

**THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON NATIONAL UNITY IN NIGERIA: A CASE
STUDY OF THE JUNGLE JUSTICE IN ESAN NORTH-EAST LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE.**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, FATIHAT OMUWA IKHARIA, with matriculation number **SSC2105705**, hereby declare that this project is entirely my work and composition. The work embodied in this project has not been previously submitted for award of any degree elsewhere. All references made to works of other persons have been duly acknowledged.

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CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty Allah, whose guidance, strength and grace enabled me to complete this research successfully, and also to my parents Mr. and Mrs. Ikharia.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of insecurity on national unity in Nigeria with specific focus on the phenomenon of jungle justice in Esan North-East. The research investigates how the rising cases of mob action reflect citizen's loss of confidence in the state's ability to ensure security and justice. Findings reveal that jungle justice emerges largely from weak law enforcement institutions, delayed justice systems and growing mistrust between citizens and security agencies. The study concludes that insecurity undermines national unity by creating fear, division and social tension among citizens. It recommends strengthening of local security structures, trust-building between communities and government, and reforms in the administration of criminal justice to restore confidence in lawful procedures.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Insecurity has emerged as one of the most persistent and destabilizing challenges confronting Nigeria in the contemporary era. The nation which was founded on the hope of building a united peaceful nation has increasingly witnessed various forms of threats and violence to safety that undermines the collective sense of belonging among its citizens. Imhonopi & Onifade (2012), Ogunbi & Aluko (2020) & Aluko (2021) as cited in Aluko (2022) observes that insecurity in Nigeria has reached alarming levels, compelling political and economic leaders, as well as citizens, to contend with the loss of lives, destruction of property, and a pervasive lack of safety across many regions of the country. Aluko (2022) acknowledges that insecurity is a challenge experienced in many countries and is not exclusive to Nigeria. While advanced nations possess relatively strong institutional mechanisms to respond to security threats, many developing countries, including Nigeria are still struggling to contain insecurity due to weak governance systems, porous borders and limited state capacity (Zubairu, 2020).

The violent crimes across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones including terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and armed robbery have escalated to alarming levels, severely undermining the

country's corporate stability and challenging the legitimacy of the Nigerian state (Ogundiya & Titus, 2023). Insecurity has intensified since the early 21st century, driven by multiple factors including ethnic conflicts, land and boundary disputes, political marginalization, religious extremism, climate change, and economic inequalities (Essoh, Asanguasung & Willie, 2024).

Insecurity in Nigeria has manifested in various forms, including Boko Haram insurgency, militancy, banditry, clashes involving land cultivators and herders, ethno-religious conflicts, abduction, kidnapping, oil theft and piracy (Enodien & Eze 2024, cited in Essoh, 2024). These various forms of insecurity have threatened the physical safety of individuals and communities. National unity is crucial to the continual existence of any multi ethnic state particularly the one as diverse as Nigeria with distinct cultures, religions, and regional histories. The initial strategy during the colonial period to achieve national unity involved dividing Nigeria into regions, a policy formalized through the Lyttleton constitution in 1954 (Onifade & Imhonopi, 2013, cited in Aluko, 2022). However Instead of fostering genuine national integration, the regional arrangements encouraged rivalry and completion among the regions. Unity in Nigeria requires strong institutions, efficient governance structure, fairness in resource distribution and mutual respect among citizens and groups. Fear and suspicion replace trust, and cooperation becomes difficult, such conditions are most severe when violence arises along ethnic or tribal lines. As

Udoh (2015, as cited in Aluko 2022) notes that insecurity that arises from ethnic or tribal settings, generates and leaves scars of ethnic prejudice, suspicion, distrust, hatred and discrimination.

According to Bassey et al (2024 as cited in Essoh, 2025), several people have lost confidence in Nigeria's criminal justice system and has led many individuals to take laws into their own hands, resulting in the rise of jungle justice. The growing loss of faith often results in lawlessness and the rise of jungle justice such as the one that happened in Esan North-East Uromi, in which people take laws into their own hands, such acts reflect a deeper break down in the rule of law that binds citizens together under one national identity.

As a result of the growing rise of insecurity, many communities have resorted to self help methods in dealing with suspected criminals giving rise to a disturbing trend known as jungle justice. This practice involves a group of people, often a mob administering punishment to an alleged criminal without adhering to established legal procedures (Oguntuyo & Agim, 2019, cited in Moriah, 2025). The practice is no longer limited to remote communities but is now visible in major towns and cities alike. In fact Essoh et al., (2024, as cited in Essoh, 2025) observes that in both rural and urban areas in Nigeria, jungle justice has become a distressing reality. In Esan Northeast, the impact of insecurity has created a climate of heightened fear and suspicion among residents. It was in this tense atmosphere that a tragic incident occurred. The tragedy in Uromi

unfolded when a mob set upon 16 Fulani hunters traveling through the community. Accused of being complicit in the serial security breaches that have rendered local farmers helpless, the hunters were dragged from their vehicles, lynched, and their bodies desecrated. The gruesome incident, captured in harrowing viral videos, has ignited fierce debates on security, ethnic tensions, and the government's inability to protect citizens from rampant violence and retaliation. (Punch, 2025)

Insecurity therefore, is not merely a physical or material problem, it is a social and psychological challenge that affects how citizens relate to one another and to the state. The state is expected to provide security as a fundamental component of governance. However when insecurity persists and violent attacks continue, the authority of the state is gradually eroded. This is because citizens begin to perceive the government as incapable of carrying out its constitutional obligations.

This study therefore seeks to examine the relationship between Insecurity, Jungle Justice and national unity in Nigeria, with particular attention to how the failure or inadequacy of formal state security apparatus encourages citizens to resort to self-help and extra-legal violence. By focusing on Esan North-East, the research aims to provide a localized understanding of how persistent

insecurity creates conditions for lawlessness and how these conditions further erodes trust, peaceful coexistence and the collective pursuit of national unity.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

We all know the devastating impact of insecurity in Nigeria and how it continues to undermine national unity, deepen ethnic divisions and distrust among various groups. The failure of the state to effectively secure it's citizens has contributed significantly to the rise of jungle justice, as communities begin to take laws into their hands. When the government is perceived slow or corrupt, people resort to extra legal means of protection and punishment. Mac-Leva et al. (2020 and Esara et al. 2023, cited in Essoh, 2025) opined that the escalation of jungle justice is due to widespread public mistrust of the police and the judiciary based on perceived corruption, lack of accountability and transparency among those who are supposed to fight crime.

Beyond this constitutional expectation, the reality in Nigeria shows that insecurity has taken deep root and continues to manifest in multiple destructive forms. Scholars have noted that the crises is not merely a security breakdown but a reflection of deeper socio-economic and governance failures. For instance (Oshio, 2009, cited in Irorohwo, 2023) points out that the challenge of Insecurity in nigeria is closely tied to widespread youth unemployment, weak governance structures and the county's slow pace of development, all of which have undermined

efforts towards nation-building. This has resulted in a situation where crime and violence are not isolated occurrences, but have become part of everyday life experience. In the same vein, Adegami,(2013, cited in Osungboye, 2022) describes insecurity as a “hydra-headed monster” which security agents in Nigeria appear incapable of handling.

The consequences of insecurity is far-reaching. The ongoing violence and conflicts have caused population displacement, which in turn has disrupted farming activities and hindered economic productivity (Akindoyin, 2024, cited in Akindoyin, 2025). This further fuels poverty and social tensions. Similarly in the words of Garba (2015, cited in Olabode, 2024) the socio-economic landscape of Nigeria has been blighted by the endemic twin evils of crime and violence.

In the case of Esan North-East, these dynamics are clearly reflected in the rise of jungle justice cases linked to fear of banditry and ethnic mistrust. Due to repeated experience with the Hausa-Fulani herders, residents have become highly suspicious of strangers particularly those perceived to belong to ethnic groups of the violent crime. This had led to the mob justice that happened in Uromi. The travelers said to be hunters, were on their way to Kano for the Sallah celebration when a mob intercepted and lynched them on suspicion that they were kidnappers (Bello, 2025). Such actions do not only result in the tragic loss of life but further deepen ethnic hostility between local communities and other groups in Nigeria.

Although studies have explored the broader issues of insecurity in Nigeria, the specific link between insecurity, jungle justice and national unity has not been adequately addressed. This study equally aimed at exploring the immediate and remote causes of jungle Justice, with particular reference to the incident that happened at Uromi in Esan North-East Local Government Area. This research aims to fill the gap by investigating the causes of insecurity in Nigeria, the factors contributing to the rise of jungle justice and how this practice reflects a broader threat to national unity in the country. This research also aims to provide insights to how such practices affects the cohesion of the Nigerian state.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aim of this study is to explore how insecurity, especially the issue of jungle justice affects national unity in Nigeria using Esan North-East as a case study. The specific objectives include:

- i. To examine jungle justice as a form of negative response to insecurity in Nigeria.
- ii To identify the causes of insecurity and jungle justice in Nigeria
- iii. To examine the nexus between insecurity and national unity in Nigeria

iv. To evaluate the roles played by government officials and security agencies in handling the case of jungle justice in Nigeria

v. To suggest possible solutions to reduce jungle justice and promote a stronger national unity

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In order to achieve the following objectives, the study will be guided by the following questions.

i. How is jungle justice a form of negative response to insecurity in Nigeria?

ii. What are the major causes of insecurity and jungle justice in Nigeria?

iii. What is the nexus between insecurity and national unity in Nigeria?

iv. How effective have government officials and security agencies been responding to jungle justice in Nigeria?

v. What steps can be taken to control jungle justice and strengthen national unity?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research is important for several reasons because it sheds light on how insecurity affects national unity, using jungle justice in Esan North-East Local Government Area as a case study. The research provides a localized lens through which the broader consequences of insecurity on the society is examined. The findings in this research are expected to shed light on the underlying causes of jungle justice as a negative response to insecurity that often arises when formal security systems are perceived as ineffective or biased.

Firstly this research will serve as a valuable resource for government authorities, security agencies and policymakers who are actively seeking to formulate policies aimed at combating insecurity and strengthening national unity. By revealing the root causes of jungle justice, this research will offer practical recommendations on how to restore public confidence in formal security and judicial institutions

Secondly, this study is beneficial to community leaders, civil society organizations on and human right groups advocating for legal reforms and social justice as it highlights the urgent need for public education campaigns on the dangers of jungle justice and the importance of upholding the rule of law. It will provide them with empirical data to support campaigns aimed at discouraging mob justice and promoting lawful conflict resolution mechanisms. It will also help

in designing community based initiatives that promote peaceful conflict resolution, tolerance and respect for human rights which are essential pillars of national unity

Furthermore, in the fields of academics, the study fill a gap in the existing literature by focusing on a specific local government area in Esan North-East, thus providing a case specific analysis that reflects the realities of smaller communities often ever looked in broader national studies. Future researchers will also find this work useful as it will lay a foundation for further investigations into issues relating to insecurity, vigilante justice, community policy and national integration.

In summary, this study is crucial because achieving national unity in Nigeria cannot be separated form addressing the root causes of insecurity and the breakdown of lawful institutions by bringing attention to these issues, the research hopes to contribute meaningfully to efforts aimed at building a more secure and united Nigeria.

1.6 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF STUDY

The study is focused on examining the impact of insecurity on national unity with a particular emphasis on the jungle justice in Esan North-East. This research investigates how the incidence of jungle justice as a response to perceived insecurity and the failure of formal justice system contribute to the further weakening of national cohesion and public trust in state institutions.

The geographical scope is limited to Esan North-East Local Government Area due to the recent reported cases of jungle justice and its relevance for understanding the broader national issue. The study primarily considers the perspective of residents within the community, including local leaders, law enforcement officers, eyewitnesses, victims and individuals who have directly or indirectly experienced jungle Justice. While insecurity manifests in various forms like terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and so on, this research is limited to extra judicial responses like jungle justice as a specific consequence.

Delimitation of this study includes its restriction to one local government area which may limit the generalizability or usage to other regions. Additionally, constraints such as time, financial resources and access to official or sensitive data may influence or affect how broadly the findings in this research work can be applied to other areas.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

INSECURITY:

Insecurity refers to the state of being unsafe due to threats such as armed robbery, banditry, communal violence which can create fear and reduce public confidence in state protection.

JUNGLE JUSTICE:

The act of taking the law into ones hand, often violently without legal authority process as a response to perceived criminal behavior.

NATIONAL UNITY:

The sense of belonging, trust and cooperation among citizens of different ethnic, religious or social groups within a country, promoting cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

ETHNIC TENSIONS:

The strain or hostility that exists between different ethnic groups often fueled by suspicion, conflict or perceived inequality.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. INTRODUCTION

Insecurity has continued to cause profound harm in the nation, undermining peace, stability, progress and even socio-economic development. The alarming rate at which insecurity is increasing pose a threat to national unity as it fuels distrust among different groups and weakens the bond that holds Nigeria together. According to Charas (2015, as cited in Odoata, 2024) Security forms the fundamental basis of human existence. Without it social, economic and political achievements cannot be attained. But with the persistent escalation of insecurity, Nigeria risks facing serious political fragmentation which could lead to national disintegration. Insecurity is heard in almost every part of the country ranging from terrorism, kidnapping, cultism, farmer-herder conflict, armed robbery etc, and also Jungle Justice which is a negative response to the rising insecurity in the country. Protection is very necessary because as Zabadi correctly states that, "until one can be assured of his physical safety, everything else will be meaningless" (Zabadi, 2011, cited in Zubairu, 2020). This section explores Insecurity, Jungle Justice and national unity.

2.2. THE CONCEPT OF INSECURITY

Insecurity has continued to pose a threat to Nigeria affecting all aspect of life. Adebajoko & Ugwuoke (2014 as cited in Faluyi, 2025) describe insecurity as a situation in which individuals or groups are exposed to persistent fear and danger, including threats, risks, molestation, bullying, harassment, and various forms of terror. According to Enarcata dictionary (2009, as cited in Odoata, 2024), defined insecurity as the state of being unsafe or insecure or a state of mind characterized by self doubt and vulnerability. One of the fundamental importance of the government is to provide security in its various ramifications, however the security of lives and property has been weak in Nigeria for about two decades as noted in the (Interdisciplinary Journal of economics and Business Law, 2025)

The concept of Insecurity can mean different things to people depending on their understanding of the term. According to Akanle & Shittu (2021, as cited in Olabode, 2024), Nigeria is not merely an African nation but one of major strategic importance. However, insecurity has become pervasive across the country, appearing in multiple forms and dimensions. Despite various government efforts and interventions aimed at addressing the problem, the situation has continued to escalate rather than improve. According to Arisuku (2017, cited in Olabode, 2024), explains that the roots of Nigeria's insecurity can be traced back to the early military era, particularly

during and after the Civil War, when weapons found their way into civilian hands. These arms were later used by civilians and former military personnel for criminal activities such as armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping, and hostage-taking, among others.

"Adapted from the Journal of Studies in Social Sciences (2020)", The rise of Insecurity is on the verge of being Nigeria's heritage as no single day passes without acts of Insecurity. More worrying is the fact that for undisclosed reasons, the Nigerian government seems unable to curb this threat. Nigeria tussles with Insecurity almost everyday, it affects all regions of Nigeria, it is most severe in the North-East, North-West and North-Central due to insurgency and banditry. However the southern zones, are also affected though in different forms, the South-East deals with separatist related violence, the South-South faces militancy and oil-related criminal activities and the South-West experiences urban crimes and kidnapping. but particularly in the North-East, North-Central and the Southern regions.

Nweze (2004, as cited in Zubairu, 2020) have pointed out some of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria which includes: The menace of unemployment and poverty, Elite exploitation of ethnicity and religious differences, Corruption, Weak security apparatus, Porous borders, Marginalization and Inequities in the country, Bad governance, and Poor leadership. Insecurity, a big threat that pose a great danger to the national unity of Nigeria have several manifestations which includes

some of the following; ethnic religious conflicts, politically based violence, economic based violence and organized violent groups, according to the "International Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (2015)".

The continuous rise of insecurity across Nigeria is both shocking and deeply concerning, as it reflects the growing fragility of peace and order in the country. Insecurity not only claim lives and property but also undermine the foundation of national unity. There have been statistical reports that shows the implications of insecurity in the country. According to the report released by Kimpact Development initiative (KDI), a non governmental organization has revealed that at least 91,740 Nigerians lost their lives to insecurity between 2011 and 2024 (Sodiq Omolaye, 2025). According to the report in 2014 alone, 14,470 deaths were recorded majorly driven by Boko Haram insurgency and communal clashes. From 2020 to 2022, the report noted that Civic space restrictions peaked with 440 cases recorded in 2021 largely due to government crackdowns after the #ENDSARS protests, while between 2020 and 2024 at least 1,196 security incidents accounting for 8.1 percent of all documented cases (Sodiq Omolaye, 2025).

Only in 2025 alone, there have been devastating news due to the security challenge. On the night of June 14 2025, unidentified armed assailants suspected to be tied to herder communities brutally attacked Yelewata community in Benue state, killing 59 people according to the state

governor. However media reports citing detailed list victims put the death toll at over 100 (Human Rights Watch 2025). Also in June 2025, a suspected female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device at a crowded food joint in Konduga near Maiduguri Borno state. The blast killed between 12 and 24 people (Wikipedia, 2025). In addition, according to (Vanguard, 2025) it said "Between November 2024 and April 2025, no fewer than 252 attacks were recorded, resulting in the deaths of over 100 military personnel and more than 200 civilians. Another recent case to have happened is on August 19, 2025. Gunmen stormed the mosque in Unguwan Mantau town in Kastina state during morning prayers on Tuesday. The bandits killed 30 people and burnt 20 others during attacks on several villages (Dyepkazah, 2025). From the foregoing incidents of insecurity recorded in 2025 alone, it becomes evident that the occurrence of crime and violence in Nigeria is on the rise. Efforts to address Nigeria's insecurity have fallen short with interventions failing to mitigate rising militancy, insurgencies, jungle justice, kidnapping etc. The inability to meet basic needs fosters grievances and leads to political, ethnic and religious tensions (Musa & Ismail, 2023, cited in Abiodun, 2025) capable of disintegrating the country.

2.3 THE CONCEPT OF JUNGLE JUSTICE

Jungle justice, a disturbing trend and negative response to insecurity is becoming a fast growing social challenge in Nigeria and despite the many interventions by the Nigerian legal or criminal justice system the rate of the occurrence of this trend is still arguably high in the country.

Jungle Justice also known as mob justice, vigilantism or lynching is an act whereby a group of people defies the law and (punish) by inflicting violence on alleged suspect of crimes and murder, theft, robbery, kidnapping, burglary, shoplifting, (sexual) assault and other violent and property crimes Metal (2019, cited in Shodunke, 2023). It occurs when a person suspected of being connected to a crime is accused and judged extra judicially without due process (Chalya et al., 2025, cited in Shodunke, 2023). For Chima, (2016, as cited in Mahmoud, 2022), Jungle Justice represents a severe violation of the basic human rights of a person accused of a crime, who is often stripped and publicly assaulted without any legal trial.

Jungle justice has become a living norm in Nigeria most especially in cities like Uyo, Aba, Calabar, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Rivers, Delta, among others (Orabueze, Okoye & Ohaeto, 2013, cited in Esara, 2023). It appears that the formal legal structures, which were inherited from colonial systems, have not adequately met the needs or expectations of the local communities. As a result, many individuals resort to taking the law into their own hands, engaging in jungle justice. Because of the widespread misconduct within Nigeria's criminal justice system, key institutions

such as the police and the judiciary have repeatedly become the primary targets of public criticism and distrust. (Oluwaniyi 2011, cited in Shodunke, 2023).

There have been several cases of Mob Justice in Nigeria which includes some of the following: One of the most popular reported previous case was the lynching of four suspected university of porthacourt students on October 12, 2012 over alleged theft in Aluu, a community in Ikwerre Local Government Area in Porthacourt (Wikipedia). Also Sound Engineer David Imoh was beaten to death on May, 12, 2022 over 100 Naira by Okada riders (Vanguard, 2022). Another jungle justice is depicted in the horrific killing of Deborah samuel, a Christian student in 200 level Home Economics department in Shehu Shagari college of education in sokoto on May 12, 2022 over blasphemy by angry Muslim extremist (Punch, 2022). On June 4 2024, a blasphemy allegation was made against Ahmad musa. He was lynched by a mob at the tipper garage in line district Abuja (Amnesty International 2024). Another recent case is said to have happened in Uromi Edo state. On Thursday March, 2025, a angry mob roasted alive 15 out of 27 person who were of the Hausa origin who identified themselves as hunters, they were traveling to the Northern part of the country from Rivers state for the Sallah celebrations. The Hausas said the rifles discovered by the vigilante groups were for hunting and were licensed , however they were accused of being terrorist and this resulted to the lunching of 16 of them (Vanguard, 2025).

Jungle Justice is a threat to the fundamental human rights. Jungle Justice weakens and destabilizes the rule of law within any society (Somer 2007, cited in Chukwudi, 2025). According to Adesiyan, 2018 & Ruwan et al, 2020, as cited in Chukwudi, 2025), Jungle justice persists across many parts of Nigeria, and there has not yet been any effective or consistent measure put in place to fully curb or eliminate this disturbing practice. It is seen as a quick response to crime but it still remains a very heinous crime and a negative response to insecurity.

2.4. AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL UNITY

National unity refers to the shared sense of togetherness, oneness, identity and purposes among the people of a nation, regardless of their ethnic, religious, linguistic, or regional differences or backgrounds. In the Nigerian context, National unity is very important due to the fact that Nigeria is a very diverse country with over 250 ethnic groups, multiple religions, wide geographical area and a long history of political and social fragmentation.

National unity is a “process that produce an omnibus of initiatives put in place by a state, its representative or institution guided by respect for the unique traditions and cultural background of ethnicities sharing the same polity with the goal of harmonizing all interest through a form of dialogue and representation and addressing differences that may be divisive and conflictual using the instrument of fairness, justice and equity in the sharing of resources, benefits, opportunities

and responsibilities in order to guaranteed stability, longevity and prosperity of the polity as long as the inhabitants decides to remain in the polity” (Zamare & Karofi, 2015). Also national unity refers to the political arrangement that embodies the shared identity, common purpose, and collective will of different groups who choose to coexist within the same territorial space, for the purpose of governance and action on behalf of all (Caplan, 2019, cited in Aragbaye, 2023).

Nigeria, is a former British colony that is located in West Africa and it is made up of people of diverse ethnic groups. However this diversity has not translated or evolved into unity. According to Atiku (2017, as cited in Eme-uche, 2020), unity is still a scarce resource among the Nigerian people due to the manner the country was created by the British colonial authorities and the failure of the Nigerian elite to create a true and viable nation out of these diversities. Before the advent of the British, Nigerians had lived independently within different communities and kingdoms. When the British colonial masters arrived they amalgamated distinct regions with different administrative systems, languages and cultures into one country in 1914 without considering the social political implications. This According to Ojo (2009, cited in Eme-uche, 2020) created unique problems not experienced by any state in the world, past or present. Sani, (2008 as cited in Zamare, 2015) added that this time around, it is not the foreign colonial powers but the Nigeria political elites groups who became dubious and corrupt propagating tribalism, religious sentiments and regionalism to settle personal cases and perpetuate them in power. It was

the disunity in Nigeria that also led to the the civil war also known as the Biafra war in 1967 to 1970, it was a war between Nigeria led by the Nigeria government and the secessionists state of Biafra led by Major Kaduna Nzeogwu.

According to Worldometer, the projected population of Nigeria is estimated at 239,121,459 million people (Worldometer, 2025). As a result, National unity is a crucial element for progress and stability in Nigeria. It is important because it promotes peaceful co-existence among people of diverse ethnic and religious groups, strengthens national identity, promotes social cohesion and create an environment where people can work harmoniously. There have been several efforts in Nigeria towards the attainment of national unity which includes; The adoption of a new constitution in 1999 (Eme-uche 2013, cited in Eme-uche, 2020) The preamble of the 1999 constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria affirms that the people of the federal Republic of Nigeria solemnly resolved to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation. Also the National Youth Service Corps in 1973 was introduced to aid National Integration in Nigeria as stated in Decree no 23 of 1973 (supplanted by Act in 2004). Also national symbols comprises ideas, objects and events that are national in character which are frequently employed by governments to secure legitimacy and foster national unity (Eme-uche, 2010, cited in Eme-uche 2020). Despite the existence of these programs and constitutional provisions there is little evidence that back up the point that Nigeria is experiencing a sense of national unity.

Presently national unity in Nigeria is threatened by insecurity, regional marginalization and widespread corruption, there is a perception that some regions are favored over some in terms of appointments, projects and policies. Insecurity ranging from banditry, kidnapping, herder- farmer conflicts, Jungle Justice also contributed to growing distrust among communities.

Nonetheless, National unity in Nigeria is still achievable. The idea of national unity should be thought to everybody especially the youths and younger children. (Shuaib 2012 cited in Zamare 2015) states that "To maintain peace and unity in Nigeria, massive enlightenment must be ensured". In essence enlightening people about national unity is important because awareness shapes attitudes and in return it influences behavior. (Ezeobi et al 2019 cited in Aragbaye 2023) argues that promoting National Integration is essential for building unity especially in societies that are diverse and characterized by differences in language, religion and ethnicity. Also there should be opportunities for Nigerians to come together and work together to create a sense of belonging. This According to (Zamare and karofi 2015) is important in countries like Nigeria where the lack of unity has been a longstanding issue stemming from colonialism.

2.5. CAUSES OF INSECURITY AND JUNGLE JUSTICE IN NIGERIA

Insecurity and jungle justice, two interrelated but distinct concepts have become the defining characteristics of the Nigerian environment. Insecurity and jungle Justice have continued to manifest as a recurring phenomenon, growing increasingly prevalent with the passage of time.

Insecurity refers to the state of vulnerability to crime violence or threats to life and property. (Adebanjoko & ugwuoke, 2014 cited in Odoata, 2024), opine that insecurity is the state of being subject in every respect to terror, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, harrasment etc. On the other hand jungle Justice also know as Mob Justice is a situation where by people take law into their hands and mete out punishment to suspected persons for heinous crimes. Both insecurity and Jungle Justice are are intertwined as insecurity creates a deep loss of hope and trust in state institutions while Jungle Justice emerges as a result to the perceived failure of government institutions and the Justice system. Several scholars have identified the various causes of insecurity like, (Ali, 2013; Okorie, 2011; Onyishi. 2011; Jega, 2002; Achumba & Akpor 2013; Ezeoba 2011 cited in Bello 2024) . This research will highlight the different causes of insecurity and jungle Justice, starting with insecurity.

CAUSES OF INSECURITY

- Poverty and unemployment: Unemployment, particularly among the youths has been identified as a major factor contributing to the rise of criminality in Nigeria. According to (Adagba et al

2012) cited in Bello 2024), as a result of the high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians especially among the youths, they are significantly attracted to violent crimes. The absence of employment have led people to engage in unlawful practices such as armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, cyber crime now referred to as "yahoo", banditry etc, which further fuels the insecurity rate in the country. Unemployment leads to poverty which can lead to insecurity. Aliyu, 1998 cited in Zubairu 2020) characterized poverty as a situation in which people live below standard of living income so that individuals and nation's are classified and identified as poor. Nwagbosa, (2012 cited in Odoata 2024) contends that successive governments in Nigeria have not effectively implemented measures to reduce unemployment and poverty which remain the primary drivers of insecurity.

- Weak security system: Weak security system is another underlying cause of insecurity in the country. The Nigerian security agencies such as the Nigerian Police Force, Department of State Services, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, Federal Road Safety Corps etc and other law enforcement institutions are often underfunded, poorly equipped and not trained properly to deal with the growing insecurity in the country. (Olorisakin 2008 cited in Zubairu 2020), asserts that the police population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450, which means that as a country, Nigeria is under policed which explains why the police force is unable to tackle the issue of insecurity effectively. Since the Nigeria enforcement bodies are weak, corrupt or slow criminals like bandits or terrorists

find it easy to operate therefore ordinary citizens are left unprotected so insecurity keeps rising.

So in summary if security institutions were strong crime would reduce.

- Porous borders: Nigeria, a large country with extensive geographical borders is poorly secured making it highly vulnerable and easily penetrable thereby allowing the unchecked movement of people goods and arms. (Hazen and Homer 2007 cited in Bello 2024). According to the Small Arms Survey of 2018, the number of small arms in circulation in Nigeria in the hands of civilian non state actors is estimated at 6,145,000 while the armed forces and law enforcement account 586,600 fire arm (The Nation, 2022). Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PRESCOM), it was revealed that Nigeria hosts 70 percent of 500 million illegal arms in West Africa (Daily trust, 2021). Furthermore, the porous condition of the Nigerian borders has contributed the unrestricted influx of migrants, mostly young people, from neighboring countries such as the Republic of Niger, Chad and the Republic of Benin accountable for some of the insecurity skyrocketing criminal activities in Nigeria (Achumba et al., 2013, Cited in Nzubechukwu 2022).

- Corruption: Corruption remains one of the driver's of insecurity in the country as it weakens state institutions and undermines the capability of the government to safeguard lives and property effectively. Corruption deeply threatens the fabric of the Nigeria society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo

2013, cited in Bello 2024). Funds that are meant to be allocated to improve the efficiency of the police force or other security institutions are squandered or illegally allocated by corrupt officials, instead of being used to purchase modern equipments or improved training. Corruption hinders national economic development by slowing productive growth, placing a heavier hardship on the poor, and weakening the impact of both local investment and external assistance.

CAUSES OF JUNGLE JUSTICE

The failure of the state or government institutions to address the problem of insecurity has contributed to the rise of jungle Justice. As a result many citizens have lost hope and trust in the formal Justice system resorting to jungle Justice a negative response to the growing insecurity in Nigeria. It is this loss of confidence in the Justice system that explains why mob action continues to thrive in many parts of the country. Below are some of the causes of jungle Justice in Nigeria:

- **Weak legal/Justice system or institutions:** The failed legal institutions is one of the major reasons why Jungle Justice is becoming prevalent in the country. Levine (2011, cited in Agba, 2020) asserts that Mob justice occurs when there is lack of faith in the police force and the judiciary. Many citizens have lost hope in the Justice system in Nigeria because of the inability of the judiciary to dispense Justice fairly or immediately without bias. The reason why the Justice system is usually ineffective is mostly due to corruption, they tend to turn a blind eye to the

reported offenders and it is this ineffectiveness that makes citizens lose faith and tend to carry out Mob Justice to perceived criminals.

- **Police misconduct:** The prevalence of jungle Justice in Nigeria is as a result of the widespread misconduct of the police force. The main aim of the police is to maintain law and order, protect lives and prosecute law offenders, however they have been accused of corruption or abuse of power. Since the police is usually corrupt, citizens are reluctant to hand over suspected criminals to them and instead Carry out Mob Justice, a negative response to the growing insecurity in the country.

- **Illiteracy and ignorance:** In many parts of the country especially in rural areas, the lack of education contributes to the practice of jungle Justice. According to Somer (2007, cited in Chukwudi, 2025), Jungle Justice weakens the rule of law within any society. The number of ignorance in the country is quite high thus many do not understand that an accused person under Nigerian law still has rights that should be respected. As stated in section 33(1) of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria " Every person has a right to life and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect to a criminal offense of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria".

- High crime rate and fear of insecurity: The persistent high rate of crime contributes to Jungle Justice. One of the most infamous case of Jungle Justice occurred in Aluu, a community in River's State where four University students were brutally lynched and burned to death after being accused of armed robbery. This killing was driven by the community's persistent fear of insecurity and robbery in that area. The most recent case of Jungle Justice to have happened is on March 24 2025, when 16 travelers said to be on their way from Porthacourt to the North for Eid celebrations were stopped by vigilantes and interrogated, not convinced were subsequently killed (Guardian news, 2025). Due to the high insecurity they were suspected to be among the terrorist committing havoc in their community.

From the causes pointed out above we can see that the causes of insecurity which includes poverty, unemployment, weak security system, porous borders create a sense of fear and susceptibility among individuals which in turn channel their anger into mob Justice. On the other hand jungle Justice is a reaction to the insecurity rate in the country as a result of when citizens loose faith in the Justice system. Unless insecurity is addressed, jungle Justice will continue to thrive as an alternative response although a negative one to the rising insecurity.

2.6. Jungle Justice as a form of negative response to insecurity in Nigeria

One of the most disturbing effect of the rising Insecurity in the country is the tendency to give rise to Jungle Justice. Jungle Justice is a situation in which a large disorganized crowd of people resort to violence and destruction in an attempt to ensure fairness and equity for themselves without recourse to institutionalized public bodies entrusted with this responsibility (Kodah, 2012, cited in Balogun 2023)). Regarding the reason people resort to Mob violence in Nigeria, many interviews explained that there is a cycle of impunity whereby victims were not protected by the state, perpetrators were not held accountable, and victims did not get Justice (Amnesty international, 2024).

The prevalence of Jungle Justice is largely driven by the public's urgent desire to curb insecurity and crime swiftly. However, this form of extrajudicial action stands in direct contraction to the principle of the rule of law. (Chima, 2016 cited in Mahmoud 2022). Jungle justice represents a brutal abuse of the fundamental human rights of a suspected offender, where the individual may be stripped naked, beaten, or even burned alive. Those who carry out such acts often take satisfaction in believing that they are delivering justice, despite completely bypassing lawful procedures. The consequences of Jungle Justice cannot be underestimated as innocent persons are frequently falsely accused, beaten or killed without any proof or trial. Through Mob Justice, the public takes the role of the judiciary by abusing the fundamental human right of a suspect.

In addition, the rise of Jungle Justice can be attributed to the fact that law enforcement agencies particularly the police are not effectively carrying out their duties, however this does not justify the practice as it still remains unlawful and a violation of human rights. There have been reported incidence of police brutality in Nigeria such as; The Lekki Toll gate shooting in October 20, 2020 during the #ENDSARS protest, where Nigerian security forces opened fire on peaceful protesters at the Lekki Toll gate in Lagos resulting in several deaths and injuries (Amnesty International 2020), also the killing of one Tina Ezekwe in May 2020, a 16 year old girl by a police officer in Lagos trying to arrest a driver who didn't adhere to curfew rules (BBC News Pidgin, 2020), etc. As a result of the police brutality on citizens, individuals feel reluctant on reporting crimes to these police or law enforcement agencies, they instead resort to lynching suspected criminals.

Insecurity in Nigeria continues to escalate on a daily basis, posing serious threat to peace and stability. Hardly a day passes by without reports of insecurity in one form or the other. Due to the level of insecurity in Nigeria, many communities have resorted to self help method "Jungle Justice" as a way of punishing suspected criminals. However this practice is not only unlawful but highly destructive to the society. According to (Mahmoud, Omojo & Nwokoro, 2022), innocent people are frequently victims since mere suspicion or false allegations can lead to Mob violence.

Jungle Justice also violates fundamental human rights. According to International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966 article 6(1) "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life". This treaty was ratified in Nigeria in 1983. Also the African Charter on Human and People's Right (ACHPR) 1981 article 4 "Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and integrity of his person". The 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria (as amended) also guarantees human life. This shows that jungle Justice is unlawful not only under domestic law but also in international settings.

In conclusion, Jungle Justice remains an unacceptable practice in Nigeria and everywhere in the world and cannot in any way solve the problem of insecurity in Nigeria. Rather than solving the problem, it promotes disorderliness, promotes violence and often result in the death of innocent people . Therefore it's important for citizens to rely on state institutions for Justice rather than arbitrary methods.

2.6 The nexus between insecurity and national unity in Nigeria

Insecurity in Nigeria has emerged as a widespread challenge that cuts across virtually all aspects of life. The nation is confronted with a wide range of security threats including kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry, terrorism, cyber crime and internet fraud, farmer-herder

conflict, etc each intensifying as each day passes. According to (Oshio 2009 cited in Oyibokure 2023)), Youth unemployment, widespread corruption, weak governance structures, and the country's slow pace of development have all continued to signal the depth of Nigeria's security crisis and the obstacles facing national development and unity. However, these factors extend beyond weakening nation building they also contribute serious threat to national unity as they foster mistrust amongst diverse groups, deepen grievances and weaken collective identity for social cohesion. To (Jacob & tenue in Ojo 2009 as quoted by (Onifade 2013, cited in Zamare 2015) National unity is a relationship of community among people within the same political entity. This is critical for Nigeria's stability, however the escalation of insecurity has resulted in undermining cohesion and fostering fragmentation among ethnic, religious and regional groups.

One of the most visible consequence of insecurity on national unity is the erosion of social cohesion and cooperation. Communities that once existed harmoniously are now marked by fear, suspicion and hostility. Walter, 2012, as cited in Daniel, 2020), asserted that the security problems in Nigeria have negatively affected how the country is perceived globally, while also posing serious threats to national unity and the continued survival of Nigeria as a single, stable entity. For example, in regions affected by persistent herder farmer-conflicts, relationship between ethnic groups have been cut short leading to cycles of retaliatory violence.

In addition, the Biafra agitation in Nigeria has significant implication for both insecurity and national unity. Insecurity arises as groups like the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed wing the Eastern Security Network (ESN) have been linked with violent attacks and the disruption of social and economic activities. At the same time the agitation directly threatens national unity by questioning the legitimacy of the Nigerian Government. Though under arrest Nnamdi Kanu through the group has been alleged to be the one consistently disturbing the governance of the region (Ogwu, 2023 cited in Ayorinde, 2024). Between July 3rd and 10th and 31st July to August 15th 2023, the group declared days of sit-at-home that were violently enforced. Thus separatists movement like that of Biafra undermines effort at national unity.

To conclude, the link between insecurity and national unity is complex. Insecurity erodes social cohesion, weakens state institutions and also intensify ethnic and religious divisions. Addressing this nexus is important and goes beyond security interventions. Sustainable national unity can only be achieved through inclusive governance, equitable economic development, promotion of social integration and mechanism that can build trust between the state and its citizens.

2.7. Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework of this research is based on two theories which are The social contract theory and The frustration-aggression theory.

The Social Contract Theory

The social contract theory was developed by philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean Jack Rousseau. Which emphasizes that individuals surrender certain freedoms to the state in exchange for protection and security. It suggests that individuals, originally in a state of nature form a society and government through this contract to escape an anarchic existence. The philosophers of this theory developed influential theories each proposing different views of the state of nature and the formation of societies through social contract.

Thomas Hobbes, one of the earliest proponents argued that In the state of nature, human life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short". He was the first modern philosopher to articulate a detailed contract theory (1588 to 1679). According to him in his (Leviathan 1651), the state of nature was one in which there was no enforceable criteria of right and wrong (encyclopedia britannica) The state of nature was therefore a "state of war", which could be ended only if individuals agreed to surrender some of their natural rights to the hands of a sovereign on the sole condition that their lives were protected by the sovereign power. In the context of Nigeria, continued insecurity illustrates the breakdown of this social contract. Thus when the state fails to provide adequate protection for individuals the trust in govt authority is undermined thereby threatening national unity.

John Locke's account of the state of nature was different. For him the state of nature is a state of perfect freedom as men were their own judge and master, each seeking his own good individually (Wikipedia). Locke (in the second of the Two Treaties of Government, 1690) differed from Hobbes as he conceived the state of nature not as a condition of complete license but rather as a state in which humans although free, equal and independent are obliged under the law of nature to respect each other's rights and liberty. Applying Locke's perspective in Nigeria, the rising insecurity erodes citizens natural rights and confidence in government institutions. This erosion fosters distrust among communities and weakens social cohesion.

Jean Jack Rousseau interpretation of the social contract differed significantly from Locke and Hobbes. Rousseau in *Discours sur l'origine de l'inegalitè* (1755; Discourse on the origin of inequality), held that in the state of nature humans were solitary but also happy, good and free. His concept of the social contract is rooted in the "general will". Linking his theory with this research, Inequality, selective enforcement of laws and uneven protection diminishes citizens sense of shared responsibility and trust in one another thereby impeding the collective efforts needed to achieve national unity.

In conclusion, The Social Contract theory basically explains that individuals in a society agree to give up some freedoms in exchange for protection to a governing authority. This theory

is important in understanding this research as it explains it theoretically. In Nigeria, insecurity such as banditry, armed robbery etc and jungle justice can be seen as the breakdown of the Social Contract. When the government fails to provide adequate security and justice, citizens may feel forced to take laws into their own hands. This erosion of trust in government institutions reflects a violation in the Social Contract..

The Frustration–Agression Theory

The frustration-aggression theory was introduced by a group of Yale University psychologist, John Dollard, Leonard Doob, Neal Miller, O.H. Mowrer and Robert Sears in an important monograph 1939, in which they integrated ideas from several disciplines especially sociology, anthropology and psychology. Also known as frustration-aggression displacement theory. It was further developed by Neal Miller in 1941 and Leonard Berkowitz in 1989. When first formulated, the hypothesis stated that frustration always precede aggression and aggression is the sure consequence of frustration. Two years later however Miller and Sears re-formulated the hypothesis to suggest that while frustration creates a need to respond, some form of aggression is one possible outcome. Therefore, the re-formulated hypothesis stated that while frustration prompts a behavior that may or may not be aggressive, any aggressive behavior is the result of frustration making frustration not sufficient but a necessary condition for aggression. This

framework helps explain why social or economic frustration in Nigeria such as poverty, unemployment often manifest in violent protests such as Jungle Justice, separatists agitation and communal conflicts all of which threatens national unity.

Frustration doesn't just lead to aggression, it can also increase prejudice because when people feel blocked or powerless they may blame or develop negative attitudes towards certain groups which can harm social cohesion. When people are frustrated they look for someone or something to blame. This can lead to prejudice which is an unfair or biased attitude towards a person or group. The idea is that frustration doesn't always turn to physical aggression, it can manifest as a negative feeling, stereotype or discrimination towards specific groups.

With regard to the increase of aggression, (Dollard et al 1939) put forth the suggestion that the strongest aggressive reactions are those directed towards the perceived sources of the frustration. This means that when people feel frustrated, their strongest aggression is usually aimed at whoever or whatever they see as causing the frustration. People tend to direct their anger towards the perceived source of their problem rather than expressing it randomly. In the Nigeria scenario when people experience frustration from insecurity like delayed justice or ineffective policing, they often direct their strongest aggression toward the police or government authorities because they see them as responsible for not protecting them.

The frustration aggression theory provided a useful framework for examining how insecurity affects social cohesion and national unity. In Nigeria widespread insecurity or ineffective law enforcement creates a sense of frustration among citizens. When people perceive the authorities or specific groups as responsible for security failures they may direct their strongest aggressive feeling towards them. This dynamic helps explain the jungle justice in Esan North East Uromi as frustrated citizens take laws into their hands causing aggression which resulted to the mob justice. Therefore, the frustration aggression theory not only sheds light on how insecurity can erodes trust in institutions, but increase social tensions ultimately threatening national unity.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Research methodology is the systematic and organized approach a researcher uses to conduct a study, encompassing the techniques, tools and procedures employed to collect, analyze and interpret data in order to answer a research question or solve a problem. The methodology is designed to provide reliable information on the implication of insecurity on national unity as well as how it contributes to jungle Justice.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design adopted for this study is the descriptive survey research design. It is a quantitative research approach that allows researchers to thoroughly investigate the background of a research problem. This research design is suitable for investigating the opinions and experiences of the residents in Esan North-East Local Government Area.

3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population of the study comprises residents of the Esan North-East Local Government Area. The population of the study refers to the entire group of individuals, objects, or events that

a researcher is interested in studying and drawing conclusions about. The target population study includes adult male or female who may have witnessed the incident of the Jungle Justice in their community. According to the 2006 National Population Census (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2009). The population of Esan North-East Local Government Area was 121,989, but using 1% projected population growth rate, it is estimated to be 147,266.

3.4 SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Due to the large population size of the local government area, it will not be possible to study every member. Hence a sample of 93 residents of Esan North-East local government was selected to represent the population. The study employed a purposive sampling technique which allows researchers to deliberately choose participants who have real life experience about the Jungle Justice and insecurity. Respondents were selected based on their experiences or exposure to the incident of Jungle Justice.

3.5 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The data required for this study were collected through a combination of primary and secondary sources.

Primary data were obtained using structured questionnaires. To be able to collect large amount of data quickly, the researcher used questionnaires. The questionnaire included both closed ended and open ended questions to capture both qualitative and quantitative information.

The secondary data included academic journals, newspapers, online databases, government reports as a supplement to the primary data providing background information and empirical support for the study.

3.6 VALIDITY OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

To ensure the validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire was subjected to expert review by the researcher's supervisor and other experts in political science and research methodology. Their suggestions were incorporated to ensure that the questionnaire was clear and unambiguous and intended to measure respondents view on Insecurity, Jungle Justice and its impact on National unity.

3.7 DATA PRESENTATION

The collected data were organized and presented using charts, tables and percentages to facilitate easy interpretation. Quantitative data were presented numerically while qualitative responses were summarized thematically to highlight patterns and trends.

3.8 TECHNIQUE FOR DATA ANALYSIS

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques, frequency distribution and simple percentage to determine the responses of respondents. This methods enable comprehensive understanding of the research problem and ensure conclusions drawn were well supported by the data.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected from respondents in Esan North-East Local Government Area on the impact of Insecurity and the rise of Jungle Justice on National Unity. The analysis is based on responses obtained through structured questionnaires distributed within the Local Government Area. A total of 100 questionnaires were administered, out of which 93 were completed and returned for analysis. The responses were analyzed using simple percentages and the results are interpreted in relation to the research questions and existing literature.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1:

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	40	43.0%
	Female	53	57.0%
Age group	18–25	45	48.4%
	26–35	22	23.7%
	36–45	9	9.7%
	46 and above	17	18.3%
Marital status	Single	51	54.8%
	Married	25	26.9%
	Divorced	11	11.8%
	Widowed	6	6.5%
Educational level	Primary	3	3.2%
	Secondary	6	6.5%
	Tertiary	63	67.7
	Others	21	22.6

Source: Field Survey 2025

The socio-demographic distribution of the respondents shows that out of the 93 participants, 40 were male while 53 were female. This indicates that females slightly dominated the study population. The age distribution reveals that the highest proportion of respondents fall within the youthful age bracket of 18–25 years. This is followed by those aged 26–35 years, while respondents aged 36–45 years constituted (9.7%), and those 46 years and above were (18.3%). In terms of marital status, the majority of respondents were single, representing 51 (54.8%) of the sampled population. Married respondents accounted for 25 (26.9%), while 11 (11.8%) were

divorced, and 6 (6.5%) were widowed. This distribution implies that a large number of respondents are unmarried individuals who may have more social interactions within the public space, potentially influencing their awareness and perceptions of Insecurity and Jungle Justice. The educational background of the respondents further shows that only 3 (3.2%) attained primary education and 6 (6.5%) had secondary education, while a significantly large proportion of 63 (67.7%) possessed tertiary education. The remaining 21 respondents (22.6%) fell under other forms of educational or vocational training.

4.3 Analysis of Data from Survey

Research Question 1: How is Jungle Justice a form of negative response to Insecurity in Nigeria?

Table 2: Distribution of responses on how Jungle Justice is a form of negative response to Insecurity in Nigeria

Statement	A Freq%	SA (Freq%)	D (Freq%)	SD (Freq%)
Jungle Justice is carried out because citizens feel unsafe in their communities	41 (44.1%)	28 (30.1%)	20 (21.5%)	4 (4.3%)
Insecurity motivates people to take laws into their their own hands	41 (44.4%)	47 (50.5%)	3 (3.2%)	2 (2.6%)
Jungle Justice occurs when security agencies fail to respond effectively	49 (52.7%)	41 (44.1%)	2 (2.6%)	1 (1.1%)
Fear of rising crime lead communities to resort to Jungle Justice	47 (50.5%)	42 (45.7%)	3 (3.2%)	1 (1.1%)

Source: Field Survey 2025

From the analysis above, the majority of respondents agreed that jungle justice is a reaction to insecurity in Nigeria. For the first item, 74.2% affirmed that jungle justice is carried out because

citizens feel unsafe in their communities, while only 25.8% disagreed. Similarly, 94.6% agreed that insecurity motivates people to take laws into their own hands, with only 5.4% disagreeing. Furthermore, 96.8% agreed that jungle justice occurs when security agencies fail to respond effectively, while only 3.3% disagreed. Also, 95.7% agreed that the fear of rising crime leads communities to resort to jungle justice, while 4.3% disagreed. This implies that Jungle Justice is perceived largely as a negative response driven by distrust in Security institutions and the general atmosphere of Insecurity in the society.

Research Question 2: What are the major causes of Insecurity and Jungle Justice in Nigeria?

Table 3: Distribution of responses on the major causes of Insecurity and Jungle Justice in Nigeria

Statement	A (Freq%)	SA (Freq%)	D (Freq%)	SD (Freq%)
poverty and unemployment increases the likelihood of Jungle Justice and Insecurity	50 (53.8%)	42 (45.7%)	1 (1.1%)	0 (0%)
Corruption in security agencies reduces public confidence and encourages Jungle Justice	50 (53.8%)	43 (46.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Slow Judicial processes push people to take immediate action through Jungle Justice	54 (58.1%)	36 (38.7%)	3 (3.2%)	0 (0%)
Ethnic tensions and community distrust contribute to Insecurity and Mob Justice	45 (48.4%)	26 (28%)	17 (18.3%)	5 (5.4%)

Source: Field survey 2025

The results indicate that the major causes of insecurity and Jungle Justice in Nigeria are closely linked to economic hardship, institutional weakness, and social distrust. A combined 98.9% of respondents agreed that poverty and unemployment increase the likelihood of Jungle Justice and

Insecurity, showing that when citizens lack economic stability, they are more vulnerable to frustration, crime, and vigilante responses. Similarly, the perception of corruption among law enforcement was widely acknowledged, as a total of 100% of respondents agreed that corruption in security agencies reduces public confidence and encourages Jungle Justice. This implies that people resort to self-help when they believe formal institutions cannot protect them. In addition, 96.8% of respondents agreed that slow Judicial processes push people to take immediate action through Jungle Justice, indicating that the Justice system is perceived as slow, unreliable, and inaccessible. The data further shows that Insecurity and Jungle Justice are also influenced by ethnic tensions. Specifically, 76.4% agreed to some degree, while 23.7% disagreed that ethnic tensions and community distrust contribute to Insecurity and Jungle Justice. Although agreement is strong, the level of disagreement suggests that ethnic and communal identity plays a role in some regions more than others.

Research Question 3: What is the nexus between Insecurity and National Unity in Nigeria?

Table 4: Distribution of responses on the nexus between Insecurity and National Unity in Nigeria

Statement	A (Freq%)	SA (Freq%)	D (Freq%)	SD (Freq%)
Insecurity weakens trust and cooperation among among different ethnic groups	48 (51.6%)	40 (43.0%)	5 (5.4%)	0 (0%)
Jungle Justice negatively affects peaceful coexistence in communities	40 (43.0%)	47 (50.5%)	6 (6.5%)	0 (0%)
Insecurity undermines collective National Identity and Unity	43 (46.2%)	44 (47.3%)	6 (6.5%)	0 (0%)
Communities affected by Insecurity are less likely to support collective National goals	45 (48.4%)	32 (34.4%)	14 (15.1%)	3 (2.2%)

Source: Field Survey 2025

The results of the analysis demonstrate a strong collective agreement among respondents that Insecurity constitutes a major threat to National Unity in Nigeria. A combined 94.6% of the respondents agreed that insecurity weakens trust and cooperation among ethnic groups. This suggests that persistent Insecurity fosters suspicion, fear, and hostility among different social groups who would ordinarily coexist peacefully. Similarly 93.5% agreed that Jungle Justice negatively affects peaceful coexistence in communities. This indicates that beyond the immediate

violence, Jungle Justice breeds long-term resentment, psychological trauma, and breakdown of communal harmony. Furthermore, 93.5% of respondents affirmed that Insecurity undermines collective National identity and unity. This implies that Insecurity not only endangers lives and property, but also erodes the emotional and symbolic foundations that hold the nation together. Additionally, 82.8% agreed that communities affected by insecurity are less likely to support collective national goals. This shows that insecurity discourages civic participation and public cooperation, as individuals become more concerned with personal survival than national development. In such circumstances, patriotism declines and citizens gradually disengage from national commitments. In essence, the findings clearly establish that Insecurity and the rise of Jungle Justice practices significantly undermines National unity in Nigeria. They create an atmosphere of fear, mistrust, and division which weakens social cohesion, erodes National identity, and hampers efforts toward peaceful coexistence.

Research Question Four: How effective have Government Officials and Security agencies been responding to Jungle Justice in Nigeria?

Table 5: Distribution of responses on how effective Government Officials and Security agencies have been responding to Jungle Justice in Nigeria

Statement	A (Freq%)	SA (Freq%)	D (freq%)	SD (Freq%)
Security agencies respond inadequately to incidents of Jungle Justice	46 (49.5%)	39 (41.9%)	6 (6.5%)	2 (2.2%)
Government interventions have not significantly reduced the rise of Jungle Justice	48 (51.6%)	36 (38.7%)	8 (8.6%)	1 (1.1%)
Citizens have low confidence in the Government ability to handle insecurity	46 (49.5%)	44 (47.3%)	3 (3.2%)	0 (0.0%)
limited law enforcement presence allows Jungle Justice to persist	48 (51.6%)	41 (44.1%)	3 (3.2%)	1

Source: Field Survey 2025

The data above reveal a strong perception among respondents that government and Security agencies have been largely ineffective in addressing the problem of Jungle Justice. For instance, over 91% (49.5% A, 41.9% SA) agreed that Security agencies respond inadequately when Jungle Justice incidents occur. Likewise, a combined 90.3% of respondents believed that Government interventions have not significantly curbed the rise of Jungle Justice. Furthermore, respondent views indicate very low trust in the Government's capacity to maintain security, as 96.8% agreed that citizens have limited confidence in the Government's ability to address Insecurity. This overwhelming response suggests a deep institutional legitimacy crisis, where state security

structures are perceived as weak, unreliable, or inaccessible. Additionally, the perception that limited law enforcement presence enables jungle justice to persist (95.7% agreement) shows that communities often operate in Security vacuums, where self-help justice becomes a normalized alternative.

Research Question Five: What steps can be taken to control Jungle Justice and strengthen National Unity in Nigeria?

Table 6: Distribution of responses on the steps that can be taken to control Jungle Justice and strengthen National Unity in Nigeria

Statement	A (Freq%)	SA (Freq%)	D (Freq%)	SD (Freq%)
Strengthening law enforcement will reduce Jungle Justice	40 (43.0%)	52 (55.9%)	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Community awareness and policing initiatives can prevent Jungle justice	45 (48.4%)	45 (48.4%)	3 (3.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Fair and timely legal processes discourages citizens from taking laws into their hands	38 (40.9%)	48 (51.6%)	4 (4.3%)	3 (3.2%)
Promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence enhances national unity	35 (37.6%)	55 (59.1%)	3 (3.2%)	0 (0.0%)

Source: Field Survey 2025

The data indicate a strong consensus on actionable measures to reduce Jungle Justice and promote National unity. A combined 98.9% of respondents agreed that strengthening law enforcement is a key step in curbing Jungle Justice. This suggests that communities believe that improved policing capacity, visibility, and responsiveness would significantly discourage Mob-driven

retaliation. Similarly, 96.8% supported community awareness and policing initiatives, underscoring the need for collaborative security models that integrate citizens, local leaders, and formal security institutions. This shows that respondents acknowledge the role of community-based preventive measures in addressing mob violence. With respect to judicial processes, 92.5% agreed that fair and timely legal processes can deter citizens from taking laws into their hands. This indicates public dissatisfaction with delays in the justice system and the belief that efficiency and fairness in legal proceedings would restore trust and reduce extra-legal punishment. Lastly, 96.7% of respondents agreed that promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence strengthens National unity. This implies that Jungle Justice is not only a security problem but also a socio-cultural issue requiring National orientation and peace-building programs.

4.4 Discussion of the Finding

In this section, the data were collected from a survey on the topic “The Impact of Insecurity on National Unity in Nigeria: A case study of the Jungle Justice in Esan North-East Local Government Area, Edo State. 93 questions were returned and filled out, therefore the analysis of the data was based on 93. This study sought to examine the relationship between insecurity and jungle justice in Nigeria, with particular focus on Esan North-East. The findings from the questionnaire responses provide significant insights into how insecurity shapes community

behavior, the causes of jungle justice, its implications for national unity, the extent of state response, and measures required to address the problem. The discussion is arranged according to the research questions to provide clarity and coherence.

Research Question 1: How is Jungle Justice a form of negative response to Insecurity in Nigeria?

Majority of the respondents overwhelmingly agreed that citizens often resort to jungle justice because they feel unsafe in their communities. According to Shodunke (2023), mob justice continues to be a major socio-legal issue, it is viewed as an attempt on maintaining local security while also reflecting public frustration and resentment towards the state's failure to guarantee safety and protect its citizens. Jungle justice therefore emerges as a direct response when the state is seen as unable to guarantee safety. Furthermore, the findings shows that insecurity encourages people to take laws into their own hands because formal justice systems are considered slow or ineffective. The judicial system is widely seen as slow, expensive, and inaccessible to the average citizen (Oguntuyo & Agim, 2019, as cited in Moriah, 2025). Mob action is therefore perceived as a faster way to solve crime, even though it is characterized by violence and brutality. The respondents also agreed that jungle justice often occurs when security agencies fail to respond effectively to crime related emergencies. In many instances, calls for

police intervention are either delayed or ignored, allowing crimes to escalate. When the public loses faith in the ability of government agencies to enforce law and order, alternative systems of punishment naturally arise. Additionally, the study revealed that rising crime rates intensify fear in communities, pushing them toward collective violence as a means of deterrence. This aligns with the findings of Numebo (2022, cited in Shodunke, 2023) which says that the rate of criminal activities in Nigeria particularly theft, armed robbery, murder, physical or sexual assault has led many communities to view jungle Justice as an alternative means to addressing the growing crime problem.

Research Question 2: What are the major causes of Insecurity and Jungle Justice in Nigeria?

The findings of the study reveal that a significant proportion of respondents agreed that poverty and unemployment are key drivers of jungle justice and insecurity. When individuals lack stable income, resources, and economic security, frustration increases and trust in the government ability to provide for citizens diminishes. This aligns with the findings of (Shodunke & Oladipupo, 2023) who observes that economic difficulty in Nigeria has been identified as a major factor contributing to the persistence of this problem. Corruption among security agencies was also highlighted as a major factor that encourages the spread of jungle justice. Respondents expressed that when law

enforcement officials are perceived to take bribes, release suspects unlawfully, or collaborate with criminals, the public loses faith in formal justice systems. Scholars have argued that the Nigerian police force is deeply affected by corruption. For instance Ubabukoh, (2013, as cited in Esara, 2023), notes that even when criminals suspects are apprehended and handed over to the police, they are often not prosecuted particularly in situations where bribes have been exchanged. In addition, slow judicial processes were identified as another significant cause of jungle justice. The legal system in Nigeria is often characterized by lengthy delays, bureaucratic hurdles or prolonged trials. In relating this to the findings of (Jejeu, 2012 as cited in Esara, 2023), who observes that in contemporary times, Jungle Justice has become a common mindset among lower class members of society who believe that court processings are are slow which may ultimately result in a denial of Justice. Moreover, the study found that ethnic tensions and community distrust play critical roles in sustaining both insecurity and mob violence. Nigeria is a very diverse country and in communities where ethnic or religious suspicion runs deep, collective insecurity can escalate quickly.

Research Question 3: What is the nexus between Insecurity and National Unity in Nigeria?

From the responses gathered, a large proportion of participants agreed that insecurity weakens trust and cooperation among citizens, particularly across ethnic and communal lines. This is in accordance with Udoh, (2015, cited in Aluko, 2022) who observes that insecurity rooted in ethnic or tribal divisions creates deep wounds within society, leading to lasting feelings of prejudice, suspicion, hatred and discriminatory attitudes among different groups. Furthermore, the prevalence of jungle justice was identified as a significant factor that undermines peaceful coexistence. Jungle justice operates outside the legal framework and is founded on retaliation, anger, and communal impulse rather than reason or legal evidence. When communities resort to jungle justice, they reinforce cycles of violence and resentment. Cited in Essoh, (2025), an accused person may suffer physical abuse which may include humiliation from the public or severe beating. The study also revealed that insecurity erodes the collective national identity that binds citizens to the state. National unity depends largely on the belief that the state is capable of protecting its people and ensuring fairness. When insecurity becomes widespread, citizens begin to question the relevance and competence of the state. Feelings of abandonment emerge, and citizens shift loyalty from national identity to ethnic, religious, or local identities. Additionally, communities affected by insecurity tend to withdraw from engaging in collective national development efforts. When fear dominates social life, citizens become more focused on survival rather than cooperation. Cited in Daniel (2020), as a result of the repeated crisis occurring in the

country the normal pattern of free social interaction among citizens has been disrupted, instead people now live with a more divided lifestyle forming segregated communities with constant mutual fear and suspicion.

Research Question 4: How effective have Government Officials and Security agencies been responding to Jungle Justice in Nigeria?

The majority of respondents agreed that security agencies often respond inadequately to incidents of jungle justice. This aligns with Amnesty International (2024) which observes that the fact these mob justice have persisted over time with few cases that have been investigated or prosecuted, demonstrates the failure on the part of the authorities to carry out their responsibility of protecting the citizens from violence. Many respondents expressed the view that the government appears more reactive than proactive and that interventions are often inconsistent or poorly communicated to local communities. When citizens perceive that justice is selective or that perpetrators of violence can escape punishment due to political connections or bribery, they become more inclined to take justice into their own hands. Another significant finding is the low level of public confidence in governments ability to maintain security and guarantee justice. This lack of trust is a critical factor driving jungle justice because individuals no longer believe that crime will be addressed effectively through official channels. In relation to Esara (2023), research

has shown that the primary reason individuals resort to jungle Justice is the widespread lack of trust in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the study revealed that limited law enforcement presence in many communities allows jungle justice to persist as a form of alternative justice. People in such areas often rely on self-organized vigilante groups or mob actions to deal with suspected criminals. This highlights the structural inequality in security provision across the country, where some regions are heavily policed while others are effectively abandoned.

Research Question 5: What steps can be taken to control Jungle Justice and strengthen National Unity in Nigeria?

The majority agreed that strengthening law enforcements is crucial in addressing jungle justice. According to Shodunke, (2023), citizens in Nigeria are often vulnerable to the unprofessional, abusive and unlawful behavior of police officers leaving them with little protection or effective means to seek justice. This therefore suggests that citizens recognize the role of a functional and credible security system in maintaining order and upholding the rule of law. Moreover, a large portion of respondents agreed that community policing and awareness programs play an essential role in preventing jungle justice. This aligns with (Balogun, 2023) who believes stakeholders, particularly in advocacy or civic education groups should engage in public enlightenment campaigns to educate citizens on the harmful consequences of mob justice.

The findings also reveal that respondents recognize the importance of fair and timely judicial processes in discouraging individuals from taking the law into their own hands. According to Amnesty International (2024), many of those who engage or defend acts of jungle Justice often rationalize their behavior by asserting that the legal and judicial system is ineffective or no longer capable of delivering fair Justice. Additionally, the study shows that promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and inter-ethnic understanding is vital to strengthening national unity. Jungle justice often emerges in environments where distrust, fear, and resentment among different social or cultural groups are high. Respondents' agreement on the need to encourage values such as forgiveness, mutual respect, and civic responsibility suggests that national unity cannot be achieved merely through law enforcement only but also requires deliberate social integration efforts.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

This study examined The Impact of Insecurity on National Unity in Nigeria, with particular focus on the Jungle Justice in Esan North-East local Government area. The study aimed to understand how rising insecurity and the increasing practice of jungle justice affects peaceful coexistence, trust in government institutions, and citizen's sense of unity. The research was guided by five research questions and data were gathered through questionnaires administered in the study area. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design with a sample of 93 respondents drawn from the population of the local government area.

The research was anchored on the Social Contract Theory and the Frustration–Aggression Theory. The Social Contract Theory explains that citizens surrender certain rights to the government in exchange for protection and security. However, the findings of this study showed that many residents believed that government and security agencies have failed to uphold this responsibility. This failure leads to a breakdown of trust and encourages people to take laws into their own hands. The Frustration–Aggression Theory further explains why jungle justice occurs. when citizens become frustrated by repeated cases of crime, slow justice, and perceived government negligence, they express their frustration through aggressive responses such as mob action.

The study established that insecurity in the study area has contributed significantly to fear, tension, and mistrust within the community. Many respondents agreed that they no longer feel protected by the government or security agencies. Due to the lack of adequate and timely response to crime, community members believe that self-help measures are necessary to discourage criminals. The findings showed that the communities resort to jungle justice is largely driven by the belief that the legal process is too slow or corrupt.

The research also discovered that the high level of insecurity has negatively affected social relationships among residents. This breakdown of trust undermines unity, as individuals and groups begin to act defensively rather than cooperatively. Communities affected by insecurity tend to prioritize self-preservation over shared identity, which weakens the sense of belonging necessary for national unity.

In addition, Respondents noted that poor policing, inadequate patrols, lack of resources, corruption, and slow investigation processes all contribute to public frustration. When justice is delayed or denied, citizens begin to see the state as incapable of protecting them, which diminishes the authority of the government and encourages the public to partake in jungle justice.

However, the study also showed that jungle justice does not create lasting solutions, instead, it increases violence and encourages cycles of retaliation. There were instances where innocent

individuals were victimized because accusations were based on rumor or emotional reactions rather than facts. Therefore, rather than promoting peace or security, jungle justice ends up destabilizing communities and weakening national unity further.

The research identified some measures that can help address the problem which include; strengthening security agencies, improving community awareness and policing and ensuring fairness in the judicial process, were noted as necessary steps. Encouraging peaceful coexistence and tolerance among different groups were also recommended to discourage mob justice.

In summary, the research found that Insecurity has a strong negative effect on National Unity in Nigeria, and Jungle Justice is both a symptom and a driver of this problem. Until citizens regain confidence in the justice system and security structures, jungle justice will continue to thrive.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

This study set out to examine the impact of Insecurity on National unity in Nigeria, using the Jungle Justice in Esan North-East Local Government Area as the focal point. From the findings, it is clear that insecurity remains one of the major challenges affecting community life and national cohesion in Nigeria. The inability of the state to provide adequate protection for its

citizens has created fear, frustration, and a general loss of confidence in formal justice institutions. As a result, many members of the community have resorted to jungle justice as a way of responding to crime and insecurity.

However, the study shows that while jungle justice may appear to provide immediate punishment for offenders, it has serious long-term consequences for the stability and unity of society. Jungle justice undermines the rule of law and encourages violence rather than peaceful coexistence. It creates an atmosphere where suspicion, hostility, and retaliation become normal. Innocent individuals are at risk of being victimized, and the cycle of violence continues without addressing the root causes of crime. This ultimately weakens social relationships, destroys communal trust, and threatens national unity.

The analysis further demonstrated that the persistence of jungle justice is closely linked to the inefficiency of security agencies and the slowness of the judicial process. When people feel abandoned by the government and denied justice, they lose faith in formal institutions and turn to self-help measures. This clearly indicates the urgent need for the state to rebuild trust by improving its response to crime and ensuring that justice is fair, timely, and accessible to all.

In conclusion, Insecurity has a profound negative effect on National unity and Jungle Justice is both a reflection of this insecurity and a factor that deepens it. If Nigeria is to promote unity and

peaceful coexistence, efforts must be directed towards strengthening security structures, enhancing community-police cooperation, and restoring public confidence in the justice system. Only in an environment where citizens feel protected, respected, and fairly treated can national unity be genuinely sustained.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Democratic Policing and Community Security Partnerships:

The government should strengthen democratic policing by ensuring that security agencies are accountable to the citizens they serve. This means developing community security forums where residents, traditional rulers, youth groups and law enforcement agencies meet regularly to identify security threats and resolve them peacefully. By restoring trust between the police and the community, citizens will be more encouraged to report crimes rather than resorting to jungle justice. Community policing should also include training officers on human rights, non-violent conflict resolution and cultural sensitivity. When citizens begin to see security agencies as protectors rather than oppressors, national unity and peaceful coexistence are more easily sustained.

Strengthening the Judicial System and Accelerating Justice Delivery:

The Nigerian judicial process is often slow, which frustrates citizens and leads them to take laws into their own hands. To discourage jungle justice, the government must implement reforms that ensure quick, transparent, and affordable access to justice for all citizens. Special mobile courts or local judicial panels can be introduced to handle minor criminal cases promptly within the community. Legal aid services should also be expanded so that even the poor can defend their rights without resorting to mob action. When justice is seen to be swift and fair, insecurity and retaliatory violence reduce significantly, thereby promoting national unity.

Public Enlightenment and Peace Education Programs:

Community-based sensitization campaigns should be organized regularly to educate citizens on the dangers of jungle justice and how it undermines national unity. Schools, religious institutions, traditional councils, and media houses should be used to spread messages on peaceful conflict resolution and respect for the rule of law. Peace education should emphasize that insecurity affects everyone, and only collective cooperation can defeat it. When citizens understand that violence and mob actions worsens insecurity instead of solving it, the culture of jungle justice will gradually decline. This creates an environment more supportive of unity and social stability.

Economic Empowerment and Job Creation for Youths:

Unemployment and poverty are major drivers of insecurity and mob violence. The government should invest more in youth training programs, skill acquisition centers, and support for small-scale businesses, especially in communities affected by social tension like Esan North-East. Creating job opportunities reduces the likelihood of youths joining cult groups, armed robbery gangs, or participating in jungle justice activities. Public-private partnerships can be introduced to create sustainable employment rather than temporary empowerment projects. When youths are economically engaged, peace and national unity become easier to maintain in the society.

Promotion of Dialogue-Based Conflict Resolution:

The government should encourage dialogue mechanisms like town hall meetings, peace committees, and neighborhood mediation centers to address disputes before they escalate into violence. These platforms allow grievances to be heard and resolved peacefully without resorting to jungle justice or other violent actions. When dialogue becomes the norm, communities learn to handle insecurity collectively and responsibly. Dialogue fosters mutual understanding, tolerance, and shared identity which contribute significantly to national unity.

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APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE RESPONDENTS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON NATIONAL UNITY IN
NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF THE JUNGLE JUSTICE IN ESAN NORTH-EAST
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE.**

Department of Political Science
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Benin
Benin City, Edo State.

Dear Respondent,

LETTER TO RESPONDENTS

I am final year student of the department of Political Science, University of Benin. I am carrying out a research on the topic, **The Impact of Insecurity On National Unity in Nigeria: A Case Study of The Jungle Justice In Esan North-East Local Government Area, Edo State.**

I am soliciting for your cooperation by answering the questions in this questionnaire. The response are going to be treated as confidential. Thanks for your co-operation

Yours sincerely

Fatihat Omuwa IKHARIA
Researcher

APPENDIX B: SECTION A: BIO OF THE RESPONDENTS

Section A: Demographic Information

Please provide the following details about yourself to help us understand your background.

1. **Age Group** : 18-25 (), 26-35 (), 36-45 (), 46 and above ()

2. **Gender:** Male (), Female ()
3. **Marital Status:** Single (), Married (), Divorced (), Widowed ()
4. **Education Level:** Primary (), Secondary (), Tertiary (), Others ()

Section B: QUESTIONS FROM RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Kindly tick the response that applies to your answer. The response Format are Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree(D), Strongly Disagree(SD)

RQ	How is Jungle Justice a form of negative response to insecurity in Nigeria?	A	SA	D	SD
1	Jungle Justice is carried out because citizens feel unsafe in their communities				
2	Insecurity motivates people to take laws into their own hands				
3	Jungle justice occurs when security agencies fail to respond effectively				
4	Fear of rising crime leads communities to resort to jungle justice				
RQ 2	What are the major causes of insecurity and jungle justice in Nigeria?				
5	Poverty and unemployment increases the likelihood of jungle justice and insecurity				
6	Corruption in security agencies reduces public confidence and encourages jungle justice				
7	Slow judicial processes push people to take immediate action through jungle justice				
8	Ethnic tensions and community distrust contribute to insecurity and mob justice				

RQ 3	What is the nexus between insecurity and national unity in Nigeria ?				
9	Insecurity weakens trust and cooperation among different ethnic groups				
10	Jungle justice negatively affects peaceful coexistence in communities				
11	Insecurity undermines collective national identity and unity				
12	Community affected by insecurity are less likely to support collective national goals				
RQ 4	How effective have government officials and security agencies been responding to jungle justice in Nigeria?				
13	Security agencies respond inadequately to incidents of jungle justice				
14	Government interventions have not significantly reduced the rise of jungle justice				
15	Citizen's have low confidence in government's ability to handle insecurity				
16	Limited law enforcement presence allows jungle Justice to persist				
RQ 5	What steps can be taken to control jungle justice and strengthen national unity in Nigeria?				
17	Strengthening law enforcement will reduce jungle justice				
18	Community awareness and policing initiatives can prevent jungle justice				
19	Fair and timely legal processes discourages citizens from taking laws into their hands				

20	Promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence enhances national unity				
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.