



# **Law Enforcement Agencies and Security Challenges in 21st Century Nigeria**

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# INTRODUCTION

Nigeria faces a multitude of security challenges in the 21st century, including terrorism, communal conflicts, and cybercrime. Effective law enforcement is critical in addressing these issues and ensuring national stability.

However, this paper explores the roles of various law enforcement agencies in Nigeria and the strategies they employ to combat these security threats.



# SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

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## **Boko Haram Insurgency**

A major terrorist group causing severe security issues.

## **Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts**

Persistent clashes leading to loss of lives and properties.

## **Kidnapping & Abduction**

Widespread kidnappings for ransom affecting safety.

## **Cybersecurity Threats**

Increasing cybercrimes with the rise of digital technology.

## **Communal Crises**

Ethnic and religious tensions causing conflicts.

## **Economic Crimes**

Fraud, money laundering, and corruption affecting the economy.

# ROLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENTS

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## BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

### Role of Law Enforcement:

- ❑ **Military Operations** (Joint Task Force (JTF) and Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) collaborations)
- ❑ **Operation Lafiya Dole** (Launched in 2015)
- ❑ **Aerial Bombardments** (Nigerian Air Force)

**Impact:** Recapture of territories formerly controlled by Boko Haram (Dudouet, 2018).

## FARMERS-HERDERS CONFLICTS

### Role of Law Enforcement/Policies:

- ❑ **Agro-Rangers Unit:** Protecting farms and agricultural investments.
- ❑ **National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP):** Modernizing livestock farming to reduce conflicts.
- ❑ **Peacebuilding Initiatives:** NSCDC's efforts in community dialogue and conflict resolution.

**Impact:** Reduction in conflicts due to deployment of Agro-Rangers (Nwanze, 2016).

# ROLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENTS

## KIDNAPPING AND ABDUCTION

### Role of Law Enforcement:

- ❑ **Anti-Kidnapping Units:** NPF
- ❑ **Legislative Reforms:** Stricter penalties for kidnapping offenses.
- ❑ **Community-Based Intelligence:** Community policing.

**Impact:** Successful rescues and apprehensions by the Anti-Kidnapping Squad (Fatile, 2018).

## CYBERSECURITY THREATS

### Role of Law Enforcement:

- ❑ **Legislation and Regulation:** National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy.
- ❑ **Institutional Capacity Building:** Establishment of NITDA and ngCERT.
- ❑ **Awareness Campaigns:** NPF, EFCC....

**Impact:** Efforts by NITDA and ngCERT to mitigate cyber threats (Oluwatobi, 2020).

# ROLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENTS

## COMMUNAL CRISES AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

### Role of Law Enforcement:

- Security Deployment** (Military and police)
- Peacebuilding and Dialogue** (NSCDC, NPF...)
- Counterterrorism Measures:** Army

**Impact:** Peacebuilding efforts leading to reduced tensions in conflict-prone areas (Alemika, 2015; Aning, 2015).

## ECONOMIC CRIMES

### Role of Law Enforcement:


#### EFCC:

- Investigating and prosecuting economic crimes.**
- Legislative Reforms**
- Fraud Detection Units**
- Public Awareness Campaigns**
- Partnerships with Financial Institutions**

**Impact:** Notable cases of fraud detection and prosecution by the EFCC.

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# CHALLENGES FACED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- **Resource Constraints**
  - **Public Perception and Corruption**
  - **Jurisdictional Disputes**
  - **Corruption within Law Enforcement**
  - **Rapid Urbanization**
  - **Proliferation of Small Arms**
  - **Weak Criminal Justice System**
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## STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN NIGERIA

- **Investment in Modernization and Training**
- **Combating Corruption**
- **Enhancing Inter-Agency Collaboration**
- **Community-Oriented Policing**
- **Leveraging Technology**
- **Global Cooperation**
- **Improving the Criminal Justice System**



# CONCLUSION

Nigeria's law enforcement agencies face a complex array of 21st-century security challenges rooted in historical, socio-economic, and political contexts, including terrorism, cyber threats, economic crimes, and communal tensions.

Addressing these challenges comprehensively and proactively will enhance Nigeria's security, protect its citizens, promote stability, and safeguard national interests in the dynamic 21st-century landscape.

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