to escape (Field Survey, 2019; KII, 2020; and KII, 2021).

Table showing the total inmates in Nigeria correctional facilities (including pre-trial, convicts, juveniles, and foreign inmates as at 14 December, 2020)

<i>Total Inmates in Nigeria correctional centres</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>Total Figure</i>	<i>Percentage %</i>
<i>(65, 824)</i>	Awaiting Trials	48,050	73.8%
	Convicts	15,678	22.9%
	Juveniles/minors	1,119	1.8%
	Foreign Prisoners	198	0.6%

Source: www.corrections.gov.ng (2020)

Research Question 3: What are the expected imperatives and significant roles of prison intelligence and dynamic security strategies in improving the Nigeria Correctional Service operations?

Findings from the study clearly indicate that prison intelligence has significant efficacy on the Correctional Officers in secret security information collection. It was argued that the Correctional officers are re-jigged to gather information by being vigilant at all times, by reporting anything out of the ordinary and by forming professional working relationships with inmates with in-built trust and respect. For example: there should be at moderate level the issues about; overhearing a conversation; watching what prisoners do; observing who prisoners talk to—patterns of association; looking out for patterns of behaviour and frequent actions; identifying unusual activity or predictors of disruptive behaviour; watching for physical changes; monitoring telephone calls and letters; observations during searching—hoarding of goods and clothes; and unusual requests or incidents (Field Survey, 2019; KII, 2020).

In the same vein, the significances recorded to the system are as follows: provides a focused information collection methodology; defines the amount of information to be collected; minimizes time that is spent in gathering irrelevant information; outlines from where and from whom the information shall be sourced; and nominates who is responsible for collecting the information. In all, the information collection plan is a disciplined process that ensures that the relevant sources are used to provide information for the development of the intelligence (Field Survey, 2019; 2020; and 2021).

Having examined its roles and essentials, prison intelligence assists during and after an occurrence, which is where the greatest interface between intelligence officers and investigators occurs. For instance, tactical intelligence may require an immediate response to events such as a riot or serious assault within the correctional centre; depending on the type of event, the intelligence can take a variety of forms (Avakian, 2000). For instance, during a hostage incident, the intelligence may include: (i) *Incident intelligence*—all information about the incident to establish if intervention is required; and this includes the “stronghold” for a hostage incident (location of incident), type of incident and all relevant information pertaining to the matter; (ii) *Tactical information*—all information in connection with the incident that is needed for the tactical teams (such as a hostage response group) and for negotiators to plan their options and strategies; and (iii) *Person (or biographical) intelligence*—all information in connection with the person(s) involved, such as the hostage taker, hostages, injured persons (Avakian, 2000).

This information is used to develop a profile on personality type so that incident commanders can make informed decisions on strategies and options. In addition, good quality intelligence can also be used to inform risk-based decision-making. For example, intelligence can provide evidence of behaviour for decisions related to categorization, parole reports, temporary release and final release (Innovative Prison System, 2020).

Moreover, the study, as confirmed by the submission of the South East Regional Prison Intelligence Team (2020) reveals that prison intelligence has enhanced the prisons security and management in several ways as follows:

- a. contribute to preventing escapes, riots and disturbances;
- b. identification and prevention of criminal activity and the contravention of prison rules;
- c. identification and prevention of criminal activity in the external community;
- d. detection of staff corruption and smuggling;
- e. identification of organized criminal and/or terrorist groups and the nature of their activity within the prison system and the individuals in those groups who lead or facilitate criminal action;
- f. assessment of the various organized criminal groups' influence and interrelationship in the prison system and their influence outside the prison system;
- g. identification of the vulnerabilities in the prison system;
- h. identification of radicalization and extremism in the prison system;
- i. protection of vulnerable prisoners by identifying them and those who prey upon them; and
- j. support informed decision-making in the prevention and management of incidents (South East Regional Prison Intelligence Team, 2020).

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The researchers encountered some hitches in the course of this study. The tensed security situations in Nigeria occasioned by terrorism, banditry, jailbreaks, human and child trafficking, kidnapping, ritual killings, among others prevented the researchers from covering the entire nation for data collection on correctional service matters. Besides, the various corrections officers did not fully cooperate with the researchers on data gathering as they were in one way or the other denied gaining access to adequate information in the corrections centres. This denial was later defended with the fact that there was palpable tension around all the correctional facilities in the country as a result of the increasing waves of jailbreaks in nearly all parts of the country in recent times– all these, therefore, served as bottlenecks for the study.

CONCLUSION

This paper so far has pointed to the fact that one of the significant reasons behind the increasing jailbreaks in Nigeria is due to proliferation of firearms, economic and social crisis, inadequate staffing of the correctional facilities and the fact that the Nigerian correctional system is deficient in the deployment of prison intelligence and dynamic security strategies that are supposed to be in conformity with global practices. In addition, there is prisons security failure as a result of corruption, poor leadership crisis, poor maintenance of facilities; gross abuse of prison rules, among others. In the same vein, many inmates jailed for serious offences like armed robbery, kidnapping, murder, drug abuse, human trafficking, among others, are not put under critical surveillance and the corrections officers in charge do not relate with them professionally in a manner that would make the inmates feel remorseful of criminal acts. And when all these come into play, the inmates make attempts to organize attacks on the prisons in order to escape or employ the assistance of their gangs outside the prison to free them. It is sad that many prison staff especially the arms squad unit have lost their lives trying to defend the prison facilities during jailbreak. However, all these have besieged and continued to weaken the Nigerian Corrections Service operations and administration, therefore resulting in jail breaks across Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategizing on how to curtail the menace of incessant jailbreaks in Nigeria, the study recommended as follows:

- (i) Due to the sensitive nature of prison information and intelligence, the personnel selected or recruited to function in this regard need to have higher credentials in terms of integrity while their backgrounds must be well investigated.
- (ii) Information and intelligence gathering and dynamic security should not be left to the intelligence unit alone but should be the responsibility of every staff. Dynamic security should be embedded in the culture of the prison service to enable them achieve reformation and rehabilitation of inmates.
- (iii) There should be an effective restructuring of the prison training colleges and training manuals with emphasis on integrity, prison intelligence and dynamic security.
- (iv) The existing Correctional Service Arms Squad should be more effective by adopting or using a multi-agency approach. The security of correctional facilities must collaborate with all other security agencies in the country to assist in re-arrest of escaped prisoners.
- (v) The Nigerian Correctional Service should also adopt the use of timely and actionable prison intelligence that would impact significantly on the prevention, reduction and investigation of serious and organized crime, particularly when it is of a transnational nature.
- (vi) There must be covert surveillance strategically put place for careful balancing of a prisoner's right to privacy against the need to investigate serious criminality. Provisions on covert surveillance should fully take into account the rights of the prisoner and there should be a number of strict safeguards against abuse.
- (vii) There is need for the Service to sanitize the recruitment process - the process should be made transparent and exercise based purely on merit and devoid of political consideration while same should apply to deployment and posting of the correctional officers.
- (viii) Only mobile phones provided by the prison authorities should be used by inmates and conversations properly monitored and censored by the authority as a measure to reduce prison jail break.
- (ix) Speedy trial of the awaiting-trial inmates is also necessary in other to decongest the correctional facilities and at the same time, the border patrol in the country should be adequately strengthened to prevent easy escape of escaped inmates across borders.

SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Findings indicated that this study was conducted in a developing nation, Nigeria, with diverse socio-political purview. And as indicated, it imperative that intelligence, interagency collaborations, and adequate border control or security remains highly crucial in driving strategic security and management of the various correctional centre in Nigeria to contain all sorts of jailbreaks. Therefore, this study has opened opportunities to other research that could be conducted in adequate border control or security in containment of threats emerging from the influx of escaped criminal inmates from the neighbouring countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

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