

Towards Improving Security Awareness about Armed Robbery among the Akoko of Ondo State, Nigeria

Gabriel Olusola Owagbemi, (Ph.D)

Department of Sociology
Adekunle Ajasin University
Akungba-Akoko
angel.gabreal@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study investigates armed-robbery and security awareness among Akoko-residents of Ondo State. Quantitative method of data collection was adopted. 190 copies of questionnaires were administered to the randomly selected respondents. The data collected were analysed statistically and it was presented in frequency distribution and simple percentage. Additionally, correlation was used to test the formulated hypotheses. The majority (77.3%) of respondents agreed that there had been an increase in the number of armed-robbery operations in Akoko-land. Eighty-two (82.7%) percent of the respondents also, reported that the manner and period at which these armed-robbery operations are carried out were very unusual. The majority (84.2%) of the respondents also agreed that the armed robbers have been having successful operations without any challenge. The respondents reported to have resorted to both traditional and modern methods of securing their lives and properties. The correlation tests showed a significant relationship between effective security measure and armed-robbery attacks in Akoko-land. It was established that there is a relationship between being security conscious and armed-robbery attacks in Akoko-land. The study therefore recommends that: Government should be awake to its constitutional duty of protecting citizens' lives and properties.

Keywords: *armed robbery, security-consciousness, operation, indigenous security-devices, neighborhood-watch,*

1.1 Background to the Study

Armed robbery has become a common phenomenon, and rightly, it is a daily occurrence in Nigeria. Besides, remaining one of the frequent and the most dreadful crimes in contemporary Nigeria- i.e., the period between contact with the West and especially from the 1970s to date- it has continued to cause distress among many Nigerians (Iwarimie-Jaja, 1998, and 1987). Shopeju (1999) supports the view of the pervasiveness of armed robbery in contemporary Nigeria by asserting that armed robbery is a common phenomenon. The nation is inundated with a widespread outcry that the public should assist the Police in the fight against this menace and, also that the public should be security conscious.

The fear of attack has made many Nigerians adopt so many strategies which aim at either reducing the rate of armed robbery or building defensive mechanisms against potential predictive attacks by hoodlums. The alarming rate of armed robbery however is being blamed on the dwindling economic fortunes of majority of the citizenry and the widening gap between the affluent and the poor in our society, provoking violent crimes especially armed robbery.

Virtually no place is safe from the ravages of the armed robbers in contemporary Nigeria. Unlike their previous modes of operation which used to be at night and often hooded, armed robbers now operate bare-faced in broad day-light. They attack homes, offices, shops,

restaurants and churches to rob, rape, maim and kill. They operate on the streets and strike at filling stations and banks while dispossessing their victims of cash and valuables. The incidence of robbery in Nigeria today is so appalling that armed robbers operate on a daily basis, leaving sorrow, tears, and blood in their trail. The concept of security is as old as the mankind. It can be traced to when the first man and woman- i.e., Adam and Eve - were prevented from entering the Garden of Eden. It follows that God himself initiated the concept of security. With rapid technological advancement humankind has invented and manufactured highly sophisticated security-gadgets and equipment. Security personnel now have at their disposal varying gadgets such as circuit television (cotv), burgles, fire-alarms, car-alarms, mutual-aid schemes, and locks.

In Nigeria, security-measures taken so far by both the Government and public security operatives have failed to control or even reduce crime-rate. On the contrary, the crime-rate continues to soar such extent that it beats the imagination of relevant authorities at all levels. What is responsible for this? This study seeks to reveal the fact that Nigeria is like the proverbial man sitting on a keg of gun-powder that could explode any moment. This is evident by the series of agitations by states, particularly areas and interest-groups, some of which are becoming restless. It would appear that no amount of security-preparedness can quell crime in Nigeria except the right context is provided (Otu, 2003)

The Federal government of Nigeria (FGN) has made concerted efforts at reducing the menace of armed robbery. This is evidence in the setting-up of the conventional police force. Special Anti-Robbery Squads (SARS) - made up of the police and the armed forces-mobile police force, community, and various voluntary vigilante-groups for neighborhood-watch. Curfews have often been imposed, on different occasions, in virtually all Nigerian cities and towns. Individuals are not left out of this as households and individuals are sensitized to be at alert while neighborhoods and communities are patrolled by residents all night. Protection bars, and hard wooden-and iron-doors, in both residences and commercial buildings, have become the rule rather than the exception. Skyscraper walls (fences) around modest and palatial buildings have constituted additional financial burden on home-owners and landlords (Otu, 2003)

In spite of these efforts, armed-robbery incidence is on the increase nationwide. There is never a day that cases of robbery attacks are not reported either in the print or electronic media. The very worrisome aspect includes the age bracket of the perpetrators, the level of brutality during each attack, the varying targets, and the brazen manner in which the attacks are carried out operations. The society, at large, is becoming so dreadful, and gripped by the pervasive fear of who may become the next victim of armed-robbery. Individual homes are not safe as there are cases of people being robbed right in their abodes both in the day-time and at nights. The streets and highways are not left out of daily occurrences as there are records of innocent victims who died from stray bullets during robbery incidents, while some have had their cars snatched away by robbers. Commercial banks are not left out of this notorious predation. Banks have recently become the 'lion's den' where one goes in and is never sure of coming out alive, in view of the incessant cases of armed robbery which mostly claim lives.

The incidence of armed-robbery attacks in Akoko-land of Ondo State has been on the increase since the re-location of Adekunle Ajasin University to Akungba-Akoko, in 1999. The re-location brought about tremendous social, economic, and political development to the area as whole and this was followed by highly organized robbery with sophisticated weapons, the type of which Akoko-land had never witnessed in history. "The First Bank PLC", Ikare-Akoko Branch, has been robbed four (4) times since 1999, OkeOka-Akoko Branch, twice, Ibaramu-Akoko Branch, twice, "Keystone Bank PLC" Ikare-Akoko twice, "Skye Bank" Akungba-Akoko, also twice, "Wema Bank PLC" Ikare-Akoko, twice, "Oceanic Bank PLC"

Ikare-Akoko, once, Divisional Police Office, Ikare-Akoko, twice, to mention a few. None of these armed-robbery attacks was without heavy losses-of lives, millions of Naira carted away and properties worth millions of Naira destroyed.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The phenomenon of armed-robbery in Akoko-land is now taking a new dimension. Recently, people were robbed right in their homes, both day and night; cars were snatched quite brazenly, as defenseless owners were terrifyingly commanded to either open their gates personally or dismantle all the security measures installed on the cars. The fear of armed-robbery attack in Akoko-land has turned many homes into unsafe havens as car-owners now park their cars in public places such as churches, schools, hospital premises, etc. to reduce being potential victims of armed-robbery attacks. With the rate at which armed-robbery attacks occur in Akoko-land, one is in doubt if the security measures that are put in place, in both public and private places, can really withstand the 'pressure' of armed-robbery on the area.

Atolagbe (2011) did a preliminary survey of Yoruba ethno-medical devices on security consciousness in indigenous Nigerian houses. The results indicate that there are three categories of the Yoruba in south-western Nigeria namely: the elderly traditionalists; those that rekindle hope in the revival of our indigenous heritage, such as the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW); and, the members of Odua People's Congress (OPC), who still believe in the efficacy of ethno-medical devices. Sixteen types of ethno-medical devices were identified. Otu (2003) conducted research on armed-robbery in the southeastern States of Nigeria. The result shows that the female members in armed-robbery gangs perform duties that are service-oriented.

The following studies are valuable and informative, but efforts have not been made by scholars to investigate how the incident of armed robbery has impacted on improving security consciousness of Nigerians in general and Akoko-residents, in particular. Hence, it is of great importance to conduct research on armed robbery and how this has improved security-consciousness of the Akoko-residents.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In the light of the foregoing notion, the following objectives shall inform the study:

- i. To know how Akoko-residents have experienced armed-robbery attacks;
- ii. To examine the methods used by the armed-robber during the attacks;
- iii. To evaluate the success or otherwise, of the armed-robbery attacks;
- iv. To identify any lapses responsible for the attacks; and,
- v. To assess the level of security-consciousness of Akoko-residents consequent to the incessant armed-robbery attacks.

1.4 Hypotheses

- i. There is no significant relationship between effective security measures and armed – robbery attacks in Akoko-land.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between being security conscious and armed – robbery attacks in Akoko-land.

2.0 Literature Review

The need for security and protection of life and property predates modern architectural and medical practices. The desire for security to life and properties prompted the development of perimeter walls around the shelter of trees and barricades at cave-entrances by early human species in pre-historic periods (Buah, 1969). As civilization increased and technology

advanced, the development of daring weapons, tools, and mechanical and electronic devices rendered ineffective, the indigenous security-devices that were earlier considered invincible and insurmountable. Today, there is not much of physical barriers or anti-burglary devices that can offer adequate burglary resistance to the onslaught of grenades, hack-saw, rock-and-steel borers, metal smelting, etc. in a “global village” and technology-age where the “Pentagon”- the American ingenious security edifice-can be devastated as was witnessed in the devastating September-2011 terrorist attack. Today, in the advanced developed nations of the World, responsibility for the security of life and property rests squarely on humans and (security) agencies, in contraptions of participatory democracy and social engineering (Kaufmann, 1970). In these countries, everybody contributes his/her quota to the security of self and all. Thus, security is achieved through the combined efforts of designated agents such as the (Police and other law-enforcement agencies) and an alert, forth-coming, and conscious citizenry, with respect for individual and corporate rights and a cherished concern for orderly nation-states. Not so in the less-developed nations of the world, where most citizens and leaders alike, crave for self, stupendous socio-economic and political lifestyles.

In Nigeria, specifically, the law-enforcement agencies-oriented security body that thrives in the industrialized nations has not met the security needs of the citizens. The Police and other law-enforcement agencies have shown little sincerity professionalism and patriotism to make the nation’s security system work with seeming connivance of police rank and file with armed-robbers, traffic offenders, and drug peddlers in exchange for monetary gratifications (Odekunle, 1978). It is not an aberration that a one-time Inspector General of Police (IGP) Tafa Balogun, the nation’s highest police-boss was jailed for gross corrupt practices. The 18-count charges boarder on extortion, defrauding, misappropriation, swindling, cheating, and diversion of public funds – all of which tamper considerably with the rights of individuals and security of the state. The spate of burglaries, political assassinations and other violent crimes has been unsettling in recent times, to the extent that the citizenry– both politicians and well-meaning citizens- seek personal protection from alternative security-sources.

The most popular of these security sources is the indigenous or traditional sources which tend to differ across ethnic groups but are peculiar to each of the over 250 cultural and ethnic groupings in Nigeria (Saad et al. 1996; Fatiregun, 1999). The indigenous security-devices of the Yoruba ethnic group, occupying the south-western part of Nigeria and constituting one of the three dominant ethnic groups in the country. Its language-Yoruba is popularly considered one of the three ‘national languages’ others being Hausa/Fulani and Igbo.

2.1 Armed Robbery and Theories of Risk Society

The theories of risk society explain the societal and global contexts of security. Beck (1986; 1992) is one of the most well-known academics who started discussions in Europe and launched the concept a risk society. He criticized beliefs in progress and warned about new technological risks that cannot be controlled by old concepts and directives. Giddens (1990), also wrote about the new risks in modernity, which included threat of nuclear war, other military conflicts, and technological risks. He argued that these risk environments influenced all people; risks were globalized and people were aware of the risks and how highly vulnerable they are as well as the deficiencies of experts in governing those risks.

The most interesting issues in these approaches to a risk society are notions about the process through which a person becomes aware of and vulnerable to modern institutions and global issues. The development of identity is a reflexive project, from which close communities and traditions do not shelter an individual. People are vulnerable in their close personal relationships, and at the same time, they are aware of the threat in global issues.

The analysis of the world shows that man is living under the threat of hazardous uncertainty in a new cultural dynamic of anxiety (Wilkinson, 2001). Some of the interpretations of risk

saw that risk itself meant feelings of fear, uncertainty, and anxiety (Lupton, 1999). Giddens (1991) wrote about an individual's quest for security in the risk society. He used the concept of trust to illustrate the relation between an individual and society. He argued that post-modern society challenged trust in many ways. He believed that trust and security were created in close relationships with caregivers and that, ideally, children trusted their caregivers and developed basic trust in a so-called protective cocoon, which protected a developing person's integrity.

These sociological and other discourses on risks are not restricted to the experiences of younger generations. The strains of living with insecurity and impermanence, and the loss of personal control over life events are felt by most people to some degree (Abbott, 2000; Wilkinson, 2001). Risks and fears are concepts closely related to insecurity and they help to understand the content, characteristics, and experiences of insecurity. Quite often young people are mentioned as one of the most sensitive and vulnerable groups in society. Traditionally, this view is based on developmental approaches to adolescence and descriptions of youth as a transition period. The risk society approaches partly share these traditional and psychological views. Youth and adolescence are synonymous with transitions from childhood to adulthood, from school to work, or from dependence to independence (Cebulla, 2009). The core in these approaches assumes that young people are less likely to have common biographies and that everyday uncertainties are met individually, not with the support of community or tradition (Furlong and Cartmel, 1997; Abbott, 2000; Green et al. 2000; Miles, 2007; Cebulla, 2009).

The Akoko people now confront uncharted pathways into the future and they have to make decisions concerning their lives in circumstances where they cannot predict the consequences of their decisions. They must face the challenge to evaluate their environments, as well as their own ability to cope in changing circumstances. Many scholars argue that self-assessment and reflection is more important now than ever before because of individualization and personal challenges to make decisions in an unpredictable world (Abbott, 2000; Giddens, 1991; Beck, 2001). Individuals in Akoko-land have the challenge to try to protect themselves from an increasing "matrix of risks" such as, armed robbery, crime, attack etc.

Discourses on risk offer one frame of reference for the insecurity among the Akoko-people. It gives a context in which to understand the challenges they face in late modern society and their task of making sense of the world. Risk society is not a static description of the state of the world. Instead, it describes the dynamics where people have to be reflexive in coping with uncertainty (Threadgold and Nilan, 2009).

Methods

3.1. Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The population of the study consists of the two major towns in Akoko South-West and one from Akoko North east local government areas of Ondo State. These towns include: Oka-Akoko, and Akungba-Akoko from Akoko South-west; and Ikare-Akoko from Akoko North-east. The selection of these towns was predicated upon the fact that for the past eleven years these towns have been under serious threat from robbers. The researcher adopted quantitative method of data-collection. The sample size for this study is 190 respondents who were randomly selected from the three selected towns in both Akoko South-west and Akoko South-east LGAs.

3.2 Instruments of Data Collection and Method of Data Analysis

Questionnaire was employed in data collection. The questionnaire that was administered was divided into five sections: Section 'A' contains questions on the bio-social characteristics of

the respondents. Other subsequent sections covered questions that seek information on issues related to robbery attacks. One hundred and ninety (190) copies of questionnaire were administered to respondents who fell within the study area. Quantitative data was analysed using descriptive techniques, under which, tabulations, cross tabulations, means, simple frequencies, percentages were used; descriptive models, and explanatory techniques which involved Chi-square analysis was also used.

4.0 Results and Discussions

The findings on how Akoko residents have experienced Armed-robbery revealed that 42.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that the degree at which armed robbers attack Akoko resident is alarming, 34.7% also agreed but not strongly, 10.0% were undecided, 5.3% strongly disagreed while 7.4% disagreed but not strongly. 23.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, that the community has never had the case of armed-robbery attacks at its being experienced now, 41.1% agreed, 8.4% did not decide, while 12.6% strongly disagreed and 14.2% disagreed but not strongly. The respondents responses on the relationship between the relocation of university to Akoko-land and the incessant armed-robbery attacks on Akoko-resident is as follows, 21.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that the relocation of Adekunle Ajasin University (former Ondo State University) from Ado-Ekiti to Akoko-land sparked-off the continuous armed- robbery attacks in Akoko-land, 29.5% agreed, 12.1% did not decide while 22.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed and 14.7% disagreed. It was also revealed that 15.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that there was no day that armed robbers will not attack one Akoko community, 22.1% agreed and 10.5 disagreed while 25.8% strongly disagreed and 25.8% disagreed. 32.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that they always have a record of dead body and injured people whenever armed robbers attack their community, 32.6% agreed but not strongly, 9.5% did not decide while 12.1% strongly disagreed and 13.7% disagreed.

The result of findings on the methods used by the armed-robbers during the attacks shows that 24.7% strongly agreed that car owners are being ordered by armed-robbers to start their engines by themselves, 27.9% agreed but not strongly, 18.4% did not decide, 10.0% strongly disagreed, 18.9 disagreed. Still on the method used by armed-robbers, 32.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that armed-robbers always come to attack them in full gang or in groups, 45.3% agreed, 9.5% did not decide, 3.2% strongly disagreed while 9.5% disagreed. However, on the type of weapons used by armed-robbers when robbing 37.4% of the respondents said that Armed-robber attacks the community with sophisticated weapons, 40.5% agreed, 7.4% disagreed while only 3.7% strongly disagreed and 11.1% disagreed. The attack by the armed-robbers on Akoko-community is always without notice as this was confirmed thus, 38.9% of the respondents responded that Armed-robbers attack residents in their community without any notice, 40.5% also supported them, 6.3% did not decide, 6.3% strongly disagreed and 7.9% supported those that strongly disagreed. Furthermore, 23.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that armed-robbers disguise as helper so as to attack their victims, 41.1% agreed, 11.1% did not decide, 12.6% strongly disagreed and 12.2% disagreed. Results also shows that 23.2% of the respondents believed attacks are usually carried out at night on the resident of Akoko-land, 37.4% agreed, 13.2% did not decide, 12.6% strongly disagreed while 13.7% disagreed. 45.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that Armed-robbers attack banks both in the day and night, 37.4% agreed in relation to their responses, 6.8% did not decide, 5.3% strongly disagreed and 5.3% disagreed.

The method of operations of the armed robbers shows that there is a departure from what it used to be in the past. Now, they come in gangs and lay siege on their targeted victims. They study their victims' movements in and out before any attack. There are times they operate between 9pm and 11:30pm; sometimes they strike between 1am and 4am. Whenever they are

operating, they do it with utter confidence since they might have attacked any nearby Police Station before their operation(s). Their attacks on banks have no specific time of operation. There were times they operated in the evening between 7pm and 9pm; but, often, they attack during the day.

The findings on the success or otherwise, of the armed-robbery attacks on Akoko communities showed thus: 42.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that there was no time armed-robber came without carting away with cash and properties, 41.6% agreed, 4.7% did not decide, 4.2% strongly disagreed while 6.8% disagreed. Also, 34.7% strongly agreed that the armed-robbers that usually attack Akoko-residents always go un-captured, 40.0% agreed, 10.5% did not decide, 4.7% disagreed but strongly and 10.0% disagreed but not strongly. It was evident in the respondents responses that Individual or group of individuals in Akoko community had never risen to challenge the armed-robbers whenever they operate, the respondents that agreed strongly were 30.0%, 41.1% agreed, 12.1% were undecided while 6.8% strongly disagreed and 10.0% disagreed. The responses to the aftermath of robbery attacks show that, 21.6% strongly agreed that there was no time armed-robbers will attack their communities without leaving one or two persons dead or seriously injured, 26.8% agreed but not strongly, 13.2% did not decide, 20.0% strongly disagreed and 18.4% disagreed. It was also revealed that armed-robbers operate without fear of arrest whenever they are operating as this was confirmed by 36.3% of the respondents who strongly agreed that whenever armed-robbers attack they fear nobody or anything, 41.1% agreed, 8.9% did not decide, and also, 8.4% strongly disagreed, 5.3% disagreed.

The level of success achieved by armed robbers whenever they strike is alarming. This is evident in most of the responses from the respondents that there was no time and place they attack without a huge success. In some of their operations, they carted away cars, cash, and some personal belongings. Their attacks on banks have usually been quite successful, as they operate for hours without any interference. Thereafter, the banks are left to count their losses, at the end of any attack, to the tune of millions of Naira. The modern security-door devices installed in banks are not really saving the situation. This is because there has not been any record of where such security-device prevented the armed-robbers from gaining access into the banking hall. The security doors are often blown up with dynamite in most attacks on commercial banks.

On the factors responsible for successful attacks, respondents reveals thus; 38.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that resident of the community are not always and not being alert for the armed-robbers, 44.7% agreed, 7.4% did not decide, 3.7% strongly disagreed, and 5.8% disagreed. On the inadequacy of security personnel to withstand the degree of robbery incidents, 30.0% of the respondents strongly agreed while 48.4% agreed that the security personnel is not adequate, 6.3% were undecided, 5.8% strongly disagreed, 9.5% disagreed that there is inadequate security personnel to put an end to the problem of insecurity in this community. It was also revealed from the findings that Akoko-residents do not give their total support to the security personnel/agencies, their responses shows that 24.7% strongly agreed and 34.2% agreed that their support was inadequate; 15.8% of the respondents were undecided, 11.6% strongly disagreed while 13.7% disagreed that the support was adequate. Inability to install security device on car was one of the factors that necessitated the success achieved by armed-robbers in snatching of cars, 25.8% of the respondents strongly agree while 42.6% agreed that failure to have installed security devices on cars attribute to the successful snatching of cars by armed robbers, 11.1% of the respondents were undecided, 10.0% strongly disagreed and 10.5% disagreed on this statement. On the issue of fencing as a protective measure, 17.9% of the respondents strongly agreed and 23.7% agreed, and that house without fences have been the target of armed robbers, 13.2% of the respondents were undecided, 20.0% strongly disagreed and 25.3% disagreed. 40.5% of the respondents strongly

agree that the security personnel/agencies in this community lack sophisticated weapons to tackle armed robbers whenever they attack the community, 36.8% agreed, 7.4% were undecided, and 5.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed and 9.5% disagreed.

Some of the attacks on houses and banks were successful due to some lapses in the society at large. It was observed that some of the houses where the armed-robbers attacked were not fenced and a few that were fenced were not high enough. The traditional security system “vigilante” which the indigenous Yoruba society was known for is no more in place and the culture of being one's brother's keeper has been considerably eroded by modernity. The modern security personnel- e.g., the Police-has not been living up to the people's expectation. This is because, on many occasions, they had been invited to robbery scenes and the distress calls were turned down on very flimsy excuses. The findings also showed that most of the cars that were snatched both at home and at gun-point were not secured with the modern security devices. Commercial banks in Nigeria, in general, and Akoko-land, in particular, have not done much on security. This is because most of these banks are not prepared to invest in providing well-fortified branches with security. These lapses and more make armed-robbery attacks easier both in the day and at night as well as contribute to the successes achieved so far by armed-robbery gangs.

The Akoko-residents have taken some security measures towards consequent of the incessant armed-robbery, their responses shows how helpful these measures have been to them. 32.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 34.2% agreed, that erect of bars on strategic entrances to control movement in and out of their community has been helpful, 7.4% were undecided, 8.9% strongly disagreed and 17.4% disagreed on this statement. On the formation of local/traditional vigilante group as a security measure, 19.5% and 39.5% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively on the efficiency of this measure, 12.1% were undecided, 10.0% strongly disagreed and 18.9% disagreed. The responses to installation of tracking devices on cars for the fear of armed-robbery as a security measure is as follows: 21.6%, of the respondents strongly agree while 32.1% agreed, 14.2% were undecided, 16.8% strongly disagreed and 15.3% also disagreed. On the adoption of Yoruba traditional security devices as a security measure 14.2% of the respondents strongly agreed, 24.7% agreed, 32.1% were undecided, 14.2% strongly disagreed and 14.7% disagreed. 14.2% of the respondents believed that there is adequate police patrol in this community against armed robbery attack, 24.7% agreed, 32.1% did not decide, 14.2% strongly disagreed while 14.7% disagreed. Responses to restriction to late night movement of people in this community as a security measure from 11pm-5am everyday shows that, 22.1% strongly agreed 26.8% also agreed, 12.6% were undecided, 18.4 strongly disagreed and 20.0% disagreed. The responses of our respondents on the usage of public places with fences e.g. University compound, hospitals and churches as a security measure show that, 22.1% strongly agreed and 44.2% agreed that car owners now parked their cars in public places with fences, 11.1% undecided, 8.4% strongly disagreed and 14.2% disagreed.

Finally, the pace of armed-robbery attacks on both residential and public premises in Akoko-land has tremendously awakened the consciousness of the residents towards security. The incessant attacks on houses have made many house-owners/landlords to fence-up their buildings and the ones that were not well fenced had been raised up. Some car-owners who can afford the prices of the modern car-security tracking devices, but had not accepted its necessity have now installed them on their cars, while those who cannot afford the prices have now resorted to parking their cars over-night in public places like hospitals and churches that are fenced and the University Campus, where their cars would be secured due to the presence of stand-by security personnel.

4.1 Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between effective security measures and armed – robbery attacks in Akoko-land.

The test of hypothesis one shows that the r_{cal} (.470**) is greater than (0.195) at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between effective security measure and armed–robbery attacks in the study area.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between being security conscious and armed – robbery attacks in Akoko-land

The test of hypothesis two shows that the r_{cal} (.373**) is greater than (0.195) at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between security consciousness and armed–robbery attacks in the study area.

The rate at which armed-robbers attack Akoko-residents has been on the increase, with the focus of the attacks going far beyond previous ones. Before now, most residents in Akoko-land have not encountered armed-robbers right at their door-steps, both at night and in the day-time forcefully demanding for money, car-keys, even some requesting for food before carting away properties worth millions of Naira. The old pattern of armed-robbery attacks in Akoko-land concentrated on commercial banks, and it could be said to be strictly restricted to banks alone, most especially in Ikare-Akoko which happens to be the commercial hob of Akoko-land. But now, the pattern has drastically changed in the manner at which armed-robbers ravage the land, posing a grave security threat to the residents of Akoko-land. Armed-robbers now attack banks at will, and their operations last for hours without any interruption. Not only are this, life of both bank-patrons and, even passers-by not only terminated. Many residents of Akoko-land reported to have been attacked right in their homes, and to have even experienced this twice in a week.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

There is no doubt that the rate at which armed robbers operate in Akoko-land has been on the increase, as respondents have painfully testified to being victims over time. They never had it so serious as it is now. Virtually everyone sees himself/herself as a potential victim. The manner by which the armed-robbers operate and the degree of success they achieve in their operations have made the residents of Akoko-land worrisome. Everyone walks on the streets with the fear of the unknown, going to the bank to collect money or using the ATM machine has become a phobia to the residents of Akoko-land. Residents no longer sleep with their two eyes closed, because no one can tell when ‘men of the underworld’ would strike. Car-owners no more enjoy their cars to the maximum as many of them now park their cars some kilometers away from their places of residence and thereby, compelled to often trek tro and fro between their houses and where their cars are parked for safety.

The major pre-occupation of Akoko-residents now is how well they can be protected against incessant armed-robbery attacks, both in the commercial banks and at home. As corporate bodies are very concerned, so also are individuals. Banks now engage the services of security personnel more than ever before. This is evident in the manner at which armored-tank vehicles are being stationed in the front of banks in Ikare-Akoko. And on their part, individuals have become so conscious of security as every-one considers whatever means one can adopt just to protect oneself from being victims of armed robbery.

The paper therefore concludes that security of the citizen of Akoko and their properties has to be paramount in the scheme of things if there is going to be any meaningful development. This is because insecurity is a big clog on the wheel of socio-economic development of any society. Based on this, the study recommends that:(1)Government should be awake to

its constitutional duty of protecting lives and properties, this they can do by: equipping the Nigeria Police with arms and ammunitions sufficient to fight crime, improve on local vigilante and make it work hand-in-hand with the police; (2) government, at the local level, should build over-night parking-bays, well fortified with security in each major town in Akoko-land while car-owners are encouraged to make use of this service to be made available at affordable prices, either on monthly or daily basis, (3) also, the prices of modern car-security devices should be centrally reviewed downwards so as to make it affordable to car-owners.

References

- Abbott-Chapman, J. (2000). "Time Out Spaced Out. *Youth Studies Australia* 19(1):1-8.
- Atolagbe, A.M.O. (2011). "Security Consciousness in Indigenous Nigerian Houses: A Preliminary Survey of Yoruba Ethno-medical Devices" *Ethno Med*, 5(1): 57-62
- Beck, U. (1986). "Risikogesellschaft: auf dem Weg in eine andere Moderne" Frankfurt am Main, Suhrkamp Verlag
- Beck, U. (1992). *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. London, Sage.
- Behr, A.L. (1983). *Empirical Research Methods for the Human Sciences: Introductory Text for Students of Education, Psychology and Social Sciences*. Durban: Butterworth Publishers.
- Beck, U. (2001). *The brave new world of work*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Buah, F.K. (1969). *The Ancient World, A New History for Schools and Colleges. Book 1*, 2nd Edition. London and Basingstoke: Macmillan Education Limited.
- Cebulla, A. (2009). "Risk through the years – A statistical Portrait of Young People's Risk Perceptions and Experiences Relative to those of Older Generations" *Journal of Youth Studies*, 12, (1)39-56.
- Fatiregun, A.A. (1999). *A Brief History of Traditional African Architecture*. Osogbo: Fatiregun Press.
- Federal Government of Nigeria, (1979). *The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*. Daily Times Publication.
- Furlong, A. and Cartmel, F. (1997). *Young People and Social Change. Individualization and Risk in Late Modernity*, Buckingham, Open University Press.
- Giddens, A. (1990). *The Consequences of Modernity*, Cambridge, Polity Press.
- _____ 1991. *Modernity and self-identity. Self and society in the late Modern Age*. Polity Press, Oxford, Blackwell Publishers.
- Green, E., Mitchell, W. and Bunton, R. (2000). "Contextualizing Risk and Danger: An Analysis of Young People's Perceptions of Risk" *Journal of Youth Studies* 3(2)109-126.
- Iwarimie-Jaja, D. (1998). *Crime in Economic Boom and Crisis*. Owerri: Springfield Publisher.
- _____ 1987. "Urbanised Crime .A Case Study of Armed Robbery in Nigeria". *Pan African Social Science Review* ,2: 76-83.
- _____ 1994. "Crime in Nigeria: A case Study of Armed Robbery in Port Harcourt". *Southern African Journal of Criminology*, 7: 80-85.
- Kaufmann, F.-X. (1970). *Sicherheitssoziologisches und sozialpolitisches Problem. Untersuchungen zu einer Wertidee hochdifferenzierter Gesellschaften*, Neue Folge Nr. 31, Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke.
- Lupton, D. (1999). *Risk*, London, Routledge.
- Miles, S. (2007). "Different Journeys at Different Speeds: Young people, Risk and the Challenge of Creative Learning" *Journal of Youth Studies* 10(3)271-284.
- Odekunle, F. (1978). "Legal Order, Crime and Crime Control in Nigeria: Demystification of

- False Appearance”. *Nigerian Journal of Policy and Strategy*, June 1986
- Otu, S.E.(1992). “Armed Robbery and Armed Robbers in Nigeria”. Unpublished Coursework Research Paper on the Sociology of Advanced Deviance Behaviour (Soc:407.2). Port Harcourt: *University of Port Harcourt*.
- _____ (2003). “Armed Robbery in the Southeastern States of Contemporary Nigeria: A Criminological Analysis” An Unpublished PhD Thesis, South Africa, University of South Africa
- Owagbemi, G.O. (2015). "Incident of Armed Robbery and Security Consciousness Among the Akoko of Ondo State". A Paper Presented at the Second International Conference, Organised by the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences. Akungba-Akoko. *Adekunle Ajasin University. Sept., 27-30*
- Saad, H.T., and Ogunsusi, V. (1996).“*Unity in Diversity, Continuity in Change: The Traditional Architecture of Nigeria*”. A Colloquium on Nigerian Traditional Architecture at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II), Istanbul, Turkey.
- Shopeju, J. O. (1999). “ The Victims of Crime: The Nigerian Perception of Restitution”. *Nigerian Journal of Criminal Justice Affairs*, 1:10-18.
- Threadgold, S. and Nilan, P. (2009). “Reflexivity of Contemporary Youth, Risk and Cultural Capital” *Current Sociology*, .57(1)47-68.
- Wilkinson, I. (2001). *Anxiety in a Risk Society*, London, Routledge.

Appendix I
List of Tables

Table 1: Result showing the relationship between effective security measure and armed–robbery attacks

	N	P	d.f	Mean	Std. D	r.cal	r.tab
Effective Security (ES)	190	0.05	188	14.2000	4.49832	.470**	0.195
Armed – Robbery (AR)				12.9789	4.36673		

Table 2: Result showing the relationship between being security conscious and armed–robbery attacks

	N	P	d.f	Mean	Std. D	r.cal	r.tab
Security conscious (SC)	190	0.05	188	21.7579	7.42328	.373**	0.195
Armed – Robbery (AR)				12.9789	4.36673		

Author's profile

Gabriel Olusola OWAGBEMI, (PhD) is a Lecturer I in the Department of Sociology Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko. He teaches Sociology, with area of interest in Development Studies, Rural Sociology and Gender Studies. He has scholarly articles in both local and international journals.

He is currently working on Public perception of Kidnapping and Security Consciousness in Ondo State - A TETFUND sponsored research.