Community Policing and Effective Police-Public Relations as a Panacea for Kidnapping and Hostage Taking in Nigeria

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Abstract: Kidnapping and hostage taking for ransom has become ubiquitous in various parts of the society and it is now more prevalent in developing societies and these has led to a security gap which the culprits are taking advantage of in perfecting their crime. This gap could be as result of inefficient and ineffective strategy been adopted by the security agents. This has resulted to a security challenge to the country and has caused the economy to dwindle. Community policing is a strategy of policing that focuses on police building ties and working closely with members of the communities. It is a policy that requires police to inherit a proactive approach to address public safety concerns. The study was anchored on functionalist theory. Community policing creates partnerships between law enforcement agency and other organizations like government agencies, community members, nonprofit service providers, private businesses and the media. The media represent a powerful pattern by which the police can communicate with the community and that enhances a cordial police-public relations. Community policing recognizes that police cannot solve every public safety problem alone, so interactive partnerships are created. The police use the public for developing problem-solving solutions and generating information. The overall assessment of community oriented policing is positive, as both officers and community members attest to its effectiveness in reducing crime and raising the sense of security in a community. Community policing calls for long-term commitment and partnership between the Police-public in curbing kidnapping and other criminal activities. The study therefore recommends that community policing skills should be integrated into the training curricula of the Nigerian police force. All personnel must become skilled in the techniques of problem

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solving, motivating, and team-building. Training should involve the entire agency and should include civilian personnel who can enlist participation in community meetings, help the police organization sharpen its marketing message, and incorporate sophisticated technology into the organization's service-oriented operations.

Keywords: Community policing, Hostage taking, Kidnapping, Police-public relations

Introduction

Kidnapping and hostage taking in Nigeria has turned into a social problem which is affecting virtually every member of the Nigerian society in one way or the other. Kidnapping and hostage taking are among the terrorising crimes in Nigeria. They are mostly common in the southern part of the country (South-South, South-East and South-West). Practically, the duo entails abduction. Thus, it occurs when a person is abducted and taken from one place to another against their will, or a situation in which a person is confined to a controlled space without the confinement being from a legal authority. Consequently, when the transportation or confinement of the person is done for an unlawful purpose, such as for ransom or for the purpose of committing another crime, the act becomes criminal (Uzorma & Nwanegbo 2014). This spate of kidnapping which has adversely affected the psyche of Nigerians has become a serious source of concern as if Nigeria is without security agents, this menace can be attributed to the Nigerian Police force (who are saddled with the responsibility of safe guarding life and properties according to the 1979 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria (section 194) and police act of 1964) are not working in synergy rather working in isolation with community members were these menace are been perpetrated. A certain degree of subtlety can be made between hostage-taking (or abduction) and kidnapping as it applies in daily realities in the South-Eastern Nigeria. Hostage-taking or abduction occurs when someone uses force or deceit to take another person away from their home or relatives for unknown reasons.

Community policing is, in essence, collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems like hostage-taking, kidnapping, arm robbery amongst others. With the police no longer the sole guardians of law and order, all members of the community become active allies in the effort to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods. Community policing has far-reaching implications. Community members voice their concerns, contribute advice, and take action to address these concerns. Creating a constructive partnership will require the energy, creativity, understanding, and patience of all involved. Reinvigorating communities is essential if we are to deter crimes like hostage-taking, kidnapping and other social vices and create more vital neighborhoods. In some communities, it will take time to break down barriers of apathy and mistrust so that meaningful partnerships can be forged because of lack of synergy, misconceptions, misunderstanding and lack of trust between police and community members. Trust is the

value that underlies and links the components of community partnership and problem solving (Alemika and Chukwuma 2005).

A foundation of trust will allow police to form close relationships with the community that will produce solid achievements. Without trust between police and citizens, effective policing is impossible. In Nigeria this trust between the community and police are lacking as most of the times the police are been accused of not only corruption but also conniving with arm-robbers, kidnappers and other hoodlums in ravaging the community. It has been argued that sometimes when community vigilante or neighborhood arrest and hand over armed robbery that are "caught red-handed" in the act and handed over to the police within some few days they are seen back in their communities as free people without adequate or proper prosecution. Within the backdrop of the existence of the lack of trust and synergy between the police and the community and the high prevalence of hostage-taking and kidnapping in Nigerian society the problem is: How can the Nigerian populace be re-orientated to trust and build synergy with the Nigerian police to curb this menace of hostage-taking and domestic violence in Nigeria? Or, to what extent are the Nigerian police willing to work with the community members to get appropriate and prompt information which will aid their arrest, investigation and prosecution of kidnappers and hostage-takers in Nigerian state. Questions such as these constituted the concern of this study. The general objective of this study therefore to examine community policing and effective Police-Public relations as a panacea for kidnapping and hostage taking in Nigeria. Specifically, this study aimed to examine: (1) how community policing and effective Police-Public relations can aid in curbing hostage-taking and kidnapping in Nigeria (2) How synergy can be built by Police-Public in terms of arresting, investigating and prosecuting of kidnappers and hostage-takers in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has been facing so many social problems in recent times but this particular menace of hostage-taking and kidnapping for ransom seems to be most infamous as it threatens lives, puts the populace in fear and dwindles the economy. This phenomenon has assumed an unprecedented dimension in Nigeria and there seem to be no end in sight, (Ngwama 2014). The unprecedented upsurge in kidnapping currently being experienced across the country has drawn attention to the imperative of reviewing the current strategy of dealing with the crime. In particular, there is the need to explore the extant laws and the extent to which they are being enforced with a view to establishing their efficacy as a punitive measure and as a deterrent.

Under Section 364 of the Criminal Code of Nigeria (2004), kidnapping is classified as part of the offences against liberty. A kidnapper, when convicted, is liable to ten years' imprisonment. Given the seriousness of the crime, it seems that this jail term has not served as an adequate deterrent. Could this be why some states, like Edo, Delta and Anambra,

have gone the extra mile to adopt capital punishment for kidnapping? However, in Nigeria, merely legislating the death penalty may not end the crime of kidnapping. Experience has shown that no state governor has been willing to give the go-ahead for the execution of condemned criminals under the law. In many cases, it is not the law that is the problem but the lack of enforcement which encourages impunity. It is only when the present legal framework for dealing with kidnapping has been strictly enforced and is exposed as inadequate that the need to strengthen the law should be considered.

The question that seems to agitate the minds of many concerned citizens of Nigeria has been and still is: what are the security operatives doing to stem this problem? In a country where the Police Force, State Security Services and the Army exist, why have their combined efforts not wiped out this social malaise? The answer cannot be farfetched as the combination efforts of the Joint Military Taskforce (JTF) (which is a combined synergy of security operatives in Nigeria) will fruitless without effective Police-public relations. Unfortunately the police and the public had become so separated from one another that in some communities an attitude of "us versus them" prevailed between the police and community members. As beneficial as community policing might be, it faces difficulty in its operation and implementation in the society due to lack of trust between the public and police. The resistance can come from both the police and members of the public. Sometimes the police perceive community orientated policing to be too soft to suspects and inadequate for violent crimes (Ogadinma and Okunola, 2013).

According Igbo (1999) the foremost state agency in the fight against crime and criminals is the police force. However due to persistent distrust of the police, they are seen as foes who should be kept at arm's length, this has contributed in no small measure in low level of cooperation between the Nigerian police force and the public (Igbo, 1999). Furthermore, public co-operation is the most valuable asset of police organization in every modern society; unfortunately the public and the police live or exist like the "cat and rat". Cooperation between the public and police is very vital because criminals live with people in the society and unless people (informants) come up with useful information concerning the identity or criminals, the police may not be able to perform the expected magic of identifying and arresting criminals. Most members of the public see the average Nigerian police officer as brutal and unfriendly. This distrust has also made members of the public to be skeptical about the ability of the police to protect their identity from criminals should they divulge information concerning the later. People are usually afraid of reprisal attack from criminals should they information about criminals (Ugwuoke, 2010).

Theoretical Framework: Gap theory (George J. Thomson): The paper relied on gap theory to understand the police public partnership in crime prevention and control in Nigeria. This theory argues that there is a growing 'gap' between the police and the community in too many areas. People mistreated by the police withdraw from the police and are never eager to help the police. Until officers are taught to care for people, the 'gap' increases. The crooks (kidnappers and hostage takers) benefit from the 'gap' between

the police and the people. However, the better the police treat the people, the safer they feel and the more the 'gap' closes. As the 'gap' closes, it closes on the crooks, bad guys in the community and kidnappers. Community policing will therefore promote trust and confidence building between the police and the people in preventing crime in the community. According to (Thompson, 2006), the quality of contract with the people by the police affects the way people in preventing crime in the community.

According to (Thompson, 2006), the quality of contact with the people by the police affects the way the people in turn perceive the police. Therefore to improve on the quality of contacts with the public, the police should be thought about the '90-10 principle' of the community. Thompson, (2006) stated that in the worst areas of the cities, 90 percentage of all the people in the communities are good, hardworking, decent folks trying to make a living with dignity. Ten percent are kidnappers, murders, drug dealers and other criminal elements that need to be taken off the streets. However, the problem with police work is that too often, 90 percent of police contacts are with those 10 percent. So it distorts police view of the community. The police easily become cynical and tend to 'go to war' against those communities rather than taking on a protective role. This according to (Thompson, 2006) explain why the police are most hated where they are most needed. People mistreated do not give intelligence and other useful information to those who mistreated them. So adequate community policing and effective police-public relationship will help close the gap of mistrust and lack of confidence between the police and the people, make police more humane in carrying out their services within the community and help to curb kidnapping and hostage taking in Nigeria.

Hostage taking and Kidnapping: An Overview

Kidnapping is not new or peculiar to Nigeria in recent times. However, the current dimension of kidnapping became alarming in the Niger Delta region when militants in February, 2006, abducted some oil workers ostensibly to draw global attention to the deplorable situation in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of the country. Since then, kidnapping has spread to most parts of the country, especially the south-eastern and south-south regions of Nigeria. The targets are no longer oil workers or foreigners alone; every Nigerian is now a target. In fact, the safety of persons in Nigeria and their property cannot be guaranteed owing to the near daily incidents of kidnapping.

Kidnapping is an offence punishable under the Nigerian law. Anybody caught involved in the act is expected to face a penalty of ten years' imprisonment. Apart from this, some states like Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi, Rivers and Edo have passed into law a bill termed "Prohibition of Hostage Taking and Related Offences Law" with death penalty as punishment for offender. In further response to the rising waves of kidnapping, some states have improved their methods and strategies of stemming the menace. They have increased their funding on security matters and provided more

equipment, communication gadgets, vehicles and other tools of policing to their various State Police Commands.

According to Davidson (2010), a group of criminals armed with guns and cell phones apprehend unsuspecting victims and drag their victim into a secluded spot and begin to make phone calls to whomever and demand for a ransom.

The victim can be a minor or an adult. Kidnapping can be defined as the act of seizing and detaining or carrying away a person by unlawful force or by fraud, and often with a demand for ransom. It involves taking a person from their family forcefully without their consent with the motive of holding the person as a hostage and earning a profit from their family. In this regard, kidnapping could be for a number of reasons such as getting monetary reward, or getting some sort of benefits from the person. It is usually done for a motive or for oppressive intentions, the most common of which is extorting money from the family of the victim in form of ransom for freedom and continual living. Hostage-taking and kidnapping are deviant behaviours that are unique in intended teleology, synaptic of analogous crimes, universal in specific areas of ravage, prevalent with relative intensity which spate of ravage may be spasmodic or regular, and creating tensed zeitgeist. Hostage-taking and kidnapping are cognate crimes that have culture and metamorphoses. This crime culture's metamorphosis is determined by the type of social and value-systems operational in the society and these societal value systems and mechanism typify and localize the crime circumstances and events. Thus peculiarity of crimes has implications on a locality, the prevailing socio-economic activities in it, the topography of the area (that the criminals themselves spend time to survey and study during crime-incubation in order to master and dominion over it), the pedigree and structure of insecurity and safety-consciousness of the area, as well as human readiness to onslaught and blitz miscreants in their mist. (Uzorma & Nwanegbo 2014).

Kidnapping and Hostage Taking Statistics

Early statistics on kidnapping in Nigeria are those given by the Hiscox Group (2001) that placed Nigeria as the 6th highest in kidnapping cases in the world. The current dimension of kidnapping became alarming in the Niger Delta region when militants in February, 2006, abducted some oil workers ostensibly to draw global attention to the deplorable situation in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of the country. Since then, kidnapping has spread to most parts of the country, especially the south-eastern and south-south regions of Nigeria. The targets are no longer oil workers or foreigners alone; every Nigerian is now a target. In fact, the safety of persons in Nigeria and their property cannot be guaranteed owing to the near daily incidents of kidnapping. For instance according to new telegraph newspaper on the Tuesday night 4th October 2016 Prof Olufemi Bamiro was shot in a failed kidnap attempt, also the same newspaper reported on 5th of October 2016 that a suspect opined that "CBN governments wife our biggest catch" on the 4th of October and suspect that was raided by

the Nigeria police in Nigeria confessed that "My father heads kidnap ring". The above scenarios show that kidnapping and hostage taking has now turned into a business venture and a daily affair in Nigeria.

Table 1: Kidnapping and Hostage taking statistics in Nigeria (June 2006-September 2015)
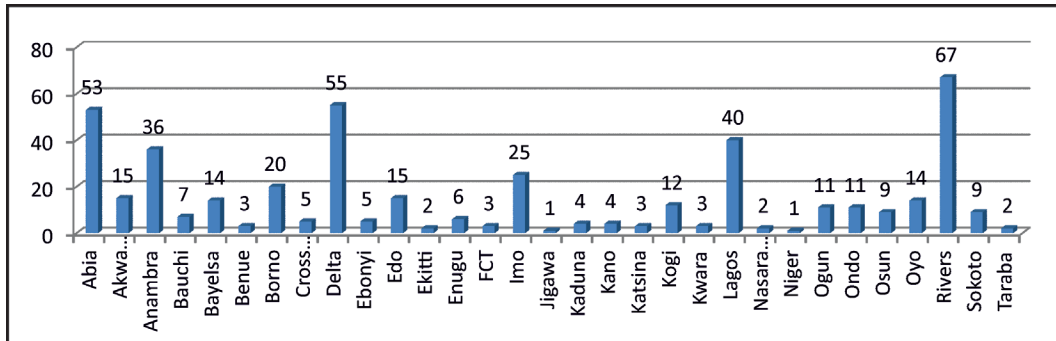
Source: Adapter from Nigerian Watch Project, University of Ibadan.

The above statistics shows that Rivers state has witnessed the highest number of kidnapping and hostage since 2005, followed by Abia, Delta, Lagos, Anambra, Imo and so on.

Understanding Effective Community Policing

It is essential that the police work closely with all facets of the community to identify concerns and to find the most effective solutions. This is the essence of community policing.

The movement toward community policing has gained momentum in recent years as police and community leaders search for more effective ways to promote public safety and to enhance the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Community policing encompasses a variety of philosophical and practical approaches and is still evolving rapidly. Community policing strategies vary depending on the needs and responses of the communities involved; however, certain basic principles and considerations are common to all community policing efforts. To date, no succinct overview of community policing exists for practitioners who want to learn to use this wide-ranging approach to address the problems of crime and disorder in their communities (Kelling and Mark, 1988).

Government and community leaders are beginning to recognize that they also must accept responsibility for keeping their neighborhoods safe. Communities must take a unified stand against crime, violence, and disregard for the law, and must make a commitment to increasing crime-prevention and intervention activities. Police agencies must help build stronger, more self-sufficient communities—communities in which crime and disorder will not thrive.

Community policing differs from traditional policing in how the community is perceived and in its expanded policing goals. While crime control and prevention remain central priorities, community policing strategies use a wide variety of methods to address these goals. The police and the community become partners in addressing problems of disorder and neglect (e.g., gang activity, abandoned cars, and broken windows) that, although perhaps not criminal, can eventually lead to serious crime. As links between the police and the community are strengthened over time, the ensuing partnership will be better able to pinpoint and mitigate the underlying causes of crime. Police are finding that crime-control tactics need to be augmented with strategies that prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. Fear of crime has become a significant problem in itself. A highly visible police presence helps reduce fear within the community, fear which has been found to be "...more closely correlated with disorder than with crime." (Kelling and Mark, 1988).

The growing trend within communities to participate in the fight against crime and disorder has paralleled a growing recognition by police that traditional crime-fighting tactics alone have a limited impact on controlling crime. Community policing is the synthesis of these two movements. The foundations of a successful community policing strategy are the close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members. Community policing consists of two complementary core components, *community partnership* and *problem solving*. To develop community partnership, police must develop positive relationships with the community, must involve the community in the quest for better crime control and prevention, and must pool their resources with those of the community to address the most urgent concerns of community members. Problem solving is the process through which the specific concerns of communities are identified and through which the most appropriate remedies to abate these problems are found. Community policing does not imply that police are no longer in authority or that the primary duty of preserving law and order is subordinated. However, tapping into the expertise and resources that exist within communities will relieve police of some of their burdens. Local government officials, social agencies, schools, church groups, business people—all those who work and live in the community and have a stake in its development (Kelling and Mark, 1988).

The goal of community policing is to reduce crime and disorder by carefully examining the characteristics of problems in neighborhoods and then applying appropriate problem-solving remedies. Patrol officers are the primary providers of police services and have the most extensive contact with community members. In community policing efforts, they will provide the bulk of the daily policing needs of the community, and they will be assisted by immediate supervisors, other police units, and appropriate government and social agencies. Upper level managers and command staff will be responsible for ensuring that the entire organization backs the efforts of patrol officers. Effective community policing depends on optimizing positive contact between patrol officers and community members. Patrol cars are only one method of conveying police services. Police departments may supplement

automobile patrols with foot, bicycle, scooter, and horseback patrols, as well as adding "mini-stations" to bring police closer to the community. Regular community meetings and forums will afford police and community members an opportunity to air concerns and find ways to address them.

These multiple and sometimes conflicting interests require patrol officers to function not only as preservers of law and order, but also as skillful mediators. Demands on police from one community of interest can sometimes clash with the rights of another community of interest. For example, a community group may oppose certain police tactics used to crack down on gang activity, which the group believes may result in discriminatory arrest practices. The police must not only protect the rights of the protesting group, but must also work with all of the community members involved to find a way to preserve neighborhood peace. For this process to be effective, community members must communicate their views and suggestions and back up the negotiating efforts of the police. In this way, the entire community participates in the mediation process and helps preserve order. The police must encourage a spirit of cooperation that balances the collective interests of all citizens with the personal rights of individuals.

The conflicts within communities are as important as the commonalities. Police must recognize the existence of both to build the cooperative bonds needed to maintain order, provide a sense of security, and control crime. Police must build lasting relationships that encompass all elements of the community and center around the fundamental issues of public safety and quality of life. The key to managing this difficult task is trust.

Police-Public relations in Nigeria and its implication on Kidnapping and Hostage taking

The quality of contact the police have with the members of the public could harm or facilitate crime prevention efforts within the community. Where the police were perceived to be extortionists, brutal and corrupt, the "good" members of the community will not feel safe to relate with them and contribute in crime control within the society (Ogadinma and Okunola 2013). It is under such condition that crimes like kidnapping and hostage taking strive in the country. When kidnappers know that they will be exposed if they engage in any corrupt act in their community they will desist from such act. According to Chukwuma, (2009), in the last few year, the public perception of the role of the Nigeria police force in crime control has changed substantially, where as in the mid 1980's one could write of a Nigerian society that was still broadly deferential to authority in the form of priests, parents and policemen; by the end of the 1990's public perception and attitude towards the police role in crime control has become increase jaundiced by a series of episodes that were given ample publicity in the media and which raised considerable doubts as to whether the Nigerian police force was competent in their role of crime control. He further argued that the policeman is not regarded with respect or admiration, even by those sections of the

public who benefit most from his services. The foremost state agency in the fight against crime and criminals is the police force. However due to persistent distrust of the police, they are seen as foes who should be kept at arm's length, this has contributed in no small measure in low level of cooperation between the Nigerian police force and the public (Ugwuoke, 2010; Igbo, 1999).

As noted earlier, public co-operation is the most valuable asset of police organization in every modern society, unfortunately the public and the police live or exist like the cat and rat. Cooperation between the public and police is very vital because criminals live with people in the society and unless people (informants) come up with useful information concerning the identify or criminals, the police may not be able to perform the expected magic of identifying and arresting criminals. The colonial legacy predicated on unnecessary use of force seems to have denied the police the opportunity of this vital asset, public cooperation. Most members of the public see the average Nigerian police officer as brutal and unfriendly. This distrust has also made members of the public to be skeptical about the ability of the police to protect their identity from criminals should they divulge information concerning the later. People are usually afraid of reprisal attack from criminals should they information about criminals, (Ugwuoke, 2010).

The general impression of the public of the police has not been positive. It was observed that the public over the years had grown apprehensive of the police and has lost faith in its ability to ensure safety of lives and property and in the process; the public now perceive the police as an enemy an oppressor rather than a savior ((Jemibewon, 1989, Atuegwu, 2000). The above negative perception of the Nigeria Police by the public implies lack of cooperation, trust and synergy. This further implies that Hostage-taking and Kidnapping will continue to strive unless the is mutual understanding and synergy between the Police-Public as the formal needs the later to provide him with the necessary information on the way of Kidnappers and other criminals in their community. The partnership between the police and the public will make the community unsafe for kidnappers and hostage takers.

Challenges in Combating Hostage-Taking and Kidnapping in Nigeria

(1) Lack of adequate information to the security agents by citizens when kidnapping incidents take place or when kidnapers have hideouts in their vicinities. This could be as a result of mistrust between the Police-Public.

(2) Another major horrible challenge facing the Nigeria Police Force is the failure of intelligence: That inability to identify, infiltrate, recruit and gather actionable intelligence. Operational intelligence is a necessary condition for accurate onslaught against abductors in Nigeria. However, intelligence gathering cannot be effective without patrols, checks, information and tip offs which are components of community policing.

(3) The third major challenge is the lack of sophisticated equipments for tracking down criminals. The Nigeria Police Force lacks modern trackers that aid in fast and accurate

investigations in hostage-taking and kidnapping incidents. The Force is poorly equipped. Some of the ammunitions in the various armories of the Police are outdated, disused and obsolete. They cannot match the sophisticated weapons wielded by the dare-devil robbers that torment innocent citizens endlessly.

(4) Nigeria as a populous country lacks proper recording of births, deaths and migrations of its in habitants and citizens. To this effect, the country lacks digitalized and interconnected authentic identification models in which information about every citizen and inhabitant could be assessed. This inefficiency of population management makes syndication by criminals easy and onslaught tedious for the Police.

Effective Community Policing as a panacea hostage taking and kidnapping in Nigeria

Establishing and maintaining mutual trust is the central goal of the first core component of community policing—community partnership. Police should recognize the need for cooperation with the community. In the fight against serious crime like Hostage-taking and community policing. Police should encourage community members to come forth with relevant information. In addition, police should speak to neighborhood groups, participated in business and civic events, worked with social agencies, and taken part in educational and recreational programs for school children. In community policing, the police become an integral part of the community culture, and the community assists in defining future priorities and in allocating resources, giving information, acting as spy and informants. Community partnership means adopting a policing perspective that exceeds the standard law enforcement emphasis. This broadened outlook recognizes the value of activities that contribute to the orderliness and well-being of a neighborhood. These activities could include: helping accident or crime victims, providing emergency medical services, helping resolve domestic and neighborhood conflicts (e.g., family violence, landlord-tenant disputes, or racial harassment), getting information from victim who has been kidnapped and held hostage on the methods and strategies employed by kidnappers, protecting the exercise of constitutional rights (e.g., guaranteeing a person's right to speak, protecting lawful assemblies from disruption), and providing a model of citizenship (helpfulness, respect for others, honesty, and fairness).

The neighborhood patrol officers, backed by the police organization, helps community members mobilize support and resources to solve problems and enhance their quality of life. This trust will enable the police to gain greater access to valuable information from the community that could lead to the solution and prevention of hostage-taking and kidnapping, will engender support for needed crime-control measures, and will provide an opportunity for officers to establish a working relationship with the community. The entire police organization must be involved in enlisting the cooperation of community members in promoting safety and security. Building trust will not happen overnight; it will

require ongoing effort. But trust must be achieved before police can assess the needs of the community and construct the close ties that will engender community support.

The partnership between the police and the community must be enduring and balanced. It must break down the old concepts of professional versus civilian, expert versus novice, and authority figure versus subordinate. The police and the community must be collaborators in the quest to encourage and preserve peace, prosperity, curb hostage-taking, kidnapping and other forms of insecurity. Determining the underlying causes of kidnapping, hostage-taking crime depends, to a great extent, on an in-depth knowledge of community. Therefore, community participation in identifying and setting priorities will contribute to effective problem-solving and crime curbing efforts by the community and the police. Cooperative problem solving also reinforces trust, facilitates the exchange of information, and leads to the identification of other areas that could benefit from the mutual attention of the police and the community. Therefore, in addition to the serious crime problems identified by police, community policing must also address the problems of significant concern to the community. Community policing in effect allows community members to bring problems of great concern to them to the attention of the police. Once informed of community concerns, the police must work with citizens to address them, while at the same time encouraging citizens to assist in solving the problems of concern to the police. The nature of community problems will vary widely and will often involve multiple incidents that are related by factors including geography, time, victim or perpetrator group, and environment.

Conclusion/Recommendation

From the foregoing, it has been discovered that hostage-takers and kidnappers has been acting with impunity in Nigeria in the face of security agents and this is because public co-operation which is the most valuable asset of police organization in every modern society is lacking in Nigeria. In the same vein the Nigerian Police has not praxis the basic tenet of community policing which will enhance Police-Public relations. Community policing calls for long-term commitment and partnership between the Police-public in curbing kidnapping and other criminal activities. The study therefore recommends that community policing skills should be integrated into the training curricula of the Nigerian police force. All personnel must become skilled in the techniques of problem solving, motivating, and team-building. Training should involve the entire agency and should include civilian personnel who can enlist participation in community meetings, help the police organization sharpen its marketing message, and incorporate sophisticated technology into the organization's service-oriented operations. The Federal and State Government should support scientific inquiry in the law enforcement field, an electronic data processing in all information police computer system, and also should introduce law enforcement education program (LEEP) to encourage officers to get training in an advanced level. For proper professionalism of

the police force there should be a technological break through in police operations. All headquarters, sub-headquarters and police nipping points should have communications equipment; an additional technological advancement should be made possible in the area of transportation. In crime control and prevention the communities should be educated on the importance of partnership with the police for effective crime control and prevention, for instance the communities should engage in community policing like the vigilance groups, age grade security groups etc to help the police in crime control and prevention. The public should also be educated by the government, non-governmental organization and the police service commission to understand that a crime free society is for the betterment of all, not for only police, and that such will enhance the economy of the country in general and their own individual business and occupations in particular.

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