

# **AN ASSESSMENT OF POLICE BRUTALITY ON THE PUBLIC IN OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Background of the study**

The Nigeria police force is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria. It originated from its origin in Lagos following the creation of a 30-man consular guard in 1861. In 1891, it was renamed to “Hausa Constabulary Police” (Onwuyirimadu, 2022). He opined that, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1896, the Lagos police force was established while in 1894 the Niger Coast constabulary was formed in Calabar under the newly proclaimed Niger coast protectorate. However, during the colonial period, most police were associated with local governments (Native Authority), however in the 1960s, under the first republic, these forces were first regionalized and nationalized (Onwuyirimadu 2022)

The Nigerian police force (NPF) is the protagonist law enforcement agency in Nigeria according to section 214 of the 1999 constitution, which states that there shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria police force, and subject to the provision of this section no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof (Nwauzi, 20218). She opined that the powers and duties are conferred on it by the constitution and by other enactments. In relations to the Nigerian constitution, it provides: “the members of the Nigeria police force shall have powers and duties as may be conferred on them by law”, by that stated provision, constitutional validity is given to such enactments as the Police Act and other laws like the criminal code, penal code, prevention of crime Act, criminal procedure Act, Administration of criminal justice Act, child rights Acts, federal highway Act, electoral Act and firearms Act, (according to Nwauzi 2018).

The force has staff deployment across the 36 states of the country and the federal capital territory. The command and control of the Nigeria police force is under the inspector general of police by section 215(2) of the 1999 constitution, and section 6 of the police Act, 1990. In Nigeria as in most of the developing world, citizens are often confronted with myriad threats and challenges to their well-being and survival. These include poverty, brutality, deprivation of resources, lack of opportunity, marginalization, and the denial and suppression of basic rights and freedom.

Police brutality is bureaucratic sabotage: “an exceptional case of defection-defection against the public, against the law, against simple decency and a significant political and public policy problem (Falola, 2009). She opined that, it is a critical issue that has garnered increasing attention worldwide, and its impact on the public cannot be understated. Scholars generally agree that the origin of the Nigerian police force can be traced back to the colonial system as a result of the establishment of the Colonial Ordinance No.3 of 1930. Additionally, violence is connected with the larger issues of power, resistance, terrorism, and nationalism (Falola 2009)

The term “Police brutality” is used to refer to various human rights violations by police on the public. This might include beatings, extortion, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture, or indiscriminate use of riot control agents at protests (Amnesty 2023). However, this is a serious concern that needs attention and reform to ensure the protection and fair treatment of the public by law enforcement. This issue has become a worrisome challenge against the public as a misconduct behavior by the force (GJLR 2022). However, the peculiarity of the violation of human rights by Nigeria’s police force on the public has bridged Nigeria's trust in the police. Many Nigerians board sensitive secret information from police because of the fear of being victimized by the police. This challenge becomes a problematic situation when focusing on specific regions, such as Ota in Ogun state (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2019)

The town (Ota) is known to be under/ and the capital of the Ado/Odo local government in Ogun State which has experienced its share of reported incidents involving the use of force, violation of human rights, extortion, and harassment by law enforcement agents. Recent reports shed more light on the gravity of the issue in Ota, indicating the need for

a thorough assessment. According to Amnesty International's annual report on Nigeria (2022), instances of police brutality continue to be reported, raising concerns about public violations and undermining public trust in law enforcement. Factors such as community relations, law enforcement policies, and the impact on public trust may also be explored to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The report highlights that despite the reform, rehabilitation, and reintegrate initiated by the government, cases of killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests persist, necessitating a deeper investigation into specific localities like Ota.

Furthermore, recent academic research (Umeobika & Udegbumam 2023), emphasizes the importance of understanding the local dynamics contributing to police brutality. Their study, conducted in neighboring areas of Ogun state, emphasizes the role of socio-economic factors and systematic issues within the police force itself.

The rate at which citizens in Ota, Ado/Odo local government in Nigeria are complaining of police brutality and harassment is very alarming. According to the Nigerian constitution, the international human rights law alongside the international humanitarian Law, every individual whether young or old regardless of their social status should be treated rightly and justly with respect whereas the Nigeria police force has huge obligations and responsibilities allotted to it by the Nigerian constitution and the police Act.

This underscores the need for a localized analysis to grasp the unique challenges faced by the community in Ota. For instance, the aftermath of the EndSARS protests in Nigeria in 2020, which called for an end to police brutality and reform of the police force, adds another layer to the background of the study. According to Amnesty International (2021), the Nigerian army and the Nigerian police killed at least 12 peaceful protesters and injured many in Alausa and Lekki in Lagos state. The protests, triggered by a series of incidents of police brutality, gained international attention and led to discussions around police reform. The aftermaths of the EndSARS have shaped the complex layer of police-community relations in Ota, setting the circle for an in-depth examination of the root causes and persistent issues that fuel instances of police brutality, (kadioglu 2021).

The recommendations of the judicial panels of inquiry set up in the aftermath of the protests are of particular interest, as they offer insights into the prevalence of police misconduct and the dissatisfaction of the public with the existing systems 9 Judicial Penal of Inquiry Report,2022, according to judicial panels of inquiry report (2022).

To comprehend the current state of police brutality in Ota, it is essential to consider the historical context as well. The historical relationship between the police and the community, influenced by factors such as colonial legacies and post-independence governance, plays a crucial role in shaping the dynamics of law enforcement. Ota's unique historical trajectory within the broader context of Ogun state contributes to the complexity of the issue according to Akinwumi (2015). This study underscores the urgency of investigating police brutality in Ota, Ogun State.

## **1.2. Statement of the problem**

Police brutality in Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria, brought about a critical societal challenge that demands immediate attention and comprehensive investigation. The issue is deeply rooted in a complex interplay of historical, institutional, and socio-economic factors. Recent years have seen a surge in reported cases of police misconduct, creating a pervasive atmosphere of fear, mistrust, and discontent within the community, (Human Rights Watch 2021).

The escalation of police brutality in Ota raises significant concerns about the safety and well-being of the public. Instances of excessive force, abuse of power, and violation of human rights by law enforcement have become disturbingly common, demanding urgent investigation and intervention. These documented cases underscore the urgent need to address the systemic issues that perpetuate police brutality in the state. The examining crime statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) provides additional insight that one of the events that accompanied the 2020, is the uproar in the country by the citizens on the EndSARS protest (NBS 2023). The EndSARS is a decentralized social media movement and physical movement against police brutality in Nigeria. The protest was a call to the notice of the federal government to scrap the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS), which was a controversial unit of the Nigerian police force with a long record

of abuses. All this uproar has led to the killing of peaceful protesters, and vulnerabilities of public and private sectors in the country.

At the national level, Nigeria grapples with systematic issues within its law enforcement agencies. A report by Amnesty International (2020). “Nigeria police brutality issue attract global attention”, believes that the ongoing impunity enjoyed by SARS officers for human rights violations points to deficiencies in the lack of political will by the federal government to effect reform which climaxed in the recent protest and mass looting of property and destruction of government infrastructure. This has given a clue stage for understanding the dynamics of police behavior in Ogun state and particularly in Ota.

In Ogun state, the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) 2022 annual report accounted for the severity of the complaints against the police, citing cases of unlawful arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings ( NHRC, 2022). The data for 2023 indicates a noteworthy increase in reported crimes in Ogun state (NBS, 2023). This rise may suggest a correlation between the escalating crime rates and the approach taken by law enforcement, potentially leading to an overreliance on force. However, beyond statistical data, the human impact of police brutality cannot be understated. Victims of excessive force often endure severe physical and psychological trauma with long-term consequences for their overall well-being. For instance, police brutality is a standout amongst the genuine kinds of abuse of police powers. The current situation poses a significant threat not only to the safety and fundamental rights of Ota residents but also to the core principles of justice and the rule of law (NHRC 2022).

To comprehensively address this problem a thorough exploration of the root causes, contributing Factors, and the effectiveness of existing mechanisms in addressing police brutality in Ota is imperative, and exploring the need to help the police to regain the public trust.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

To guide the research, the study will seek answers to the following questions

1. What are the various forms of police brutality experienced by the public in Ota, Ogun State?

2. What are the causes of police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria?
3. How do residents perceive the effectiveness mechanisms to address police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State?
4. What are the recommendation for Enhancing Police-Community Relations and reducing instances of police brutality?

#### **1.4 Research Objectives**

The main objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the various form of police brutality experienced by the public in Ota, Ogun State.
2. To examine the causes of Police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria
3. To assess the effectiveness mechanisms in addressing police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State.
4. To proffer the recommendation for Enhancing Police-Community Relations and reducing instances of police brutality.

#### **1.5 Significance of the study**

The significance of this study lies in its potential to address and alleviate a critical issue affecting the community in society. Police brutality is not merely an isolated problem; it has far-reaching implications for societal well-being, public trust, and the overall functioning of law enforcement systems. By shedding light on the prevalence and dynamics of police misconduct in Ota, this study aims to contribute valuable insights to the existing body of knowledge. The findings can serve as a basis for informed policy recommendations, helping authorities and policymakers to implement targeted reforms, rehabilitate and reintegrate, that address the root cause of police brutality. This study aspires to be a catalyst for positive change by encouraging a more transparent and responsive policing system in society. Such reforms, can not only enhance the safety and security of the community but also rebuild the trust that may have been eroded over time.

The significance of this research is underscored by the need to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. Improved police-community relations have a direct impact on the effectiveness of crime prevention and public safety initiatives. A thorough

examination of the issue in Ota can inform strategies to enhance collaboration and communication between the police and the public. Furthermore, the study's relevance extends to a broader societal context. As instances of police brutality are not unique to Ota or Nigeria, the findings can contribute to the global discourse on police reform and human rights. The study will recommend how to prevent police brutality in Ota, Ogun state by the police and the appropriate well to redress wrongs done to victims of this act. By addressing the issue of police brutality in Ota, it is anticipated that the research will contribute to the improvement of law enforcement practices and the overall well-being of the community.

### **1.6 Scope of the study**

The scope of this study is limited to Ota, a region within Ogun state, Nigeria, with a focus on understanding and addressing instances of police brutality. The geographical boundaries of Ota provide a specific context for the examination of local dynamics contributing to the issue. By narrowing the focus of this area, the study aims to capture the unique socio-economic, historical, the systemic factors that may be influencing interactions between law enforcement and the community. Exploring police-community relations within this specific locale allows for a more granular analysis, acknowledging the potential distinctiveness of challenges faced by residents and the police in Ota compared to broader national or regional contexts.

Furthermore, the temporal scope of the study encompasses recent years, with a concentration on reported cases over the past five years. This time frame ensures a contemporary analysis of the issues, accounting for the evolving dynamics and potential shifts in the prevalence of police brutality. By examining incidents within this specified period, the research aims to provide insights that reflect the current state of affairs and contribute timely recommendations for addressing the problem. This study acknowledges the fluid nature of law enforcement practices and societal dynamics, necessitating a focus on recent developments to inform relevant and effective interventions.

## 1.7 Operational Definition of Key Terms

**Community-Police Relations:** The interactions, perceptions, and collaborative efforts between the local community in Ota and law enforcement agencies. It includes the level of trust, communication, and cooperation between residents and police officers, as well as the effectiveness of community engagement initiatives and programs designed to enhance this relationship.

**Effectiveness:** The degree to which existing mechanisms, strategies, and interventions designed to address police brutality in Ota achieve their intended goals. Effectiveness encompasses the reduction of instances of police misconduct, improvement in community-police relations, and overall positive impact on public safety and well-being. Measuring effectiveness involves evaluating the tangible outcomes and success of implemented measures.

**Ota:** Ota is a town in Ogun state, Nigeria with an estimated 163,783 residents. Ota is the capital of the Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government Area.

**Police:** refers to law enforcement officers and personnel who are officially designated to enforce laws, maintain public order, and protect the community in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. This encompasses officers from various law enforcement agencies operating within the specified geographical boundaries.

**Police Brutality:** unwarranted and excessive use of force by law enforcement officers, leading to physical harm, psychological trauma, or the violation of an individual's civil rights. Instances of misconduct, abuse of power, and unjust actions by police officers, as reported and documented by credible sources, contribute to the understanding of police brutality within the study's context.

**Public:** means all the people especially all those in one place or country. It also means the people who do not belong to a particular group or organization



## **1.8 Organizational of the Study**

This research work is organized in five chapters, for easy understanding, as follows.

Chapter one: This is concern with the introduction, which consist of the (overview, of the study), historical background, statement of problem, objectives of the study, research question, research objective, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of terms and the study organization.

Chapter two: This highlights the conceptual and theoretical framework on which the study is based, thus the review of related literature.

Chapter three: This deals with the methodology adopted in the study. In this study, it explains the use of survey questionnaire to investigate and evaluate police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Chapter four: This concentrates on the data collection and analysis and presentation of findings.

Chapter five: This gives the summary, conclusion, and recommendations made from the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Preamble**

This chapter deals with the literature review of Police Brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. The literature review has been sub-divided into different sections and it presents the theoretical literature that guides this study, similar to this, and the conceptual framework of the study. The literature review and the theoretical framework are reviewed around the objectives of the study.

#### **2.1 Concepts of Police Brutality**

The concept of police brutality is known to be a no clear universally acceptable definition the view of police brutality varies widely across populations (Onyirimadu 2022). He opined that the general public labels all sorts of police actions as brutality, including oral commands and threats, but points out that physical force is a necessary component of brutality. On the other hand, many scholars explain the way that police officers often expand their definitions and perceptions of necessary force to include those actions that might seem excessive or unnecessary to the public. According to Hunt (1985), stated that right of the way that police have very different accounts of both normal and excessive force. The perceptive of his definition is that police brutality has its normal force such as the oral command during arrest, search, and investigation, and excessive force such as extortion, extrajudicial killing, bribery, corruption, etc. However, Abati (2020) opined that the prevalence of police brutality in Africa is a function of political leadership failure rather than colonial legacy. The perceptive of Abati's (2020) argument could be related to the pandemic of the EndSARS 2020 where peaceful protesters were killed as a result of extrajudicial killing by the law enforcement agency and nothing has been done to such occurrence incident. There have been no arrests of the police officers who carried out such heartless actions to date. For example, Rinu Oduala, a Lagos-based activist who was vocal during the 2020 protests, said the Nigerian government is yet to actualize real police reforms that make young people "afraid to step out of their homes, in a bid to not become victims of torture, extortion, harassment, and extrajudicial killings", according to the

Alzarrera entertainment blogs (2021). In addition, Amnesty International (2021) defines police brutality as violations by police which might include beatings, racial abuse, torture, unlawful killings, or discriminatory use of force control agents at protests.

Police brutality can have profound psychological and sociological consequences on individuals who experience it and the communities affected (Adebayo 2023). He opined that the psychological effect of police brutality could cause trauma to the victim that cannot be grasped and also sociological effect on the communities which could hinder the effective role of community-policing to take place. However, communities experiencing economic hardship may face a heavier police presence, leading to increased interactions with law enforcement. This over-policing can amplify the likelihood of force being used in those communities (Adebayo, 2023).

According to Ukachukwu (2023), stated that police brutality as a form of abuse by the police and violence, remains on the front burner in national discourse as one of the most pressing problems in Nigeria. For instance, these issues have caused social media protests and physical protests in the country, where police officers make use of excessive force and verbal commands on citizens. However, the issues also bring about a lack of trust between the police and the citizens which stands as an obstacle to the effective role of community policing in society.

Police Brutality contradicts police service values because a police officer is supposed to protect citizens and not harm them. The view of this is that police brutality is known to be a civil rights violation where officers exercise undue or excessive force against a subject (a citizen). For example, the latest case of police brutality is the unprofessional shooting of a Nollywood actor named Azeez Ijaduade. The victim's wife stated that the actor was shot in the neck by a stray bullet during a "stop and search". The Ogun state police command reportedly confirmed that the Nollywood actor and director, Azeez Ijaduade was accidentally hit by a discharged shot from a police officer on Sunday 2024 at about 11:45 pm according to the Punch Newspaper revealed by Racheal Ayodele (2024).

Police brutality, a form of police misconduct is the unjustified and often unnecessary use of force i.e. shooting, beating, or slamming while procuring an individual or group; it is

a violation of a person's civil and basic rights. Uwazuruike (2020), stated that, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, some political figures and celebrities made use of the hashtag EndSARS or referenced the movement to either directly support the protests or demand an end to the government crackdown on protestors. According to (Afeez & Adeolu, 2022) quoted that;

“No law enforcement official may inflict, instigate, or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, nor may any law enforcement official invoke superior orders or exceptional circumstances such as a state of war or a threat of war, a threat to national security, internal political instability or any other public emergency as a justification of torture or other cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment.

Police brutality is sabotage and criminal activity that is against the proper conduct duties of the arresting institution/agency. (Aborisade & Abolaji, 2017) opined that “the systematic brutality of the police affects virtually every Nigerian, though at different levels, as the impact weighs down more on the poor”. However, the operations of the Nigerian police force bear almost no resemblance to the requirements of the Nigerian law which means the activities of the Nigerian police force are at marked variance with protecting human life, safety, and security, as it rather endangers the people they ought to protect.

The best approach to solve the dilemma of police brutality is through intelligent legislation concerning the laws, governing the agency for investigative purposes. This means that the police force should perform their duties according to the law without indulging in the use of brutality to carry out their performance. This will also bring a good record to the uniform and restore effective policing-community relations to the society and tackle all sorts of criminal activities such as violent crimes, non-violent crimes, crimes against the state, crimes against public morality, etc.

### **2.1.1 Historical Overview of the Nigerian Police Force**

According to Ulo (2021), opined that the first police force was established in 1861 by the British colonial administration in the territories known today as Nigeria. However,

Alemika (1993), stated that this 100-man contingent was essentially a consular protection force based in Lagos which later became known as the "Hausa Constabulary, so named after the ethnicity of the men recruited into the unit. In addition, as the British expanded their reach to the east and north, they formed an additional police force comprised largely of recruits from outside the communities in which they were to be deployed, (igbinova 1985). Furthermore, Akinyetun (2022), stated that the history of the Nigeria police dates back to the colonial era. The Southern and Northern police forces (established in 1861 and 1900 respectively) emerged in 1930 and thirty years later.

The local police were mainly established to serve colonial interests by violently oppressing communities that resisted colonial influence (Akinyetun 2022). Various views support the notion that the police inherited at the independence of the country had colonial perspectives, it saw itself as the government's tool of war against the citizens and was therefore used to quash opposition. The Nigerian police force emanates from colonial creation used primarily to subjugate the people for imperialistic interest and it is simply continuing with this colonial orientation.

According to section 214 (1) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Nigeria police force is a creation of the constitution and the constitution forms the ground norm prescribing the roles and functions of the Nigeria police force as the foremost agency in internal security in Nigeria. Section 4 of the Police Act Cap.19 states that, the police shall be employed for:

- i. Prevention of crimes
- ii. Protection of lives and properties of the citizens
- iii. Preservation of law and order
- iv. Arrest of crime offenders
- v. Crime detections and detentions of criminals
- vi. Performance of military duties within and outside Nigeria as directed them by government authority or any other acts
- vii. Due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged
- viii. Person identification
- ix. Search through belonging

- x. Section -23 of the Police Act adds to the prosecution of criminal cases.

In our present democratic dispensation, about the national constitution, the Nigerian police force is under the general operational administrative control by the executive president of the country. However, Oyeyipo (2023), stated that a delegation of powers to the inspector general of police subject to the provisions of this constitution, the Nigeria police council may, with the approval of the president and subject to such conditions as it may think fit, delegate any of the powers conferred upon it by this constitution to any members or the inspector-general of police or any other members of the Nigerian police force. Furthermore, the constitutional establishment of the Nigeria police force with its command structure has it that, there shall be a police force in Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria police force and subject to the provisions of this section no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof-subject to the provisions of this constitution-

- a) The Nigeria police force shall be organized and administered by such provision as must be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.
- b) The members of the Nigeria police force shall have such powers and duties as may be conferred upon them by law (Oyeyipo 2023).

The Nigerian police force is comprised of two greater holds whose functionality and operationally are different. These holds are the "Police Council" and the "Police Service Commission". A police council was created to oversee the force while the police service commission was also formed and saddled with the responsibility of appointment and discipline of the force members. According to Oyeyipo (2023), stated that the Nigeria police council shall comprise the following members;

- The president who shall be the chairman
- The governor of each state of the federation
- The chairman of the police service commission and
- The inspector general of police.

The police council has its functions to perform such as the organization and administration of the Nigeria police force and other matters relating thereto, the general

supervision of the Nigeria police force, and advising the president on the appointment of the inspector-general of police. A police service commission was formed with the responsibility of appointment, discipline, dismissal, and recruitment of the force members. He stated that the police service commission shall comprise the following members;

- A Chairman
- Such number of other persons, not less than seven but not more than nine as they may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

The police service commission has functions to carry out such as appointing and promoting all officials of the Nigerian police force, dismissing and exercising disciplinary control over the same persons, and formulating policies and guidelines for the appointment, promotion, discipline, and dismissal of officers in the Nigerian police force.

Like in other societies of the world, the police in Nigeria strive to maintain law and order. Generally, the police help to prevent crime, provide security to the citizens, and sustain public peace (Akinyetun 2022). More so, the police have been seen upholding orderliness by managing traffic and maintaining control of accident scenes, according to (Afon and Badiora, 2016).

The Nigeria police force is sub-divided into three levels which are the federal level, zonal level, and state level. The federal level is headed by the inspector-general of police supported by the deputy inspector generals (DIGS) in the six geo-political zones (south-east, south-south, south-west, north-central, north-east and north-west). Within the geo-political zones are the assistant inspector-generals (AIGS) in charge of the area zones made up of some cluster of states. At the state level, the police commissioner (CP) controls the police and is in allegiance to the inspector-general of police and there are divisional headquarters at the 774 local government areas. (Oyeyipo 2023).

### **2.1.2 Public Hostility towards Police**

The main hindrance to the activities of police officers in civil disorders has been intense public hostility towards police activities in urban and rural areas (Egbon 2005). Daudu (2008) opined that police brutality and harassment of innocent Nigerian citizens is

another obstacle to the prospects of the Nigerian police in guaranteeing the security of lives and property, law and order. However, both the prevalence of strong public disapproval of police conduct in areas that experience riots and the presence of police officers are precipitin events that appeared to be more than coincidental (Egbon 2005). Furthermore, the most appropriate strategy for ending civil disorders, like many other problems must be solved by political decisions (Egbon 2005).

Public hostility and disaffection have gained momentum and continued to grow despite all coordinated efforts made by the police and other stakeholders to ameliorate and improve the already strained relationship (Balogun 2022). Indeed there is an urgent need to improve police-public relations to stem the growing incidence of crime and improve public perception and the good image of police (Balogun 2022). However, Adejumo (2022) opined that the police force has a history of brutality and disrespect for the rule of law. They are accused of disregard for human rights, accused of power, violence, suppression of protests, infringements of fundamental rights, abuse of discretionary power, and corruption. For instance, the pandemic of the EndSARS 2020, is another bad hostility the public has towards the police. They believe that the police should be for them and not against them and peaceful protesters were killed on the protest grounds as a result of extra-judicial killing which is against civil rights. In addition, what the public thinks about the police determines if citizens will support them in fighting crime (Adejumo 2020).

The Nigerian police force which is supposed to be the agent's servants of the community, service groups, and friends of the citizen, has lured itself into a repressive arm of government, guards of the powerful in society, and also as a servant of the handmaid of oppressive, irresponsible and corrupt governments (Egbon 2005). However, the Nigerian police force faces everyday challenges of restoring the sense of trust and confidence in the relationship that exists between the police and the public if crime control has to be achieved (Klinger 2004).

Therefore, the police need to engage in police-public relations to gain the trust of the citizens as well as promote the slogan "police is your friend" in their reputable duties. By



doing this, the public hostility will be an excellent relationship for the enhancement of community relations.

### **2.1.3 Police Brutality in Ota**

Ota an ancient “Awori” kingdom whose existence dates back several millenniums ago. The town is known as the first and best kingdom in the entire Awori land, a sub-Yoruba ethnic group, known as the Awori kingdom of “Ota”. According to the Ogun State Housing Corporation report (2023), Ota as the capital of Ado-odo local government deals with serious cases of abuse of police brutality and human rights infringements by security agents. However, Awe (2020) stated that the police rely heavily on the use of torture to elicit “confessions” from arrestees.

The town “Ota” has experienced its share of reported incidents involving the use of force, violation of human rights, extortion, and harassment by the police. These issues have become a rampant challenge among the residents. However, the people in such areas are not limited to face such issues. Therefore, there are some professional ways in which the police could elicit confession in terms of restorative justice such as making use of reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

There is now near-universal consensus that all residents in Ota are entitled to certain basic rights under any circumstances. These include certain civil liberties and political rights “that is right to vote and be voted for”, the most fundamental of which is the right to life and physical safety. On the other hand, many scholars' perspectives brought about the beginning to recognize that they also must accept responsibility for keeping the neighborhoods safe (Ota). The Bureau of Justice Assistance (2021) stated that 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. This perspective sheds more light on the proper duties the police are meant to carry out in such communities to prevent crime and also promote community-policing relationships.

## **2.2 Various forms of Police Brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State**

There are various forms of police brutality generally categorized by reference to the situation in which they occur. It is important to note that, almost all police brutality research to date has been limited to the police forces.

**1. False Imprisonment:** False imprisonment occurs when officers take an individual into custody without having "probable cause" or obtaining an "arrest warrant". Police have probable cause to arrest if they witness a crime being committed or they have a reasonable belief that the person committed or is going to commit a crime. However, this unprofessional character has made a lot of innocent people serve jail terms for crimes they committed not due to lack of proper investigations and has brought a lack of trust bridged between the public and the police.

There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the wide spread of police brutality on false imprisonment.

Mrs. Queen Akindeleni, of Anuoluwa Complex Joju Road, Sango Ota, Ogun state, made these revelations statement with the Daily Post Newspaper, documented by Ifreke Inyang (2012). She (Mrs. Queen Akindeleni), woke up one morning, and suddenly allegations were made against her that she was responsible for the death of her husband (Mr. Ayodele Akindeleni). She was arrested by the Agbara police station, Ogun state on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. She was forced to make a confessional statement that she killed her husband, after his family member, James Akindeleni, came to complain. She was taken to the bush to go and see one carcass of her husband. The next day, the team of police officers who were the IPOs in charge of the case took her and tortured her in a cruel way that she must confess she killed her alleged deceased husband. She was given one straight metal which looked like window aluminum to carry and tell them she killed her husband. The metal was also used on her left side from up to down. She was taken to the barrack (the police residence within the premises). She was asked to remove her underwear so that the metal could be used to insert her private part but fortunately, one of the female officers that were assigned to carry out such an act told Mrs. Queen Akindeleni to shout as if the order was being carried out by her. Not quite long, the officer who gave the order in person of Inspector Shadrach (m), collected the metal and inserted it himself while she was bleeding vigorously. She was not attended to by any police officers till after 4 days

when the case was transferred to the state criminal investigation department Elewe-Eran State Headquarters Police Station Abeokuta Ogun state for proper investigation. She was imprisoned by false imprisonment and the case was withdrawn because it lacked merit, was baseless, and particularly, considering the facts and evidence of the police. She was affected with a Visio-vaginal Fistula (VVF) whose main symptom is the continuous involuntary discharge of urine. She was kicked out of the public and had to withdraw because she was often rejected and avoided. The trauma of the barbaric acts still frightens her to date, she said. Furthermore, the police were unable to do proper investigation before her arrest and also, she was treated as an offender and not a suspect by the way she was brutalized.

**2. Excessive Force:** Police must use the amount of force that is reasonably required to accomplish the lawful duties required by the occupation. It may include, but is not limited to; baton beating, chokeholds, use of firearms, unlawful arrest, unwarranted use of teargas and others. This type of police brutality may lead to serious injury or death. For instance, we have seen cases of how police officers were used to brutalize citizens with the use of excessive force by political leaders. There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the widespread out of police brutality on excessive use of force:

Azeez Ijaduade, a Nollywood actor and director revealed his experience of police brutality with the Daily Post Newspaper documented by Racheal Ayodele (2024). He (Azeez Ijaduade), was coming from an outing around 11:45 pm in the night at Iperu Ogun state when he was stopped by a team of policemen. He said, he parked his car and attended to them in a well-mannered approach and one of the policemen told him to go. On his way, he heard a gunshot and the bullet penetrated from the back of the car to his neck which made him bleed out of consciousness. He was rushed and admitted to Babcock Teaching Hospital where he was saved from such a situation. After proper investigation, he was informed that the policeman fired the shot unknowingly which made him battle for breath and survival. This illustration shows that the police also make use of firearms in an unprofessional manner as a result of excessive use of force.

**3. Malicious Prosecution:** Claims of malicious prosecution must be filed when a police officer initiates a criminal proceeding without reasonable proof that a crime has been

committed. This type of criminal proceeding generally results in the victim not being convicted. This type of claim exists to protect people from emotional stress, embarrassment, and financial expenses that arise when a criminal case lacks merit. Malicious prosecution has caused a lot of innocent people to end their lives in prison due to a lack of proper investigation, unprofessional arrest, and unmerited evidence. There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the widespread out of police brutality on excessive use of force:

Angela Uwandu Uzoma, a lawyer and a solicitor shared her speech on malicious Prosecution with the Punch Newspaper documented by Friday Olokor (2022). She stated that over 160 cases of malicious prosecution and police brutality have been taken to the Ecowas court by Advocate, sans frontiers also known as lawyers without Borders. Furthermore, she said the organization's decision became necessary because of the increase in the spate of human rights violations by the police and security agencies. Uzoma opined her statement that, so far, cases of rights violation by the police and the security agencies have been documented and out of that number, 110 have been taken up for litigation at the Ecowas court. In addition, the meeting was aimed at fortifying the relationship between security agencies and the public, putting an end to extrajudicial killing and unnecessary detentions.

However, malicious prosecution can cause physical damage, psychological damage, and as well can cause social problems for such a person. For instance, if an individual was arrested for a crime he knows nothing about a criminal proceeding was carried out, and eventually, such a person was imprisoned, there would be physical damage on such a person, psychological trauma, and as well will reshape the environmental design in terms of interaction with the society.

**4. Wrongful Search and Seizure:** According to the Fourth Amendment, law enforcement agencies need "probable cause" to search you and your property. Usually, a valid search warrant must be issued to law enforcement by a judge or court. The search warrant allows police to search a particular location for specific items. However, in some situations, the police may not need a valid warrant to search you or your property. For instance, police officers at their place of beat do not need a warrant to search you or your

property but this can be done in a well-appropriate way we get to know that, the police make use of this opportunity to extort money from citizens. They stopped them by the roadside and started accusing them of wrong, they checked their phones which is against their profession, lured them to the bush to threaten of lives, and made them transfer money to their private account number. These are all against the profession of the force which has brought nothing but public hostility toward the police. There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the widespread out of police brutality on wrongful search and seizure:

Mr. Yemi (Pseudonym) who is a 32-year-old teacher shared his experience of police brutality with the Punch Newspaper documented by Godfrey George 2021. Mr. Yemi narrated how he just finished his daily extramural class that fateful evening and was on his way to buy a few groceries at a nearby mall when he was stopped by some uniformed men. He was engaged in a stop and search by a team of police officers, and he was slapped on the face because he drove a Toyota Corolla sports '07' in which his salary cannot afford the price said one of the policemen. He said, one of the policemen lured him to a corner and extorted #10,000 from him after he was brutalized. Furthermore, he opined that he was humiliated, and left hopelessly and helplessly by the roadside.

However, wrongful searches and seizures by the police are known as police brutality and must be punishable by the law. More so, proper training personnel are to be available during recruitment to the force. This will educate more officers about proper community-policing relations and as well promote police-public interaction.

**5. Denial of medical care:** in certain cases, a person in police custody may require medical attention. In some cases, individuals are denied medical care by police. This is constituted as a type of police brutality, in particular, the denial of medical care to a person in custody by law enforcement may qualify as a violation of basic rights. For instance, a suspect who was shot in the leg while trying to escape must be attended to by providing medical care while in custody. There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the widespread out of police brutality on denial of medical care.

A Lagos-based lawyer, Alayo Akanbi, filed a petition to urge the Ogun state commissioner of police, CP Abiodun Alamot, to investigate the case of how Okewusi

Ezekiel allegedly died in custody after spending four days at the Ajuwon police station. This reveal was documented by Onozure Dania 2024 in the Punch Newspaper. It was said that Ezekiel Okewusi was accused of stealing a phone and was reported to the Oodua People's Congress, who allegedly beat him to the point of death before handing him over to the police. Furthermore, the police refused to give him medical care attention or allow his family to give him medical care but was locked up in a cell where he died 4 days later.

## **6. Corruption:**

Police corruption is a universal problem (Aborisade&Fayemi, 2015). However, it is a particular challenge in Nigeria with an ever-increasing misconduct that impacts on the development of police institutions in the country. It could also be in the form of bribery which could result in obstacles to justice in most cases. Corruption, generally defined as abuse of authority for private gain, is among the world's oldest practices (Spector, 2011). Furthermore, it is also known to be the rampant problem that confronts the governance machinery of Nigeria.

The corrupt practices of the Nigeria police have been known as one of the most visible manifestations of corruption in the country (Ladapo, 2013) with the erstwhile inspector general of police noting that "Corruption has come to characterize the behavior of the average policeman" (Okiro, 2007). In addition, the police are involved in corruption such as extortion and bribery which is against the uniform. These corrupt practices bring nothing but defamation to the uniform as it has already been labeled by the public as the uniform that engages in bribery and corruption to hinder justice where applicable.

The suggested measure of control on corruption as police brutality is that, corruption with the police like crime within the society, is unlikely to be eradicated; however, it can be controlled by the government, the police organization, and with strong support of the society (Aborisade&Fayemi, 2015).

## **7. Rape**

Rape and other forms of sexual violence are cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment that in particular cases rise to the level of torture. However, rape is said to be a forceful penetration without the rightful consent of the survivor and can be punishable according

to the law. Furthermore, these forms of psychosocial crimes have compelled the Nigerian police force to create and dedicate desks to respond to social crimes (Aborisade & Fayemi, 2015).

There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the widespread out of police brutality on Rape:

A Benue-based journalist, John Charles, revealed a case of rape on police brutality with the Punch Newspaper 2023. It was stated that the authorities of the Benue state police command have dismissed a constable identified as Belasa Iyang for raping a 16 years old girl who was in detention. While in detention, at the divisional police station headquarters, Tse Agbaragba, Konshisha local government of the state, the constable, who disguised to be assisting the girl went to the female cell, took her into an office and had sexual intercourse with her against her consent. However, the case was reported by the victim to the divisional police officer. This led to the arrest of the constable and the case was brought to the state criminal investigation department, Makurdi. The perpetrator was dismissed from the force because the police is a discipline organ and it is the statutory organ responsible for crime fighting and management.

**8. Extrajudicial killing** This is known to be an extralegal killing which is the deliberate killing of a person without the lawful authority granted by a judicial proceeding. It also means government authorities, whether lawfully or unlawfully, targeting specific people for death. However, Obiezu (2021) opined that Nigeria has recorded more than 800 incidents of extrajudicial killing across the country in the last three years according to the international human rights group Global Rights. In addition, Amnesty International (2023) stated that extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in Nigeria are not random especially where only bribes guarantee safety, those who cannot pay are at risk of being shot or tortured to death by the police.

There are several documented case studies under this point which will provide the widespread out of police brutality in extrajudicial killing:

According to Amnesty International (2021), the Nigerian army and the Nigerian police killed at least 12 peaceful protesters and injured many in Alausa and Lekki in Lagos state.

The protests, triggered by a series of incidents of police brutality, gained international attention and led to discussions around police reform. This pandemic happened on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021. It was reported that the shooting of the Nigerian police towards the protesters was a deliberate one as an order was given to them to take such actions. Probably, the government saw the protest as a threat to its dignity and power but the lives of incredible heroes were lost on the peaceful protest ground in Lagos state.

### **2.3 The Causes of Police Brutality on the Public in Ota, Ogun State**

Police brutality is a result of faulty recruitment processes (Onwuyirimadu 2022). However, the faculty recruitment processes can contribute more to the misconduct of the force such as involvement in bribery, corruption, excessive use of force, extortion, etc., in Nigeria, police officers hardly undergo mental medical examination before engaging them, and most times medical results presented by the recruits are not thoroughly vented to authenticate the reliability of such document (Onwuyirimadu 2022). Furthermore, a greater number of Nigerian policemen are junior officers whose academic qualifications are mostly limited to high school certificates. This is evident in the behavior of these junior officers with low academic qualifications. In addition, most times, the recruitment processes are not followed orderly as there is corruption in the system of appointment. They neglected the qualified ones due to the fact of connection and appointed those that were not qualified to the force. For instance, according to a respondent, Tukur Muntari's revelation with the Punch Newspaper 2023, stated that "police recruits, convert 50 repentant thugs to constables in Kano state Nigeria. There were 222 repentance thugs in which their names were forwarded to the state government and 50 repentances were luckily picked. In addition, this should not be accepted as there are other means to show their reintegration of them into society.

The frequency of police brutality can be a result of the collective failure of the criminal justice system. For instance, there should be a policy that states the sanction and punishment of any police officer who violates the law, and also such a person should be arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced and not only deployed from the force. Onwuyirimadu (2022) opined that the inability of the government, the criminal justice system, and the police commission to bring men of the Nigerian police force who violate the citizens'



rights to justice, is another cause that promotes police brutality. Furthermore, if erring officers are well prosecuted or sanctioned, it will serve as a deterrent to other officers not to engage in such acts.

The clampdown on protesters by the police is most times not the fault of those policemen on duty. Often, orders are given by political leaders to teargas any protest that they assume is a threat to their powers or positions. For instance, Amnesty International (2021), stated that, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, the Nigerian police and the Nigerian Army killed at least 12 peaceful protesters and injured many in Alausa and Lekki in Lagos state. However, Cynthia Egboha shared her statistical results with the Business Days Newspaper on the causes of police brutality a public opinion poll conducted by NOIPOLLS has revealed that poor welfare package, inadequate training, corruption, and greed represent the major causes of police brutality as 77 percent of respondent described police brutality as a prevalent issue. According to the report, illegal activities by the Nigeria police personnel are common across the country as 83 percent of respondents identified bribe-taking as rampant among the police force. In addition, Ossai (2020) opined that police brutality is not a Nigeria problem alone. It is a global phenomenon.

The above findings on the causes of police brutality, collaborate with a thorough investigation carried out by Amnesty International in 2021, stating those inadequate laws and racial or other forms of discrimination are some of the causes of police brutality (Owuyirimadu 2022)

#### **2.4 Effectiveness of existing mechanism to address police Brutality in Ota Ogun State**

The Police Act 2020 contains vital provisions that are important to addressing brutality (Ole & Akinleye 2022). This researcher opined that the first one is the duty of the police to uphold fundamental human rights in their duties. The Act also prohibits profiling suspects solely because of their hairstyles and dress. The police must respect the rights of suspects in their custody. There is also a mandatory provision for training police officers in thematic areas that may minimize police brutality (Ole & Akinyele 2022).

The effectiveness mechanism to address police brutality will be analyzed in seriatim:

## **1. Community Policing**

One of the most fundamental ways of addressing police brutality is to build good relationships based on mutual trust between the police and the community. To bridge the gap between the police and the community, the 2020 Act provisions for community policing will be enacted to this point. The Act 2020 stated that community policing is a neighboring policing or proximity policing that is based on the partnership between the community and the police to understand each other (Ole & Akinleye 2022). With all the great benefits of community policing, godfatherism is a major factor hindering the thievery police community in Nigeria (Ole&Akinleye 2022). However, Onyeozilli (2021) opined that godfatherism is the funding and abetting of vices connected criminals from justice by government agents and highly placed officials entrusted with the power and authority to investigate and prosecute such vices. In addition, the thwarting of godfatherism has prevented justice through bribery and using their connections to influence people in power.

Therefore, community policing can also be regarded as police-public relations that have to do with interactive, consultative, and participatory that is needed in reducing police brutality. For instance, the communities can be set up to open community channels between the public and the police to enable them to freely express their wants on their utmost needs in any area (Ole &Akinleye 2022).

## **2. Public awareness**

The 2020 Nigeria police force Act is very improved on its predecessor. The new Act largely addressed the unfettered stop and search power of the police that usually forms the bedrock for most cases of police brutality. However, Adegalu (2022) opined that the police awareness section mandates that police officers ask questions about the behavior or circumstances of the person to be searched, leading to the need for a search. It further prohibits the conduct of a search where the person to be searched has provided a satisfactory explanation. This means that there should be public awareness so that the

community will not see the stop and search section as police brutality but rather as another functionality of police duty.

This mechanism is very essential as it will give more knowledge about the importance of the police's duty to be carried out effectively and not to be regarded as police brutality.

### **3. Improved judicial culture toward police brutality**

The Nigerian judiciary should also show effective behaviour in cases and allegations of police brutality by citizens. This means that there should be a restorative justice that will stand as a theory of punishment to the perpetrator, and compensation to the victim and the society, however, the Nigerian court has been reluctant to award punitive damages against Nigeria police in cases of confirmed violation of human rights and have also been generally slow in the dispensation of justice ( Adegalu 2022). In addition, the restorative response to justice should be faster as a means of formal crime control mechanism.

### **4. Periodic Training for Law Enforcement Officials**

Law enforcement officials should be exposed to human rights training during their recruitment process and thorough professional training throughout their careers (Adegalu 2022). This means that they should also be exposed to police-public relations for the society to work hand-in-hand with the Nigerian police force to promote community police. However, Adegalu (2022) opined that the police should be specifically trained on alternatives to the use of force and firearms such as the peaceful settlement of the conflict understanding of crowd behavior, and other methods of persuasion, negotiation, and mediation.

### **5. Improved welfare package for the police**

The working conditions and status of law enforcement officials must be in tandem with the vital role that they perform for society (Adegalu 2022). The present welfare package of the average law enforcement official in Nigeria is closer to the reality of the vital role that they perform in society. For instance, an average officer may be angry with the kind of life a citizen lives under better and more favorable conditions.

### **6. Symbolic Change in Semantics**

The use of the word 'force' in the title, 'the Nigeria police force' is arguably a signal of violence that unconsciously sends a message of oppression within the Nigerian police system (Adegalu 2022). However, the Nigerian police is supposed to serve and not oppress and force its wishes on the citizens. To this effect, it is apposite to rename the name of the 'Nigeria police force' to the 'Nigeria Police Service.

## **2.5 Recommendation for Enhancing Police-Community Relations and reducing instances of police brutality**

The following are some key issues and recommendations that were identified to be used to help the police community develop collaborative strategies for moving forward:

### **i. Transparency and Accountability**

Transparency is essential to positive police-community relationships. For instance, when a critical situation occurs, the police are to release the information as possible, so the community will not feel that information is being purposefully withheld from them. Furthermore, the police should be willing to be accountable and responsible for delivering basic services of crime control and maintaining law and order, while treating individuals fairly and within the bounds of law.

### **ii. Ensure Diversity**

Police should be the representation of the communities they protect and serve. Therefore, the police should adopt personnel practices that result in the hiring and retention of diverse professionals who are culturally sensitive speak the communities' language, and are reflective of the residents in communities they patrol.

### **iii. Improve cultural competency**

Many civil rights leaders and police executives also recommend that officers at all levels receive training on diversity, implicit bias, and cultural competency. However, many cities and towns have communities with a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds and

cultures, so therefore, it is also important for police officers to communicate effectively with and understand the cultural norms of these different groups.

iv. **Maintain focus on the importance of collaboration and visible in the community**

The police need to be visible in their communities and know their residents. Many people do not interact with the police outside of enforcement contexts. Getting to know community residents helps both groups to break down personal barriers and overcome stereotypes and allows officers to learn which residents of a neighborhood are law-abiding.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

To critically understand and explain police brutality on the public, and for a serious prescription for control, it rests at least on some theories of police behavior. To be able to explain this, the conflict theory will be adopted for this academic exercise.

### **Conflict Theory**

Conflict theory has its origin in the work of Max Weber (Egbon 2005). Weber rejected Karl Marx's (1818-1883) view that the division between the owners and non-owners of property was only a significant division between groups in society (Egbon 2005). He argued that there are numerous divisions within the five basic classes depending upon the market situation of individuals (Weber 1978, first published in the 1920s). he suggested that people could be divided by their status situation and political interests as well as by their economic positions.

The police behave authoritatively towards the criminal suspects in a kind of "master-servant" relationship status grouping leading to conflict (Egbon 2005). He further that, the criminal suspects see the police as "they" protecting the political or elite class and "us" the poor class. However, against this background, conflict theory provides a better platform for understanding police attitudes towards criminal suspects. According to conflict theory, inequality exists because those in power of a disproportionate share of society's resources actively defend their advantage. In addition, power is the core of all

relationships, which is gained through economics and such powers are used to control the apparatus of the state, including the police and judiciary (Egbon 2005)

This study can be aptly situated within the conflict perspective in a situation that, is due to the inequalities within the Nigeria social structure which are differentiated into classes which though cannot be concretely be bourgeoisie and proletariat visible (Egbon 2005). However, considerable injustice has generated inequalities in the distribution of wealth, and political and social power. Egbon (2005) further states that the police are said to be created since colonialism solely to maintain this, also, since Nigeria was incorporated into the capitalist world economy with its past military and repressive regime, the social injustice within the country produces conflicts that must be suppressed to ensure law and order.

Alemika (2000) further states that political and economic power controls the government and institutions that suppress threats against their prevailing political and economic system and arrangement. Examples of such institutions are the police, the courts the prisons, etc. Alemika (1990), therefore argues that the police were not created to serve society or the people, but to serve some parts of society and some people at the expense of others. Moreover, Alemika and Chukwu (2000) have also asserted that in capitalist societies, the main function of the police has been to protect the property and well-being of those who benefit most from an economy based on the extraction of private profit. Furthermore, they opined that the police were created primarily in response to rioting and disorder directed against oppressive working and living conditions. More facts to the discriminatory attitude of the police were summarized by Reckles (1961), who stipulates that the act of policing, as well as detention and interrogation, is favorably disposed to the powerful and those in authority who use their class position in determining policing strategies of crime prevention, detention, and prosecution. This is why those in authority jump the process of criminal justice.

As such, crime, criminality, and criminal justice are discriminatory in that, the acts that are criminally committed by the powerful are usually concealed, waved aside pretentiously as if it is never happened, whereas those committed by the less privileged are usually penalized.

## **2.7 Gap of Literature**

This study which is set to examine the police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State, has reviewed selected literature on differential police brutality such as hostility, various causes of the police brutality towards community policing, public awareness, improved judicial culture towards police brutality, periodic training for law enforcement officials, improved welfare package for the police and symbolic change in semantics in corresponding with transparency and accountability, diversity.

Daudu (2008) claims that police brutality is another obstacle to the prospects of the Nigeria police in guaranteeing the security of lives and property, law and order while Klinger (2004) opined that, the Nigeria police force faces the challenge of restoring the sense of trust and confidence to the relationship that exists between the police and the public if crime control has been achieved. After reviewing the contemporary literature related to this study, this study intends to fill the gap causes of police brutality by providing public awareness to promote the reformation of services to the Nigeria Police Force, as well as bringing into existence community policing to build trust, cooperation, partnership, collaboration, accountability, and transparency into the Police Force.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Preamble**

This chapter highlights the method and procedure to be used in the research i.e. the research design, study area, study population, sampling, size, and sampling techniques, method of data collection, instrument of Data Collection, method of data analysis, and ethical consideration.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study will employ the mixed method approach, wherein researchers collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data. The research design adopted for this study is a Survey design, where questionnaires were administered using descriptive techniques.

The Survey is chosen because of its effectiveness in seeking the views of people about issues that concern them. It is also useful not only to describe existing conditions but also to reflect the result of the whole population under study using a sample of the population, relatively expensive and takes little time to conduct. (Blend, 2001)

### **3.2 Study Area**

This part takes a key keel on the area or place in which the study is to be carried out. The location where this study will be carried out is Ota, the capital of Ado-Odo local government area of Ogun state Nigeria with a total population of 896, 700 residents.

The relationship between the study area (Ota) and the study is to exploit, explain, and describe the police brutality on the public in Ota Ogun State, Nigeria.

### **3.3 Study Population**

This study was conducted in Ota, Ogun State the capital of Ado-Odo local government. Ota is predominantly a rural area. Being a capital town, residents of Ota are mainly civil servants and private sector workers, and as such their major occupation and profession are mainly found within the public sector. The town has an area of 878km and a population of 896,700 residents as of the 2006 census (NPC, 2006).

The town has four police divisions. The four police divisions in questions are the Onipanu divisional police station, Iju divisional police station, Atan Ota police station, and Sango Ota divisional police station.

### **3.4 Sampling, Size, and Sampling Technique**

Sampling is generally associated with survey research. It is the scientific method of obtaining representation data that is from a given population of study (Egbon, 2005). The sample size of this study comprises members of the public (most especially those who have been victims of police brutality, whose relatives has experience police brutality, and who have their relations under police custody), and the police.



The actual sample size was calculated using Taro Yamane's (1964) formula for sample size determinant to arrive at approximately 400 sample size. Given the fact that the scope of this study is Ota, the 400 samples were drawn from the selected study area (Ota). The sampling technique adopted for this study is the Stratified and Purposive sampling technique. The choice of this technique is based on the fact that the individuals selected for the study are known and there is an underlying interest in the selected groups.

Furthermore, for the qualitative data, a total number of five (5) participants were selected for the in-depth interview. The participants include top personnel in the Nigeria Police Force, All these participants will be selected in Onipanu Divisional police station headquarter, Ota Ogun state.

### **3.5 Method of Data Collection.**

The primary goal of research is to collect and interpret data, which ultimately determines the quality of the findings. To achieve this, a mixed-method approach will be employed, utilizing both open-ended and closed-ended questions in a questionnaire, as well as verbal interviews. The questionnaire will allow respondents to provide detailed information about the study subject while also offering an opportunity for them to express their opinions. The interview method, which involves a face-to-face conversation, will be used to gather information from police security personnel in Ota. A Purposive sampling technique will be used to select representatives departmental level, ensuring that the selected ward (Ota) is represented by knowledgeable respondents.

### **3.6 Instruments of Data Collection**

The instrument used for this study is questionnaire and in-depth interview. These were constructed and validated by the supervisor. The questionnaire was made up of five sections with a total of 35 questions. These two sections are:

SECTION A: Focused on the demographics data of the respondents (research personal data)

SECTION B: Victims Socio-economic Conditions and Police Brutality towards them

SECTION C: Causes of Police Brutality on Victims

SECTION D: Variation in general mechanism to address police brutality of victims.

SECTION E: Police Brutality and Police Community relations

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

The Data obtained was analyzed using statistical tables, frequencies, and percentages. The quantitative data (numeric data) that were collected through questionnaires will be analyzed using descriptive statistical methods including tables of frequencies and percentages for easy understanding. It will be processed through the use of statistical packages for social science (SPSS) version 22. For the qualitative data collected via in-depth interviews were coded manually and transcribed to complement the quantitative data.

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

The researcher will first ask permission from the respondents before conducting the research and at this time, a questionnaire will be used. The researcher will not force the respondents to answer the questionnaire and also make sure that all the personal information of the respondents will be confidential. Protocols will be followed in conducting the research, especially face-to-face interviews to get more information about police brutality in the public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **4.0. Preamble**

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data gathered from the field through the use of structured questionnaire. A total of 400 questionnaires were administered to respondents comprising of 400 respondents in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. Out of the 400 questionnaires administered to respondents, only 375 questionnaires were completely and accurately filled while the other 25 questionnaires, though returned but, was not accurately filled. It was on the basis of the 375 questionnaire that the researcher presented analyzed data and discussed the findings of the research. Therefore, the following is the interpretation of the data. The use of simple frequency, table and

percentage was adopted for easy interpretation of data. However, 400 questionnaires were administered to the members of the Public, but only 375 were returned. The Assessment was based on the 375 questionnaires returned.

#### 4.1. Presentation of Data

Under the presentation of data, results were presented in the following tables starting with the socio demographics of the respondents

**Table 4.1: Response Rate Distributions**

<b>Administered</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Retrieved</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>93.75%</b>

#### **Section A: Socio-Demographic Data of the Respondents**

**Table 4.1.1 Sex Distribution of the Respondents**

<b>Sex of Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	250	66.7%
Female	125	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* field Work 2024

Table 4.1.1 on the sex of respondents indicates that 66.7% (250) of the respondents were male, while 33.3% (125) of the respondents were female. This means that male gender is more predominant respondents in the study area and also readily available at the time the questionnaires were distributed.

**Table 4.1.2 Age Distribution of the Respondents**

<b>Age of Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18 – 37	140	37.3%
38 – 57	98	26.1%
58 –77	88	23.5%
78 and above	49	13.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Work 2024

Table 4.1.2 on the age of respondents indicates that 37.3% (140) of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 18-37; 26.1% (98) of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 38-57; 23.5% (88) of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 58-77; 13.1% (49) of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 78 and above. The majority of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 18-37. This means that, the majority of the respondents are youths matured enough to elucidate relevant information about the subject under study.

**Table 4.1.3 Educational Qualification of Respondents**

<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Formal Education	52	13.9%
Primary Education	75	20%
Secondary Education	98	26.1%
Tertiary Education	150	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Work 2024

Table 4.1.4 on the educational qualification of respondents indicates that 13.9% (52) of the respondents does not have education; 20% (75) of the respondents are primary education holders; 26.1% (98) of the respondents are secondary education holders; while 40% (150) of the respondents are tertiary education holders. The majority of the respondents are tertiary education holders.

**Table 4.1.4 Religion of Respondents**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Christianity	250	66.7%
Islam	120	32%
Others	5	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Work 2024

Table 4.1.4 on the religion of respondents indicates that 66.7% (250) of the respondents are Christians; 32% (120) of the respondents are Muslims; while 1.3% (5) of the

respondents are other worshippers. The majority of the respondents are Christians (Christianity).

**Table 4.1.5 Marital Status of Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Single	90	24%
Married	260	69.3%
Divorced	15	4%
Widow	10	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work 2024

Table 4.1.5 on the marital status of respondents indicates that 24% (90) of the respondents are single; 69.3% (260) of the respondents are married; while 4% (15) of the respondents are divorced while 2.7% (10) are widow. The majority of the respondents are married.

**Table 4.1.6 Year of Working Experience**

<b>Working Experience</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Student	100	26.7%
1-5	80	21.3%
6-10	95	25.4%
11-15	50	13.3%
Above 15	50	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work 2024

Table 4.1.6 on the year of working experience of respondents indicates that 26.7% (100) of the respondents are student; 21.3% (80) of the respondents have 1-5 yrs experience; 25.4% (95) of the respondents have 6-10 years of experience; 13.3% (50) of the

respondents have 11-15 years of experience while 13.3% (50) of the respondents are above 15 years of experience. The majority of the respondents are workers, however with different degree of experience which ranges from 1yr and above.

**Table 4.2.1 Respondents' Perception on their/ relative experienced of Police brutality.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	320	85.3%
No	25	6.7%
I don't want to disclose	30	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Work 2024

Table 4.2.1 the table indicates that about 85.3% (320) have had experience of police brutality by themselves or their relatives; 6.7% (25) of the respondents do not agree that there is police brutality; while 8% (30) of the respondents were unable to be disclosed their perception. The result show that majority of the respondents are aware of police brutality or had experienced police brutality.

**Table 4.2.2. Respondents' Perception on the common forms of police brutality in Ota, Ogun State.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
False imprisonment	100	26.7%
Corruption	150	40%
Extrajudicial killing	50	13.3%
Malicious damage	2	0.5%
Wrongful search	35	9.4%
Bribery	38	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Work 2024

Table 4.2.2 above shows the responses on the common police brutality which are indicated as follows, 26.7% (100) of the respondents affirmed false imprisonment as one of the brutality; 40% (150) of the respondents indicated corruption; 13.3% (50) of the respondents said Extrajudicial killing; 0.5% (2) of the respondents stated that malicious

damage is also common; 9.4% (35) of the respondents indicated wrongful search as a form of police brutality, while 10.1% (38) of the respondents indicated bribery. From the analysis above it is clear that police brutality takes different forms however, corruption has the greatest percentage over others while false imprisonment takes second on the list. To further buttress or validate the above result an In-depth Interview was done and the response is as quoted below:

*“In Ota, Ogun State, common forms of police brutality include excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests, and extortion. These acts of brutality often stem from systemic issues such as inadequate compensation, poor equipment, and insufficient training for law enforcement officials. The lack of motivation and frustration among police officers can contribute to these abusive behaviors, resulting in harm to citizens”. (Police A, DPO, Male, 52)*

The IDI as stated above agrees to the issue of police brutality however, this social problem is been attributed to poor welfares of the police officers. This means to solve the issue of police brutality, there is need to look into the welfare package of the police force.

**Table 4.2.3 Respondents’ Perception on the strategies or mechanisms that can help resolve the issue of police brutality.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Community policing	200	53.4%
Public awareness	68	18.1%
Proper training of officials	33	8.8%
Provision of Justice	74	19.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Work 2024

Table 4.2.3 on the respondent’s perception of respondents indicates that 53.4% (200) of the respondents’ responses are community policing; 18.1% (68) of the respondents responses are public awareness; 8.8% (33) of the respondents responses are proper training of officials, while 19.7% (74) of the respondents’ response are provision of justice. The majority of the respondent’s responses are Community policing. The data provides insights into the perceived causes and solutions to police brutality from the perspective of the respondents. It highlights the need for a multifaceted approach to

addressing this issue, including community policing, public awareness, proper training of officials, and ensuring justice for victims.

**TABLE 4.3: Information on Causes of Police Brutality towards Victims.**

**Table 4.3.1: Respondents' Perception on Poor Police Investigation which results to False Imprisonment by the Officers.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	200	53.3%
Agree	120	32%
Neutral	25	6.7%
Strongly Disagree	12	3.2%
Disagree	18	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.3.1 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 53.3% (200) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 32% (120) of the respondent's responses are agreed; 6.7% (25) of the respondent's responses are Neutral; 3.2% (12) of the respondents responses are strongly disagree while 4.8% (18) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondent's responses strongly agreed that, Poor Police Investigation which results to False Imprisonment by the Officers. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between poor police investigation and false imprisonment, highlighting concerns about the potential for abuse of power and violation of human rights.

**Table 4.3.2: Respondents' Perception on Poor Recruitment of the Nigerian Police force.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	150	40%
Agree	195	52%
Neutral	5	1.3%
Strongly Disagree	10	2.7%
Disagree	15	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>



**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.3.2 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 40% (150) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 52% (195) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 1.3% (5) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 2.7% (10) of the respondents responses are strongly disagree while 4% (15) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondent's responses agreed that, poor recruitment of the Nigerian Police force is a cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between poor recruitment and police brutality, highlighting concerns about the need for reforms in the recruitment process to prevent cases of police brutality.

**Table 4.3.3: Respondents' Perception on Lack of professional ethics in making an arrest by the police officers**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	220	58.7%
Agree	110	29.3%
Neutral	25	6.7%
Strongly Disagree	8	2.1%
Disagree	12	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.3.3 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 58.7% (220) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 29.3% (110) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 6.7% (25) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 2.1% (8) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 3.2% (12) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed that, lack of professional ethics in making an arrest by the police officers, is another cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between professional ethics and police brutality, highlighting concerns about the need for ethical training and accountability measures to prevent cases of police brutality.

**Table 4.3.4: Respondents' Perception on unwillingness of the victims in giving of bribe**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	210	56%
Agree	150	40%
Neutral	7	1.9%
Strongly Disagree	5	1.3%
Disagree	3	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.3.4 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 56% (210) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 40% (150) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 1.9% (7) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 1.3% (5) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 0.8% (3) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses are agreed that, unwillingness of the victims in giving of bribe is a cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between bribery and police brutality, highlighting concerns about the need to reduce corruption and promote transparency and accountability within the Nigerian Police Force.

**Table 4.3.5: Respondents' Perception on Poor education background of the Police Officers determine their involvement in brutalizing citizen**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	120	32%
Agree	130	34.7%
Neutral	58	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	22	5.9%
Disagree	45	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.3.5 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 32% (120) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 34.7% (130) of the respondents' responses

are agreed; 15.4% (58) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 5.9% (22) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 12% (45) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses are agreed that, poor education background of the Police Officers determine their involvement in brutalizing citizen is a cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between a police officer's education background and their likelihood of engaging in brutal behavior, highlighting concerns about the importance of quality education and training for law enforcement personnel.

**Table 4.3.6: Respondents' Perception on lack of orientation of the citizen of their fundamental human rights**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	150	40%
Agree	92	24.5%
Neutral	56	14.9%
Strongly Disagree	28	7.5%
Disagree	49	13.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.3.6 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 40% (150) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 24.5% (92) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 14.9% (56) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 7.5% (28) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 13.1% (49) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed that, lack of orientation of the citizen of their fundamental human rights is a cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between citizens' awareness of their fundamental human rights and the likelihood of police brutality, highlighting concerns about the importance of education and community outreach to promote trust and understanding between citizens and law enforcement.

**Table 4.3.7: Respondents' Perception on lack of justice been served Officers involved in brutalizing the citizen**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	265	70.7%
Agree	80	21.4%
Neutral	20	5.3%
Strongly Disagree	5	1.3%
Disagree	5	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.3.7 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 70.7% (265) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 21.4% (80) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 5.3% (20) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 1.3% (5) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 1.3% (5) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed that, lack of justice been served Officers involved in brutalizing the citizen is a cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between lack of accountability and police brutality, highlighting concerns about the importance of ensuring justice and accountability in policing to promote trust and respect for human rights.

**Table 4.3.8: Respondents' Perception on public hostility to police is a major cause of police brutality**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	80	21.3%
Agree	150	40%
Neutral	25	6.7%
Strongly Disagree	65	17.3%
Disagree	55	14.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.3.8 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 21.3% (80) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 40% (150) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 6.7% (25) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 17.3% (65) of the respondents'

responses are strongly disagree while 14.7% (55) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses agreed that, public hostility to police is a major cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between public hostility and police brutality, highlighting concerns about the importance of building trust and promoting effective community-policing initiatives to reduce violence and promote respect for human rights.

**Table 4.3.9: Respondents' Perception on Poor welfare package for the police officers**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	95	25.3%
Agree	105	28%
Neutral	50	13.3%
Strongly Disagree	72	19.2%
Disagree	53	14.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.3.9 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 25.3% (95) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 28% (105) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 13.3% (50) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 19.2% (72) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 14.1% (53) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses agreed that, poor welfare package for the police officers is the cause of police brutality. The data provides insights into the perceived relationship between poor welfare package and police brutality, highlighting concerns about the importance of prioritizing officer well-being and improving working conditions to reduce violence and promote respect for human rights.

Our interviews with three policemen about their views on police brutality made their stance on, one of them noted:

*“The interviewee attributed police brutality to several factors, including inadequate compensation, poor equipment, and insufficient training. They suggested that these issues can lead to frustration and a lack of motivation among*

*police officers, which can manifest in violent behavior towards citizens”. (Police B, ASP Male 46)*

Based on this in-depth interview, the policeman suggests that these factors can lead to a lack of motivation among police officers, which can manifest in violent behavior towards citizens. This implies that a sense of demotivation or burnout can contribute to police brutality. The IDI provides valuable insights into the potential factors contributing to police brutality from a policeman's perspective.

**TABLE 4.4: Assessment of the mechanism in addressing police brutality**

**Table 4.4.1: Respondents’ Perception on what extent has Community Policing been effective in addressing crime rate in the society**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	98	26.1%
Agree	175	46.7%
Neutral	52	13.8%
Strongly Disagree	22	5.9%
Disagree	28	7.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.4.1 on the respondent’s perception of respondents indicates that 26.1% (98) of the respondents’ responses are strongly agreed; 46.7% (175) of the respondents’ responses are agreed; 13.8% (52) of the respondents’ responses is Neutral; 5.9% (22) of the respondents’ responses are strongly disagree while 7.5% (28) of the respondents’ response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents’ responses agreed that, Community Policing been effective in addressing crime rate in the society as the mechanism in addressing police brutality. The data shows that a significant majority of respondents believe Community Policing has been effective in addressing crime rates, highlighting its potential as a key strategy for promoting community safety and reducing police brutality.

**Table 4.4.2: Respondents' Perception on whether Community policing been found to engage in brutalizing the citizen in the course of discharge of their duty**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	200	53.3%
Agree	45	12%
Neutral	33	8.8%
Strongly Disagree	75	20%
Disagree	22	5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.4.2 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 53.3% (200) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 12% (45) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 8.8% (33) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 20% (75) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 5.9% (22) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, Community policing been found to engage in brutalizing the citizen in the course of discharge of their duty as the mechanism in addressing police brutality. The data shows that a significant majority of respondents perceive Community Policing as a factor contributing to police brutality, highlighting the need for reforms and alternative approaches to address this issue.

**Table 4.4.3: Respondents' Perception on the Nigerian Police Force has organize or sensitize the public on the mode of their operations and what extent has help to reduce police-public hostility**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	50	13.3%
Agree	78	20.8%
Neutral	67	17.9%
Strongly Disagree	120	32%
Disagree	60	16%

<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>
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Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.4.3 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 13.3% (50) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 20.8% (78) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 17.9% (67) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 32% (120) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 16% (60) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly disagreed that, Nigerian Police Force has organize or sensitize the public on the mode of their operations and what extent has help to reduce police-public hostility mechanism in addressing police brutality. The data suggests that a majority of respondents do not perceive that the Nigerian Police Force has done enough to educate the public on their operations, which may contribute to ongoing issues with trust and hostility between the police and the public.

One of the interviewed officers also mentions that;

*"The Nigerian Police Force has taken steps to educate the public on their operational procedures and protocols, which has led to a reduction in police-public hostility. By increasing transparency and understanding between law enforcement and the community, the Force has been able to improve public trust and cooperation, ultimately decreasing instances of violent behavior from police officers". (Police C, ASP, Female, 42)*

The in-depth interview with the Nigerian Police officer provides a more nuanced perspective on the issue of police-public hostility. This in-depth interview provides a more nuanced perspective on the issue of police-public hostility, highlighting both the challenges and potential solutions.

**Table 4.4.4: Respondents' Perception on whether training for law enforcement officials has helped to reduce police brutality**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	30	8%
Agree	33	8.8%
Neutral	25	6.7%
Strongly Disagree	220	58.7%
Disagree	67	17.8%



<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.4.4 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 8% (30) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 8.8% (33) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 6.7% (25) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 58.7% (220) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 17.8% (67) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly disagreed that, training for law enforcement officials has helped to reduce police brutality mechanism in addressing police brutality. The data suggests that many respondents do not believe that training for law enforcement officials has been effective in reducing police brutality. This highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach to addressing this issue and the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of training programs.

**Table 4.4.5: Respondents' Perception on whether improvement in police welfare package can help to reduce the police brutality**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	120	32%
Agree	180	48%
Neutral	45	12%
Strongly Disagree	22	5.9%
Disagree	8	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.4.5 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 32% (120) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 48% (180) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 12% (45) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 5.9% (22) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 2.1% (8) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses agreed that, improvement in police welfare package can help to reduce the police brutality mechanism in addressing police brutality. The data suggests that a majority of respondents believe that improving the welfare package for police officers can contribute to reducing police brutality. This highlights the

importance of prioritizing officer well-being and providing a comprehensive welfare package to support their health and well-being

**TABLE 4.5: People’s Perception on ways of addressing Police brutality**

**Table 4.5.1: Respondents’ Perception on Victims of Police brutality should be compensated by the Police Force**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	220	58.7%
Agree	95	25.3%
Neutral	36	9.6%
Strongly Disagree	9	2.4%
Disagree	15	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.1 on the respondent’s perception of respondents indicates that 58.7% (220) of the respondents’ responses are strongly agreed; 25.3% (95) of the respondents’ responses are agreed; 9.6% (36) of the respondents’ responses is Neutral; 2.4% (9) of the respondents’ responses are strongly disagree while 4% (15) of the respondents’ response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents’ responses strongly agreed that, victims of Police brutality should be compensated by the Police Force mechanism in addressing police brutality.

The data suggests that a strong majority of respondents believe that victims of police brutality should be compensated by the police force. This highlights the importance of developing and implementing policies and procedures for providing compensation to victims, and promoting accountability within the police force.

**Table 4.5.2: Respondents’ Perception on Police-public relation should be put in place with motive of interaction, consultation and participation to reduce police brutality**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	190	50.7%
Agree	98	26.1%
Neutral	40	10.7%
Strongly Disagree	20	5.3%
Disagree	27	7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.2 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 50.7% (190) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 26.1% (98) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 10.7% (40) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 5.3% (20) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 7.2% (27) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, police-public relation should be put in place with motive of interaction, consultation and participation to reduce police brutality mechanism.

The data suggests that a strong majority of respondents believe that improving police-public relations is essential for reducing police brutality. This highlights the importance of building trust and rapport between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

One of the interviewed officers also mentions that;

*“Enhancing police-public relations through mutual interaction, consultation, and participation can effectively reduce police brutality. This approach fosters open communication, trust, and cooperation between law enforcement and the community, ultimately leading to a decrease in instances of violent behavior from police officers”. (Police D, Male, SP, 52)*

This in-depth interview quote provides additional insight into the perspective of a police officer on the relationship between police-public relations and police brutality. The officer emphasizes the importance of "mutual interaction, consultation, and participation" between law enforcement and the community in reducing police brutality.

The statement can be used to inform policies and practices aimed at improving police-public relations and reducing police brutality.

**Table 4.5.3: Respondents' Perception on the police awareness section should be mandatory so as to allow officers to ask questions about behaviour of the person to be searched rather than victimizing them**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	195	52%
Agree	120	32%
Neutral	45	12%
Strongly Disagree	6	1.6%
Disagree	9	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.3 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 52% (195) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 32% (120) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 12% (45) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 1.6% (6) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 2.4% (9) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, police awareness section should be mandatory so as to allow officers to ask questions about behaviour of the person to be searched rather than victimizing them.

The data suggests that a large majority of respondents believe that police awareness training is essential to prevent officers from victimizing individuals during searches. This highlights the importance of providing officers with training on de-escalation techniques, communication skills, and cultural sensitivity to build trust and promote cooperation between law enforcement and the community.

**Table 4.5.4: Respondents' Perception on The Nigeria police officers should be exposed to human rights training during the recruitment process and thorough professional training throughout their career**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	195	52%
Agree	95	25.3
Neutral	30	8%
Strongly Disagree	42	11.2%
Disagree	13	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.4 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 52% (195) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 25.3% (95) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 8% (30) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 11.2% (42) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 3.5% (13) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, the Nigeria police officers should be exposed to human rights training during the recruitment process and thorough professional training throughout their career.

The data suggests that a large majority of respondents believe that human rights training is essential for police officers to respect and protect the rights of citizens. This highlights the need for law enforcement agencies to prioritize human rights training as part of their standard operating procedures to promote a culture of respect for human dignity.

**Table 4.5.5: Respondents’ Perception on improving welfare package for the police officer rather than expression of anger on the citizen.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	102	27.2%
Agree	195	52%
Neutral	35	9.3%
Strongly Disagree	25	6.7%
Disagree	18	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.5 on the respondent’s perception of respondents indicates that 27.2% (102) of the respondents’ responses are strongly agreed; 52% (195) of the respondents’ responses are agreed; 9.3% (35) of the respondents’ responses is Neutral; 6.7% (25) of the respondents’ responses are strongly disagree while 4.8% (18) of the respondents’ response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents’ responses agreed that, improving welfare package for the police officer rather than expression of anger on the citizen.

The data suggests that a majority of respondents believe that improving the welfare package for police officers is a better approach than expressing anger towards citizens. This highlights the need for law enforcement agencies to prioritize the well-being and needs of their officers as a way to promote better relations with citizens and improve overall performance.

**Table 4.5.6: Respondents’ Perception on the perception title of the Nigeria police force should be systemically changed to Nigeria Police Service in order to ensure rendering of service to the citizens and not agent of brutality.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	116	30.9%
Agree	175	46.7%
Neutral	45	12%
Strongly Disagree	20	5.3%
Disagree	19	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.6 on the respondent’s perception of respondents indicates that 30.9% (116) of the respondents’ responses are strongly agreed; 46.7% (175) of the respondents’ responses are agreed; 12% (45) of the respondents’ responses is Neutral; 5.3% (20) of the respondents’ responses are strongly disagree while 5.1% (19) of the respondents’ response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents’ responses agreed that, the perception title of the Nigeria police force should be systemically changed to Nigeria Police Service in order to ensure rendering of service to the citizens and not agent of brutality.

The data suggests that a significant majority of respondents believe that renaming the Nigeria Police Force to Nigeria Police Service could have a positive impact on public perception and behavior, and could help to shift the focus from brutality to service.

**Table 4.5.7: Respondents’ Perception on there should be accountability in the Police operations at all levels**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	165	44%
Agree	102	27.2%
Neutral	77	20.5%
Strongly Disagree	8	2.1%
Disagree	23	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.7 on the respondent’s perception of respondents indicates that 44% (165) of the respondents’ responses are strongly agreed; 27.2% (102) of the respondents’ responses are

agreed; 20.5% (77) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 2.1% (8) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 6.1% (23) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, there should be accountability in the Police operations at all levels.

The data suggests that a significant majority of respondents believe that accountability is crucial in police operations to ensure transparency, fairness, and trust.

**Table 4.5.8: Respondents' Perception on the perception of corruption in the police should be dealt with, with the help of the criminal justice system.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	180	48%
Agree	95	25.3%
Neutral	75	20%
Strongly Disagree	12	3.2%
Disagree	13	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2024

Table 4.5.8 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 48% (180) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 25.3% (95) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 20% (75) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 3.2% (12) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 3.5% (13) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, the perception of corruption in the police should be dealt with, with the help of the criminal justice system. Overall, the data suggests that a significant majority of respondents believe that addressing corruption in the police requires a strong and effective criminal justice system to hold corrupt officials accountable and prevent further corruption.

**Table 4.5.9: Respondents' Perception on public awareness should be done regularly on police operation so as to disabuse the mind of the public on police brutality.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	99	26.4%

Agree	192	51.2%
Neutral	50	13.3%
Strongly Disagree	18	4.8%
Disagree	16	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.5.9 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 26.4% (99) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 51.2% (192) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 13.3% (50) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 4.8% (18) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 4.3% (16) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses agreed that, public awareness should be done regularly on police operation so as to disabuse the mind of the public on police brutality. The data suggests that a significant majority of respondents believe that public awareness campaigns are essential for educating the public and dispelling myths about police brutality, which can help to build trust and improve relationships between law enforcement and the community.

**Table 4.6.1: Respondents' Perception on there must be restorative justice between the victims, police officers and the community so as to bring about effective community policing.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	210	56%
Agree	98	26.1%
Neutral	45	12%
Strongly Disagree	15	4%
Disagree	7	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.6.1 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 56% (210) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 26.1% (98) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 12% (45) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 4% (15) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 1.9% (7) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, there must be restorative



justice between the victims, police officers and the community so as to bring about effective community policing.

The data suggests that a strong majority of respondents believe that restorative justice is essential for effective community policing, which requires a collaborative approach between victims, police officers, and the community to address conflicts and promote trust and understanding.

**Table 4.6.2: Respondents' Perception on the Nigeria police officers should be culturally sensitive and speak the community's language where they serve.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	125	33.3%
Agree	155	41.3%
Neutral	60	16%
Strongly Disagree	17	4.5%
Disagree	18	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.6.2 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 33.3% (125) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 41.3% (155) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 16% (60) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 4.5% (17) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 4.8% (18) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, the Nigeria police officers should be culturally sensitive and speak the community's language where they serve.

The data suggests that a significant majority of respondents believe that cultural sensitivity and language proficiency are crucial for effective policing in Nigeria, which requires a deeper understanding of local cultures and languages to build trust and promote community policing.

**Table 4.6.3: Respondents' Perception on the need for urgent approval of Community and Regional Policing in Nigeria.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	175	46.7%
Agree	102	27.2%
Neutral	46	12.2%

Strongly Disagree	25	6.7%
Disagree	27	7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work 2024

Table 4.6.3 on the respondent's perception of respondents indicates that 46.7% (175) of the respondents' responses are strongly agreed; 27.2% (102) of the respondents' responses are agreed; 12.2% (46) of the respondents' responses is Neutral; 6.7% (25) of the respondents' responses are strongly disagree while 7.2% (27) of the respondents' response are Disagree. The majority of the respondents' responses strongly agreed that, the need for urgent approval of Community and Regional Policing in Nigeria.

Overall, the data suggests that a significant majority of respondents believe that there is an urgent need for the approval and implementation of Community and Regional Policing in Nigeria, which requires a shift towards a more community-based approach to policing.

One of the interviewed officers also comments that;

*"Addressing police brutality requires a multifaceted approach that involves fostering open communication, promoting community participation, and encouraging accountability among law enforcement officials. By adopting these strategies, we can reduce instances of violent behavior from police officers and create a safer and more just society for all". (Police E, INSPECTOR, MALE 38)*

The officer emphasizes that addressing police brutality requires a comprehensive approach that involves fostering open communication, promoting community participation, and encouraging accountability among law enforcement officers. By adopting this strategy, the officer believes that instances of violent behavior from police officers can be reduced, leading to a safer and more just society for all. The interview highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing police brutality, including fostering open communication, promoting community participation, and encouraging accountability among law enforcement officers.

#### **4.7 Discussion of Findings**

This study investigated the assessment of police brutality in Ota, Ogun State, and its effect on the public. The findings reveal that the public's negative perception of the police is largely attributed to the excessive use of force and violent behavior exhibited by officers

towards civilians, leading to a breakdown in trust and cooperation between the police and the community. The treatment of citizens by the police in Ota, Ogun State, is often influenced by factors such as age, educational background, and socioeconomic status. Unfortunately, a repressive police attitude towards victims can lead to an increase in crime rates. Moreover, the study shows that the use of torture or coercion to extract information from victims is not only unethical but also ineffective in controlling crime. Instead, a more humane and professional approach is needed. Furthermore, police brutality towards citizens can lead to widespread hostility and mistrust towards law enforcement agencies, ultimately undermining their ability to effectively serve and protect the public. The findings of this study corroborate those of previous research by Alemika (1990, 2000), Alemika and Chukwuka (2000), and Folorunso (1989) on the relationship between police treatment and public cooperation. However, this study presents a contrasting perspective that challenges the notion that the public generally cooperates with the police, as proposed by Nweze (1990). Specifically, this study shows that police brutality and repressive attitudes towards citizens can lead to a breakdown in trust and cooperation, even in cases where citizens are not themselves criminal suspects.

The study highlights another significant finding: the causes of police brutality towards the treatment of citizens. The research reveals that the behavior of the police towards citizens not only undermines their effective operation but also erodes public trust and confidence in the police's ability to serve and protect. The main argument is that corruption within the police system has led to innocent individuals being wrongly imprisoned, while guilty parties are set free. Furthermore, excessive or inadequate use of torture during interrogation often prevents citizens from providing necessary information, making it challenging for them to prove their innocence. This, in turn, leads to citizens' reluctance to cooperate with the police, resulting in a breakdown in communication and hindering effective crime prevention and control. This finding again, is congruence with earlier findings such as Alemika (2000) and Nweze (1990).

The study's findings indicate that the public is dissatisfied with the pattern of police treatment towards individuals, particularly in terms of alleged mistreatment and torture to extract information. The research reveals that the police often prioritize extracting

information over upholding human rights, as evidenced by the failure to provide medical attention to those subjected to torture. Furthermore, the study shows that the police's attitude towards individuals does not vary regardless of age, gender, or educational level, leading to widespread public disapproval and stigmatization of police officers and their families. This finding contrasts with earlier studies, such as those by Alemika (2000) and Nweze (1990), which emphasize the importance of socioeconomic and demographic factors in shaping police attitudes towards suspects. In this study, the mechanism of addressing police brutality is found to be lacking, as demonstrated by the failure to effect arrests and prosecutions in cases where tips are received from the public, and the disparity in treatment of detainees, with some being locked up while others who have committed more serious crimes are treated differently.

Finally, the study highlights the widespread perception that police corruption and criminality hinder their ability to effectively protect citizens. This perception is fueled by the public's distrust and hostility towards the police, which in turn leads to a lack of cooperation and information sharing between the community and law enforcement. The study reveals that this mistrust is often perpetuated by the unequal treatment of suspects, with those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds able to post bail and avoid harsher penalties, while those from lower-income backgrounds are more likely to be subjected to torture and brutality. Additionally, the research shows that suspects are often treated differently based on their social status, with some being subjected to harsh treatment while others who have committed similar or more serious offenses are treated more leniently.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Preamble**

This chapter comprises of the summary of the study, the conclusion of the research findings, and it also includes recommendations based on the research findings which will contribute to the existing body of knowledge in solving problems of police brutality in Ota, Ogun State and the country as a whole.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The research study adhered to the approved format of five chapters, providing a comprehensive assessment of police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. The first chapter established the context for the study, introducing the background of the study, statement of problem, research questions, research objectives, significance, and scope. To ensure clarity and understanding, relevant terms were defined in the operational definitions of terms section, ensuring a clear organization of the study.

The second chapter of this study embarked on a comprehensive review of existing literature on police brutality, a key independent variable, and its impact on the public, the dependent variable. The review aimed to identify connections between the current study and previous research, highlighting gaps in the existing literature that this study seeks to fill. Furthermore, the chapter explored one theoretical framework relevant to police brutality on the public- Conflict Theory- to assess the extent to which police brutality has been known as bourgeois weapon on the citizens in Ota, Ogun State. The review drew on insights from this theory to inform the current study's understanding of police brutality's role on the public.

This study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to gather data. The research outlined the study population, sample selection, and sampling techniques, as well as the development and testing of data collection instruments. The methods for collecting data were described, including the use of questionnaires, and the approach to data analysis was explained. The quantitative data collected through the questionnaires was analyzed using descriptive statistics, including percentages and frequency counts, to present the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

The study yielded several key findings, including the common factors of police brutality, the causes of police brutality, and additionally, the study identified strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of addressing police brutality.

The final chapter of the study presented a comprehensive summary, concluding remarks, and recommendations. It also discussed the contributions of the research to existing knowledge, limitations of the study, and potential avenues for future research.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

The Nigeria Police Force plays a vital role in maintaining public safety and order, and its duties include preventing crimes, investigating and detecting criminal activities, and prosecuting offenders. A harmonious relationship between the police and the public is essential for the effective discharge of these duties. However, the treatment of criminal suspects by the police is often deplorable, leading to public dissatisfaction with their services.

This issue of police brutality has become a major concern, as it not only undermines the dignity of individuals but also perpetuates a culture of fear and mistrust between the police and the public. Therefore, it is imperative that the Nigeria Police Force re-examines its approach to coercing confessions from suspects, focusing on more humane and effective methods that do not compromise human rights. When brutality is deemed necessary, medical attention should be provided to minimize any adverse effects on the suspect. By adopting a more compassionate approach, the police can restore public trust and promote a safer and more just society.

This study has identified the various forms of police brutality experienced by the public in Ota, Ogun State, including physical assault, emotional distress, and economic exploitation. The findings also revealed that the causes of police brutality in Ota are multifaceted, including inadequate training, lack of resources, and absence of accountability among law enforcement officials.

The study assessed the effectiveness of existing mechanisms in addressing police brutality and found that they are inadequate, leading to a lack of trust and confidence in the police among the public. The findings suggest that there is a significant gap between the police's constitutional duties and their actual performance, which has resulted in widespread dissatisfaction with their services.

By implementing the measures proffered in the study as detailed in chapter four of this work, it is expected that police-community relations in Ota can be improved, trust can be restored, and a safer and more just society can be promoted. Ultimately, this study highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing police brutality in Ota, one that prioritizes human rights, community engagement, and accountability.

### **5.3. Recommendation**

These recommendations aim to address the various forms of police brutality experienced by the public in Ota, identify the causes of police brutality, assess the effectiveness of existing mechanisms in addressing police brutality, and proffer measures to mitigate police brutality and improve police-community relations in Ota, Ogun State. Based on our research findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

- i. The finding of this research work shows that abuse of power is one of the major forms of police brutality and it is therefore recommended that the Nigeria Police Force should prioritize transparency and accountability in its operations, ensuring that all interactions with the public are recorded and monitored to prevent abuse of power. The police should adopt a more humane approach to policing, treating all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their social status, gender, age, or education level.
- ii. The police should provide regular training and capacity-building initiatives to equip officers with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively address the root causes of police brutality as it was revealed in the work that inadequate training, poor welfare package among others are the root causes of brutality.
- iii. It is also important to recommend that government establish an independent body to investigate cases of police brutality and provide compensation to victims who have been wrongfully detained or subjected to police brutality.
- iv. The Nigeria Police Force should prioritize community engagement and participation in policing efforts, fostering trust and cooperation between law enforcement officials and the community.
- v. The police should invest in technology and modern policing practices to stay ahead of criminals and reduce the need for brutal methods in arrest and treatment of offenders.
- vi. The Nigeria Police Force should regularly review and update its policies and procedures to ensure they align with international human rights standards and best practices in policing.

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## **Appendix I**



Department of Sociology  
Thomas Adewumi University,  
Oko, Kwara State.

Dear Respondent,

## CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY

I am a 400 level student of Criminology and Security Studies programme, Sociology Department of Thomas Adewumi University Kwara State. As part of the fulfillment of my studies, I am to conduct a study with the Title: **An Assessment of Police Brutality on the Public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.** Your cooperation in filling out the questionnaire attached will help my investigative research on the police brutality in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Please note that as you fill the questionnaire the following will be taken to consideration:

- i. Participation is entirely voluntary.
- ii. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- iii. Refusal of any participation in the study will not attract any sanctions.
- iv. No risk will be incurred while participating in this study.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and assistance.

**OLUSHOLA, Oluwabusola Oluwaseyi.**

**MATRIC NO: 21/15SCS011**

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**INSTRUCTION: Please tick ( ☐ ) the option that suits you best.**

### **PART A**

#### **Socio-demographic of the respondents**

1. Sex of respondents      Male ( ☐ )      Female ( ☐ )
2. Age of respondents 18-37yrs ( ☐ )    38yrs-57yrs ( ☐ ) 58-77yrs ( ☐ ) 78 and above ( ☐ )
3. Educational Qualification    No Formal Education ( ☐ ) Primary Education ( ☐ )  
Secondary ( ☐ ) Tertiary ( ☐ )

4. Religion      Christianity ( ) Islamic ( ) Traditional ( )
5. Marital Status      Single ( ) Married ( ) Divorce ( )
6. Year of Working Experience Student ( ) 1-5yrs ( ) 6-10yrs( ) 11-15yrs ( ) above 15yrs()
7. Have you or any of your relatives experienced police brutality before?
  - a. Yes ( ) b. No ( ) C. I don't want to disclose ( )
8. What are the common forms of police brutality you are familiar with in Ota, Ogun State
  - a. ....
  - b. ....
  - c. ....
  - d. ....
  - e. ....
9. What are the strategies or mechanism you know that can help resolve the issue of police brutality in Ota, Ogun State
  - a. ....
  - b. ....
  - c. ....
  - d. ....

**PART B: Causes of Police Brutality towards Victim**

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	N	SD	D
10	Poor Police investigation which results to false imprisonments by the officers					
11	Poor recruitment of the Nigerian Police force					
12	Lack of professional ethics in making an arrest by the police officers					
13	Unwillingness of the Victims in giving of bribe					
14	Poor education background of the Police Officers determine their involvement in brutalizing citizen					
15	Lack of orientation of the citizen of their fundamental human rights					
16	Lack of justice been served Officers involved in brutalizing the citizen					
17	Public hostility to police is a major cause of police brutality					

18	Poor welfare package for the police officers					
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### **PART C: Assessment of the mechanism in addressing police brutality**

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D	Total
19	To what extent has Community Policing been effective in addressing crime rate in the society					
20	Has Community policing been found to engage in brutalizing the citizen in the course of discharge of their duty					
21	Has the Nigerian Police Force organize or sensitize the public on the mode of their operations and what extent has help to reduce police-public hostility					
22	Training for Law Enforcement Officials has helped to reduce police brutality					
23	The improvement in police welfare package can help to reduce the police brutality					

### **PART D: People's Perception on ways of addressing Police brutality**

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D	Total
24	Victims of Police brutality should be compensated by the Police Force					
25	Police-public relation should be put in place with motive of interaction, consultation and participation to reduce police brutality					
26	The police awareness section should be mandatory so as to allow officers to ask questions about behaviour of the person to be searched rather than victimizing them					
27	The Nigeria police officers should be expose to human rights training during the recruitment process and thorough professional training throughout their career					
28	Improving welfare package for the police officer rather than expression of anger on the citizen.					
29	The perception title of the Nigeria police force should be systemically changed to Nigeria Police Service in order to ensure rendering of service to the citizens and not agent of brutality.					



30	The should be accountability in the Police operations at all levels					
31	The perception of corruption in the police should be dealt with, with the help of the criminal justice system					
32	Public awareness should be done regularly on police operation so as to disabuse the mind of the public on police brutality					
33	There must be restorative justice between the victims, police officers and the community so as to bring about effective community policing					
34	The Nigeria police officers should be culturally sensitive and speak the communities language where they serve					
35	Need for urgent approval of Community and Regional Policing in Nigeria					

## APPENDIX II

### INTERVIEW GUIDE



Department of Sociology,  
Thomas Adewumi University,

Oko, Kwara State.

Dear Respondent,

I am, OLUSHOLA, Oluwabusola Oluwaseyi, a student of the Department of Sociology (Criminology & Security Studies), Thomas Adewumi University. I am conducting a research titled: An Assessment of Police Brutality on the Public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could accurately and promptly answer all the questions asked during this interview. I would also be grateful if the interview could be recorded, as this would enable me to efficiently transcribe the data collected during the conversation. Your responses will significantly contribute to the successful completion of my research project, which is a crucial component of my B.Sc. degree in Criminology and Security Studies.

Thank You!!!

#### PART A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Experience \_\_\_\_\_

#### PART B: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

1. What are the various forms of police brutality experienced by the public in Ota, Ogun State?
2. What are the causes of police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria?
3. How do residents perceive the effectiveness mechanisms to address police brutality on the public in Ota, Ogun State?
4. What measures can be implemented to mitigate police brutality and improve police-community relations in Ota, Ogun State?