

CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA POLICE FORCE AND INSECURITY: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

Corruption is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence which is undertaken by a person or an organization that is entrusted with a position of authority in order to acquire illicit benefits or abuse of power for one's personal gain. This paper examined the web of corruption in the Nigerian Police with a view to determining its impact on the society *visa-vis* internal security of Nigeria. The study found out that police corruption in Nigeria is structural as part of the wider web of corruption in Nigerian. The paper also showed that poor working condition, poverty, poor police recruitment policy, ethnicity among other factors contribute to police corruption. Hence, the situation has undermined the institution. The paper concluded that police corruption in Nigeria is a major challenge to the institution, society and internal security of Nigeria. It then recommended an outright overhauling of the institution in which adequate and regular welfare packages for policemen and raising of professionalism stake within the Nigeria police will be paramount to enable the police perform her duties of protecting the lives and properties of the citizens of Nigeria, and making the citizens have confidence in the police by avoiding involvement in extra-legal actors.

Keywords: Police, Corruption, Insecurity and Crime.

Introduction

Corruption according to World Bank is defined as the abuse of public office for private gain.¹ This definition covers a wide range of behaviour from bribery to theft of public funds. It is also an abuse of forum, because when a person who has the responsibility to render service of a particular position takes advantage of his position negatively, it becomes corruption.² In Nigeria, one of the most contemporary issues in policing is the issue of police corruption.³ This concern living in the fact that police in Nigeria is vested with onerous responsibility of maintaining law, order and combating crime to guarantee the security of the entire citizenry.⁴ A commonly mentioned effect of police corruption on the society is the loss of lives through extra judicial killings, arrest and illegal detention of citizens orchestrated by policemen and citizens unwillingness to report suspected cases of crimes to police, making such crimes difficult to curtail.⁵

There is a spate of insecurity in Nigeria due to several security challenges resulting from inadequate police performance.⁶ Coupled with this low level of performance is outright absence of morality. Morality among the police is not a virtue. Corruption and extortion in the Nigeria police is a serious issue because policemen are expected to be morally upright as law enforcement agents.⁷

The Nigeria police force remains the most discussed of all security outfits in Nigeria, hence its corporate image has never been called to question as it is in recent times.⁸ Thus the Nigeria police have been variously criticized by both the general public and public officials in the exercise of their duties and responsibilities.⁹ One of such vices the police are accused of is corruption which is a crime

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¹ World Bank, "Anti corruption fact sheet: www.worldbank.org>2020/02/19 Accessed 2/9/2025

² Okorie C.K: *Corruption* Department of Public law, faculty of law Imo State University Owerri Imo State, Owerri, 2015 2.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Nte, N.D. Police corruption and the National Security Challenge on Nigeria: A study of Rivers State Police Command, www.ajindex.com>makale. Accessed 2/9/2025

⁶ Enweremadu, D.U. Understanding Police Corruption and its Effect on Internal Security in Nigeria www.researchgate.net Accessed 2/9/2025

⁷ *Ibid*

⁸ Adegoke N., The Nigeria Police and the Challenges of Security in Nigeria www.arabianybmr.com/RPAM index. Ph.p Accessed 3/9/2025

⁹ *Ibid*

that undermines the efficacy of their function.¹⁰

Conceptual Issues Crime

The learned authors of Smith & Hogan Criminal Law¹¹ posits that it is now rather unfashionable to begin with definitions with a concept like crime because if the definition is a true one, it should enable the recognition of any act or omission as a crime or not by seeing whether it contains all the ingredients of the definition.

However, the above reflection portrays that there has not been an acceptable definition of crime, but it can be defined as a legal wrong for which the offender is punished at the instance of the state.¹² A wrong is a breach of rule it may be moral or legal according to whether the rule in question is one of morality or law.¹³

For Kenny crime is defined as an act capable of being followed by criminal proceedings having one of the types of outcomes (punishment *et cetera*) known to follow these proceedings.¹⁴ By this, a look at the statute will be necessary to identify a procedural issue indicating whether the prescribed act constituted a criminal or civil wrong.¹⁵

Crime has been in existence ever since the dawn of history and it is no gain saying and an exaggeration to say that it is a product of the society.¹⁶ The American Law Institutes Model Penal Code probably considered the above statement in formulating what might be taken as the proper objectives of the substantive law of crime in a modern legal system.¹⁷ The objectives or purposes are:¹⁸

- a. to forbid and prevent conduct that unjustifiably and inexcusably inflicts or threatens substantial harm to individual or public interest;
- b. to subject to public control persons whose conduct indicates that they are disposed to commit crimes;
- c. to safe guard conduct that is without fault from condemnation as criminal;
- d. to give fair warning of the nature of the conduct declared to be an offence and
- e. to differentiate on reasonable rounds between serious and minor offences.

The importance of the subject matter of crime in law can be captured from these objectives formulated by the American law Institutes Model Penal Code; hence many views and definition of crime by many scholars and eminent writers can be associated with these objectives. Under the common law, eminent writers have sought with varying results to postulate such definition of crime as *an act committed in violation of public law forbidden or commanding it and also violation of public rights and duties to the whole community*.¹⁹

For Wigwe²⁰ Crime refers to an act or omission which constitutes an offence punishable by law and prosecuted by the state or its authorized agencies. In both the Criminal and Penal Codes, the word *offence* is used rather than *crime* although there is a nexus between both words as they are often used

¹⁰ Ibrahim, A.A. "Police Corruption and the state: prevalence and consequences www.eajournal.org/uploads. Accessed 3/9/2025

¹¹ 4th Ed. Butterworths, London, 1979, 19

¹² Isiaka, A.A., and Okafor, E. F., "Concept of Crime in the Administration of Penal Justice in Nigeria: An Appraisal. www.ajol.info. Accessed 6/9/2025

¹³ Cross and Jones, *Introduction to Criminal Law, Seventh Edition*, London, Butterworths, 1972, 9

¹⁴ Bloy and Parry's *Principles of Criminal Law Forth Edition*, London, Cavendish 2000, 14

¹⁵ *Ibid*

¹⁶ Chukol K.S. *The Laws of Crime in Nigeria*, Zaria, Ahmadu Bello University Press, 1988, 1

¹⁷ Smith J.C; and Brain Hogan, *Criminal Law*, 4th ed., London, Butterworth, 1978, 3

¹⁸ *Ibid*

¹⁹ Enemaku, O., "The Concept of Crime and the Rights of an Accused Person Under the Nigeria Criminal Justice Administration" [2009] *Journal of contemporary Legal Issues*, (Vol. 1 No. 1) 35

²⁰ Wigwe C., *Introduction to Criminal Law in Nigeria with Criminal Code Act and Administration of Criminal Justice Act' [2015]*, Ghana, Montcrest University Press, 2016, 5

interchangeably.²¹ Crime simply put is whatever is prohibited by law as contained in the provision of a statute, with punishment prescribed for violation of the law and enforced by the machinery of the state persons authorized by the state.²²

Stephens.²³ defines crime as acts which are both forbidden by law revolting to the moral sentiment of the society. For Williams,²⁴ crime is a legal wrong that can be followed by criminal proceeding which may result in punishment. The utilitarian view is that crime should be estimated on the basis of what is injurious to the society.²⁵ It is based on the fact that the function of the criminal law should be restricted to the prevention of injury and that penal law should not be evoked to enforce a moral principle.²⁶

Despite all these views, definitions and postulations of scholars and writers it is still difficult to enunciate a satisfactory definition of crime. In Nigeria, the Criminal Code²⁷ and Penal Code²⁸ defined crime in their various ways, thus the Criminal Code²⁹ defined crime as an act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment, under this code or under any order in council, Act or Law or Statute is called an offence. The Penal Code,³⁰ states that, except where otherwise appears the context, the word offence includes an offence under any law for the time being in force.

Flowing from the position of the Penal Code, what is an offence or a crime is what a particular law states that is an offence. This position has however, complicated the issue of definition of crime because what may be considered a crime in one nation-state may not amount to a crime in another. In some countries, many acts which are regarded as immoral like adultery are not crimes.^{31,31} Traditionally, the attitude of common law is that crimes are essentially immoral acts deserving of punishment but the views of the Wolfenden Committee changed the position by clearly stating the functions of the criminal law which includes the preservation of public order and decency, protection of the citizens from what is offensive and to provide sufficient safeguard against exploitation and corruption of others,³² among others.

Against this backdrop it becomes imperative to look at the laws of any country or state in order to determine whether or not an act is considered a crime. In other words, there can be neither a crime committed nor punishment meted out except in accordance with the law.³³ Hence the Supreme Court restated this position in *Tafida v FRN*³⁴ where it held that:

By virtue of *section 36(12)* of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, no citizen should be tried and convicted on a non-existent law. Consequently, a conviction for an act which was not an offence known to law at the time the act was done is a gross violation of *section 36(12)* of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended.

²¹ *Ibid*

²² *Ibid*

²³ Stephen, J. *A General View of the Criminal Law of England*, London, Macmillan, 1980, 5

²⁴ William, G. *Textbook of Criminal Law*, London, Stevenson and Sons, 1978, 14

²⁵ Chukkol, K.S, *Supra*, 6

²⁶ *Ibid*

²⁷ *Criminal Code Act Cap C38*, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, as revised

²⁸ *Penal Code Law Cap89*, Laws of Northern Nigeria with Northern States Federal Provisions Act Cap 345 with Sharia Penal Code

²⁹ See *section 2* of the *Criminal Code Act Cap. C38*, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004

³⁰ See *section 28* of the *Penal Code Law Cap89*, Laws of Northern Nigeria 1963

³¹ Smith, J. C., and Hogan, B., *Supra*, 20

³² *Ibid*

³³ Smith, J.C, and Hogan, B. *op.cit.*, 19

³⁴ (2014)5 N.W.L.R. (Part 1399)147, see also *George v FRN* (2014) N.W.L.R. (Part 1399)1. *Abidoeye V FRN* (2014) 5 N.W.L.R pt(1399) 68

This rule is often expressed by Latin maxim, *nullus crimen, nulla poena sine lege*.³⁵ This maxim concerns itself with ensuring that in the administration of criminal justice, the provisions of the law must be observed.³⁶ Hence, the cases of *Aoko v Fagbemi*,³⁷ and *Uromi v The Price Control Board*³⁸ are all instructive in this connection to the effect that the provisions of the law which are known must be obeyed.

In observing the law therefore, before a man can be convicted of a crime, the prosecution must as of necessity prove that a certain event or a state of affairs which are forbidden by the law has been caused by his conduct and that this conduct was accompanied by a prescribed state of mind. According to Anyanwu,³⁹ the proof required is that the accused committed the act (*actus reus*) in a particular state of mind, that is to say, that he knew that the act would be the result of his conduct.

Actus reus refers to the external conducts which is prohibited by law. What constitutes the *actus reus* of an offence varies according to the type of the offence in question.⁴⁰ *Mens rea* is the mental state of mind at the point of alleged commission of crime. Crime is committed in a particular state of mind realizing that a consequence could occur.⁴¹ *Mens rea* and *actus reus* are in most cases interwoven because the act alone is not enough, it must be accompanied by a guilty mind as expressed in the latin maxim: *actus non fact reum nisi men sit rea*.⁴²

Other element which connotes *mens rea* include, recklessness, negligence and to some extent knowledge and motive. Anyanwu⁴³ highlighted some of the epithets used to describe the mental element to include intentionally, knowingly, willfully, fraudulently, maliciously and negligently among others. In recovering stolen public assets through criminal prosecution, one of these epithets must apply to assist the prosecution prove that the accused committed the offence.

At the beginning of any proceeding, the accused is presumed innocent⁴⁴ and the burden of proof is on the prosecution to prove its case.⁴⁵ It is not enough if it proves that the accused committed the offence, it must prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused committed the offence.⁴⁶ It does not matter whether it is misdemeanor or felony, once the accused is convicted, it attracts punishment.

It is to be appreciated that the essence of punishment is the basis for any modern or system of crime control.⁴⁷ Punishment could be in form of fine, penalty, state of confinement, punishment many include deprivation of property,⁴⁸ derived from corruption.

Corruption

Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies.⁴⁹ It undermines democracy and the rule of law and leads to violations.⁵⁰ Transparency international defined corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.⁵¹ It is a term that is not susceptible

³⁵ Yakubu J. A. and Oyewo, T. A. *Criminal Law and Procedure in Nigeria*, Lagos, Malthouse Press Limited, 2000, 2

³⁶ *Ibid*

³⁷ (1961) *All N.L.R*, 40

³⁸ (1976) *FCA/k/74/78*

³⁹ Anyanwu C.U., *An outline of Nigeria Criminal Law*, Enugu, Ikemefuna Publications, 2009, 3

⁴⁰ Oji. S.I., *Nigeria Criminal Law in Perspective*, Sokoto, Usman Danfodiyo University Press, 2015, 3

⁴¹ *Supra* 37

⁴² *Ibid*

⁴³ Anyanwu C.U., *op.cit.*, 3.

⁴⁴ See section 36(5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Amended.

⁴⁵ Okonkwo, C.O and Naish, M.E., *Criminal Law in Nigeria*, (2nd ed), Ibadan, Sweet and Maxwell, 1980, 93.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*.

⁴⁷ *Ibid*.

⁴⁸ *Ibid*.

⁴⁹ UNODC. "Corruption" www.unodc.org>. Accessed 6/9/2025

⁵⁰ *Ibid*

⁵¹ Transparency International. 'Corruption Defined' [unglobalcompact.org](http://unglobalcompact.org/principles)>*principles*. Accessed 6/9/2025

to a one way definition because it goes beyond abuse of power for private gains. It avers and includes tribalism and nepotism.⁵² This is so because any public official who shifts his loyalty from his country or employer to kingship or the ethnicism, undoubtedly violates his oath of office and the moral code of conduct, hence it further involves deliberate distortion of the system to favour friends, relatives and well wishers.⁵³

Corruption has continued to remain a priority concern to the Nigeria government and her citizens. It affects all aspects of public life.⁵⁴ It undermines social, economic and political development of the country,⁵⁵ and heavily undermines security as well. Essentially, security has to do with presence of peace, safety, happiness and safeguarding of human lives and properties.⁵⁶ It is the absence of crises or danger to human dignity, all of which enhances development and progress of any human society including Nigeria.⁵⁷ Security addresses threats of any form and ensures that the threats are managed properly,⁵⁸ but that is not to be in Nigeria due to corruption.

In Nigeria, corruption has held the internal security hostage as both insecurity and corruption are twin evils and a hydra headed monster.⁵⁹ Corruption in the security of any nation has a detrimental effect both in the security apparatus and in wider peace and security by fuelling tensions and adding to conflict and instability.⁶⁰ The detrimental effect of corruption in Nigeria confirms the reason for the lack of capacity to protect the people from criminality and insurrection, despite the spending of huge sums of money to fight insecurity internally.⁶¹

As a result of the increasing corruption, weaknesses in the institutions responsible for internal security and poor oversight, the citizens of Nigeria are no longer having confidence in the ability of Nigeria Police in protecting them. Cases of banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality have become frequent across the whole country,⁶² hence most of the security personnel detailed to protect the people busy themselves with corruption, leaving behind the real reason for their assignment, which is crime fighting essentially.

Growing proportions of Nigerians report feelings of insecure or fearful, and few approve of the government's performance against crime.⁶³ The Nigerian police service is tasked with addressing these problems while upholding the principles of fairness in course of carrying out their duties.⁶⁴

⁵² Okorie, C.K. *Corruption, supra*, 3

⁵³ *Ibid*

⁵⁴ UNODC, 'Corruption' www.unodc.org. Accessed 6/9/2025

⁵⁵ Abga, M.M., and Aide, A., Corruption, Development and Security in Nigeria. www.gijimss.com.ng. Accessed 6/9/2025

⁵⁶ *Ibid*

⁵⁷ *Ibid*

⁵⁸ *Ibid*

⁵⁹ Oghuvbu, E.A. and Oghuubu, B.O., Corruption and the Lingering of Insecurity Challenges in Nigeria. www.jopaff.com> *issue 13*. Accessed 6/9/2025

⁶⁰ Transparency International, 'Defence and Security' ti-defence.org> *where we work*. Accessed 6/9/2025

⁶¹ Igwe, U., "Nigeria has Failed to Tackle Corruption" blogs.Ise.ac.uk. Accessed 7/9/2025

⁶² *Ibid*

⁶³ Kweitsu, R., Amid Growing Insecurity, Nigerians Fault Police for Corruption and Lack of Professionalism. www.afrobarameter.org>. Accessed 7/9/2025

⁶⁴ *Ibid*

Insecurity

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection⁶⁵ *et cetera*. The idea of insecurity produces anxiety about one's goals and ability to handle certain situations. The feeling appears in all aspects of human existence, hence the government made it first priority, to ensure that lives and properties are secured. Insecurity in Nigeria has led to destruction of lives, properties and conduct of businesses in the face of disruption of economic activities.⁶⁶

Insecurity in Nigeria further manifests in crimes of Kidnapping, child trafficking, arson, wanton killings, *et cetera*. It poses a significant threat to Nigeria's stability and development.⁶⁷ To ensure the safeguard of the citizens of Nigeria, the government must take decisive and proactive action through the various security agencies⁶⁸ including the Nigeria police which is the main organ saddled with internal security of the country. Security which is the opposite of insecurity is ideally a part of human existence and sustenance which has been recklessly and ruthlessly neglected owing to corruption and political misconceptions⁶⁹ among others. Insecurity in Nigeria has been unprecedented in recent times. This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and her security outfit especially the Nigeria police.

Nigeria Police

The Nigeria police force is the principal law enforcement agency in the country.⁷⁰ It is a security outfit of the Nigerian state established to combat crime and ensure security of lives and properties of the citizenry.⁷¹ The Nigeria police force is a creation of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended).⁷² The activities of the Nigeria police are however governed by the Police Act.

The Nigeria police force, (establishment) Act 2020 (the new Act) which came into force on the 17th of September 2020 replaced the police Act of 2004. The general objective of the new Act is to provide an effective police service that is based on the principle of accountability and transparency, protection of human rights and partnering with other security agencies to achieve the objectives.⁷³ One of the most beautiful provisions of the new police Act is the prohibition of arrest in lieu.⁷⁴ This provision is in conformity with and gives effect to the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.⁷⁵ Basically, this situation will minimize the rate of extortion and corruption that will likely be occasioned by such arrest.

Another important innovation of the New Police Act 2020 is its provision prohibiting the arrest of a person merely on civil wrong or breach of contract.⁷⁶ The erstwhile Police Act was silent on the power of the police to arrest for a civil wrong, this void was abused by very many police officers. It

⁶⁵Olise, C.N and Eke, E., "The Imperative of Social Security in the time of Insecurity in Nigeria. *ad.univ-danubius.ro*. Accessed 7/9/2025

⁶⁶Purity, N.O., and Anigbuogu T., Insecurity in Nigeria: The Implications for Industrialization and Sustainable Development

⁶⁷*Ibid*

⁶⁸Akingbohugbe, O., Insecurity in Nigeria and Effective Solutions. *punch.com*. Accessed 11/9/2025

⁶⁹Purity, N.O. and Anigbuogu T., *op.cit*

⁷⁰Nigeria Police Force "History of the Nigeria Police Force" *www.net.gov.ng*. Accessed 11/9/2025

⁷¹Akuul T. "The Role of the Nigerian Police Force in Maintaining Peace and Security in Nigeria" *www.cearesin.org*. Accessed 11/9/2025

⁷²Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended)

⁷³Nigeria Police "Things you should know about the New Police Act 2020" *lawpavillion.com*. Accessed 20/9/2025

⁷⁴Section 36 of Police Act 2020.

⁷⁵See section 6 of Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

⁷⁶See section 32 (2) of the Police Act 2020.

became an avenue to extort people who find themselves in such situation. Such abuse heavily promotes corruption in the Nigeria police. The effect is that the body of rules and the law governing the police force is disregarded, hence the relationship between the citizenry and the Nigeria police force continues to be strained, notwithstanding that the issue of police interfering or carrying out arrest based on civil wrong has long been dispensed in the case of McLaren v. Jennings.⁷⁷

It must however be noted that the constitution provides that the members of the Nigeria Police Force shall have powers and duties conferred upon them by law. It is the Police Act that provides for such powers and duties. These powers and duties as has rightly been noted are quite expansive, but must be exercised within the law,⁷⁸ importantly as it affects the duty to preserve law and order, protect lives and properties, prevent and detect crime.⁷⁹ Put differently, the exercise of power by the police within the ambit of the law, entails a response to the call of duty and this must be corruption free, to ensure adequate protection of the citizenry in Nigeria.

It has been noted that the internal security of the citizens of Nigeria has continued to remain threatened due to corruption in the Nigeria Police.

Corruption in the Nigeria Police

Corruption in the Nigeria police has remained a contemporary issue within the Nigeria policing arrangement. This concern lingers on the fact that the police is vested with the onerous responsibility of maintaining law, order and combating of crime to ensure the security of the entire citizenry.⁸⁰ The Nigeria police is one of the most fundamental government bodies empowered with the rights and responsibility of not only maintaining law but also of protecting the people from all sorts of attacks and security challenges.⁸¹

Nigeria is facing a host of complex security challenges, ranging from violent extremism and insurgency to piracy, kidnapping for ransom, attacks on oil infrastructure, drug trafficking and organized crime.⁸² These threats typically involve irregular forces and are largely societal based, as many of Nigeria's security challenges are domestic in nature, the Nigeria police force is often the primary security outfit to confront these challenges.⁸³ However this situation is sabotaged by corruption.

Causes of Corruption in Nigeria Police

Weak accountability mechanism

A central cause of corruption in Nigeria police is weak accountability mechanism.⁸⁴ There is no effective mechanism to bring erring police officer to the book of justice.⁸⁵ When corrupt police officer failed to be punished, corrupt activities increase and become embedded within the police force.

Poor recruitment process

The process of recruitment is usually filled with irregularities and bias, hence persons of questionable characters are recruited without proper checks on both their mental and physical capacities. Hence character of persons recruited cannot be guaranteed, which in effect may reflect corrupt tendencies in carrying their duties as police officers.

⁷⁷ (2003) 3 NWLR Pt. 808 Pg. 470.

⁷⁸ Section 214 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended).

⁷⁹ Amadi, G.O.S., "Police Powers in Nigeria" Afro-Orbis Publication Ltd., Nsukka, 2000, 14.

⁸⁰ Nte, Nde, *op.cit.*

⁸¹ Ordu, G.E.O., 'Police Corruption: Obstacles to Effective Policing in Nigeria'

www.academicexcellencesociety.com>... Accessed 20/9/2025

⁸² Okenyeodo, O., 'Governance, Accountability and Security in Nigeria'. *africacentre.org*. Accessed 20/9/2025

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ Singh, D., "The causes of Police Corruption and Working towards Prevention in Conflict – Stricken States" www.mdpi.com. Accessed 20/9/2025

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

Poor police welfare and dehumanizing work conditions.

Poor police welfare has been identified as one of the major causes of corruption in the contemporary policing of Nigeria.⁸⁶ Junior police officers are the most affected, hence the officers at the top echelon of the police institution are said to be impoverishing the junior ones.⁸⁷ This they do by embezzling mega resources meant for the junior officers.⁸⁸ The case of late former Inspector General of Police, Tarfa Balogun is instructive here.⁸⁹

In addition to poor welfare packages for the police officer the dehumanizing work, conditions under which they operate may partly be responsible for corruption in the Nigerian Police.⁹⁰ Police vehicles are at times being fueled by policemen themselves, and used as excuse to extort motorists on the road. It is a common sight in the country for police men to be seen collecting money from private and commercial vehicles at checkpoints brazenly.⁹¹ These situations create a mind of distrust on the police as an institution in Nigeria.

Under the South Africa jurisdiction, the police management at different levels constantly receives instructions from political office bearers and top management within the structure.⁹² These instructions are converted into outputs and retuned to the environment in form of efficient services, implying that the governmental institution is very dependable on its top structure for its existence.⁹³ Going further, it means that political office bearers and top management of the centralized structure has an exceptional influence on the vision, mission and policies of the police organisation, thus leaving the operational police officer with no discretion and decision making power other than rule of law.⁹⁵ The government of South Africa has continuously strengthened the South Africa Police Service by regular recruitment of various ranks, with a view to ensuring a feel safe security.⁹⁶ Modern gadgets and equipment provided to assist in the fight against insecurity.⁹⁷

In South Africa, National Anti-Corruption unit was established within the South Africa Police service.⁹⁸ The Unit's key objective is ensure an effective prevention and investigation of corruption within the South Africa Police,⁹⁹ as this makes it easier for erring members of the police force to be charged and convicted for corruption. It must be noted that there is no such anti-corruption unit within the Nigeria police force, where officers and men of the Nigerian police force are investigated and charged for corruption.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ Ogbon, C., "Nigeria: Poor Welfare Driving Corruption in Police Force, Citizens raise Alarm".

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ MOM, C., "Tarfa Balogun, Ex. IGP who fired Police Officers over Corruption Consumed by same Monster" www.cable.ng. Accessed 28/9/2025

⁹⁰ Akinkunmi, B.A., and Anigbogu, K.C., "Perceived Institutionalization of Corruption in the Nigeria Police: A study of Anambra State Police Command".

⁹¹ Aborishade, R.A., and Fayemi, J.A., "Police Corruption in Nigeria: A perspective on its nature and Control. njss.org.ng/untitled-55. Accessed 6/10/2025

⁹² Alemuka, E.E.O. "Police Community Relation in Nigeria: What went wrong"? paper presented at the seminar on Role and functions of the police in a post-military Era, organized by the centre for law enforcement Education in Nigeria and the Nature Human Right Commission, 1999, Abuja.

⁹³ Govender, D., and Pillay K., Policing in South Africa: A Critical Evacuation journals.sng epub.com/home/roa. Accessed 6/10/2025

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ South Africa Government New Agency, "Government Strengthens crime fighting measures" sinews.gw.za. Accessed 6/10/2025

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

Similarly, under the United Kingdom jurisdiction, a law known as the police corruption law is put in place to checkmate corrupt or other improper exercise of police powers and privileges.¹⁰⁰ In Nigeria, there is no such laws, hence police officers in Nigeria carry out illegal duties which are to a very great extent unchecked, thereby leaving the security situation unchallenged and compromised. Insecurity in Nigeria is tied to weak governance and corruption limited government presence and lack of observance of rule of law.¹⁰¹ The impact of insecurity in Nigeria is very significant, encompassing substantial losses in terms of lives, economic setbacks, and the emergence of humanitarian crises.¹⁰² Many citizens find themselves in precarious situations with limited access to basic needs.¹⁰³ Hence there is need for decisive, prompt and a coordinated effort by the government to address the challenges confronting the security agencies including the Nigeria Police for purposes of protecting the citizens of Nigeria.

Conclusion

Nigeria being the most populous country in Africa experiences the full range of security concerns, from petty to organised crime and communal conflicts to terrorism and cyber crimes. The Nigeria police service is tasked with addressing these problems while upholding the principles of fairness, accountability and human rights as well. However the Nigeria police have long failed to live up these expectations as a result of corruption. Hence a growing proportion of Nigeria feels insecure or fearful.¹⁰⁴

Recommendations

Addressing police corruption is essential to the maintenance of public order and ensuring adequate internal security in Nigeria. This is so because there are many connections between police corruption and human right abuses that can further undermine internal security. Hence, the need to strengthen the accountability of the Nigeria police as an institution for purposes of effective combating of corruption and breaking the circle of impunity in the police force.

Again it is recommended that human resource management be improved. Poor terms and working condition within the Nigerian police force can provide incentives and opportunities for police officers to resort to corruption at the expense of the internal security of Nigeria.

Training and development of officers and men of the Nigerian police is very important in providing profession and merit based career standards.¹⁰⁵ Policemen and woman need to be fully trained and equipped with modern gadget to perform their duties in both professional, impartial and ethical manner. Emphasis should be laid on anti-corruption and misconduct in course of the training and retraining of the police staff, hence a defined anti-corruption unit is suggested to be established within the Nigeria police force. It is further recommended that modern arms and ammunitions should provided for the Nigeria police forces to enable them carry out an effective fight against insecurity.

¹⁰⁰ New ham, a. Tacking police corruption in South Africa <https://www.csvr.org.za/docs>. Accessed 8/10/2025

¹⁰¹ Premium Times “Nigerians Lament Insecurity as officials Discusses steps taken” www.premiumtimes.com. Accessed 8/10/2025

¹⁰² Dakuku P. “Growing helplessness of Nigeria over insecurity” www.thecable.ng.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ Kwestsu R. AD715: Amid Growing Insecurity, Nigerians Police for corruption and lack of professionalism. www.afribarometre.org Accessed 10/10/2025