

Concerns for Citizens' Right to Freedom and Human Dignity in Light of Incessant Kidnappings and Justice Decadence in Nigeria

Mercy Bolade Adewusi-Bakare¹

{bolaadewusibakare@gmail.com¹}

Faculty of Law Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko Nigeria¹

Abstract. Nigeria has experienced persistent violent kidnapping of human beings for decades with negative impacts on citizens' right to personal freedom and human dignity. This study therefore calls for a critical re-examination of relevant legal strategies with emphasis on improving the crime incapacitating initiatives and administration of criminal justice system. The study is grounded in Preventive and Deterrence Theory and adopts a qualitative research approach using data from internet sources, government publications, and academic journals. Findings indicate that inefficient crime preventive strategies and poor governance have worsened violence in Nigeria, while also discouraging both national and international investment and straining foreign relations. The unethical conducts of political office holders and inadequate funding of law enforcement sectors are also identified as factors undermining justice delivery and the protection of fundamental human rights. The study recommends legal reforms aimed at strengthening investigation and prosecution processes and improving immigration policy, to better protect human rights and reduce persistent insecurity.

Keywords: Incessant kidnapping, Modification of existing legal strategies, Right to personal freedom and human dignity, Weak government.

1 Introduction

The right of innocent citizens to liberty, personal freedom, and human dignity are universal and inalienable.¹ However, this study observed that miscreants and terrorists have tremendously sidetracked the rights and plunged Nigeria into a protracted security dilemma

¹See Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). The focus of this paper is preventative strategies in light of the waves of kidnapping across Nigeria and weak governance. Considering the scourge of murder in Nigeria and the appropriate penalty to deter the crime, see Adewusi-Bakare M.B, (2024), Revamping Human Right to Life Through Effective Penalty for Offence of Murder: South Africa and Nigeria Perspective, *International Journal of Criminal, Common and Statutory Law*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, 2024, 101-110: (<https://www.criminallawjournal.org>). On the unethical practices of the Nigerian police, see Adewusi-Bakare M.B, (2024), Re-Assessing the Crime Control System of Nigerian Police Toward Ensuring Equity and Justice, *Journal of Legal Studies, Humanities and Political Sciences*, Vol.11 NO.3, 2024, 26-33.<https://sadijournals.org/index.php/JLSHPS/article/view/B94>; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14142833>

for decades, ranging from incessant kidnapping; mass abductions of school children for ransom payments, maiming and violent raping of victims.² According to Igbiniedion Dennis, “kidnapping is not just about ransom, it is often about violence, humiliation, torture, and the destruction of human dignity”.³ This reckless act of lawlessness has remained unabated with disastrous impact on the education sector, and economic development in Nigeria. For instance, on 21st November 2025, about 300 children and staff of a Catholic school in central Nigeria were allegedly kidnapped by gunmen in Niger State, Nigeria. According to SBM Intelligence (a Socio-political risk consultant firm), between July 2022 and June 2023, 3,620 people were allegedly abducted in 582 kidnapping cases with about 5 billion Naira paid.⁴ Diplomats and foreign investors cannot safely conduct their businesses in Nigeria. Between 2006 and 2007, about 295 foreigners were abducted, five died of injuries sustained.⁵

In assessing the efficacy of existing legal strategies in incapacitating miscreants and terrorists in Nigeria, it is discovered that the inadequacy of Nigerian government has negatively impacted the criminal justice system. Meanwhile, another crucial issue undermining human rights virtues and justice dispensation in Nigeria is gross mismanagement of funds meant for improving the security and welfare of the citizens.⁶

The paper reviewed relevant international statutory authorities and internet sources in proposing adequate improvement of law enforcement infrastructures. It highlights the crime surveillance strategies that must be adopted by the investigators towards effective prosecution of suspects, and concludes with recommendations on the need for effective modification of the relevant legal initiatives on crime and adoption of excellent model.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The prevailing insecurity and incessant kidnapping in Nigeria, contradicts the concept of justice and it has jeopardized victims’ rights to freedom and human dignity immeasurably and impeded the realization of democratic virtues. Despite the series of legislative mechanisms in Nigeria, there is a disparity between kidnapping rates and the perpetrators arrested, and those actually punished for their misdeeds. Hence, it is necessary to identify any shortcomings within the legal framework of Nigeria whilst also recommending global best practices.

² Mayeni Jones, Kyla Herrmannsen *Nigeria’s kidnapping crisis: Too scared to speak after hundreds of schoolchildren kidnapped* : <https://www.bbc.com>. 30 Nov. 2025.

³ Igbiniedion Dennis, “Nigeria kidnapping crisis: Beyond ransom, a trail of trauma and destruction ‘the hidden pain of kidnapping in Nigeria’: Edo Political Forum: , Facebook. 6th June 2026.

⁴ ALJAZEERA, *Why mass kidnappings still plague Nigeria a decade after Chibok abductions*: Pelumi Salako, <https://www.ajazeera.com>. 3rd April 2024.

⁵ Ngwama, J.C., & Justice Chidi, (2014). Kidnapping in Nigeria: An Emerging Social Crime and the Implications for the Labour Market. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol.4(1) <https://ijhss.thebrpi.org>.

⁶ Sheu, Habeeb A; & Ogunsola, Babatunde A. (2024) “*Corruption, Governance failure and the proliferation of kidnapping in Nigeria*”, *Journal of Management and social sciences* 13(2) p.130 jmsseditorial@gmail.com

1.2 Objective of the Paper

In light of the aforementioned, and considering the widespread agitation for freedom of movement in Nigeria, it becomes necessary to re-examine the effectiveness of the existing legal strategies taking into consideration public opinion, juristic initiatives and relevant international frameworks. The study seeks to address the basis of the scourge of kidnapping in Nigeria and explores effective preventative strategies towards incapacitating perpetrators while upholding citizens' rights to freedom and human dignity. Meanwhile, this author previously deliberated on the appropriate penalty towards deterring incessant unlawful killing of human beings in Nigeria and South Africa.⁷ On the other hand, other authors such as Abdulkabir,⁸ focused on the causes and solutions to the wave of kidnapping in Nigeria, while Tamayo Gomez,⁹ examined kidnapping as a social, historical, and political phenomenon.

1.3 Methodology

The paper utilizes a qualitative research approach, reviewed primary and secondary sources such as constitutions, treaties, legislation, conventions, case laws, and gathered relevant information from newspapers and internet sources in recommending that modification of existing legal strategies on enforcement of citizens' right to freedom and human dignity, demand urgency.

2 Legal Framework

In Nigeria, the principal legislations on crime are enshrined in the Criminal Code Act and Penal Code Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015. Other sources of law are the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (LFN) 1999, the Received English Law, Customary and Islamic laws. Each state in the Southern Nigeria has a version of the Criminal Code Act promulgated as a Criminal Code Law, while the Penal Code Law applies in each State within Northern Region of Nigeria.

Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 is the principal criminal legislation in Nigeria, also, the Child's Rights Act (CRA) 2003¹⁰ is only applicable in a few states that have adopted it, and only a few out of the 36 states in Nigeria have adopted the 2015 Violence Against Person Prohibition Act (VAPP).

According to Section 273 of the Penal Code (LFN), the punishment for offence of kidnapping is imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years and the accused may also be liable to fine. Similarly, Section 364 of the Criminal Code Act (LFN) stipulates 10 years' imprisonment for offence of kidnapping. However in 2022, the Nigeria Senate passed a Bill

⁷ Adewusi-Bakare, M.B. [2024]. Revamping the Human Right to Life through Effective Penalty for the Offence of Murder: South Africa and Nigeria Perspective. *International Journal of Criminal, Common and Statutory Law*, 4(2), 101-110. (<https://www.criminallawjournal.org>)

⁸ Abdulkabir O.S, "Causes and incisive solutions to the widespread of kidnapping in Nigeria: Current Administration under scholastic scrutiny": *Journal of political sciences & public affairs* (2017) Vol. 5(2).: <https://www.longdom.org>.

⁹ Tamayo Gomez, "The social construction of kidnapping: A critical Perspective"; *The British Journal of Criminology* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1093>

¹⁰ It was enacted by the federal government in May 2003.

imposing jail term of at least 15 years for whoever kidnaps for ransom payments, and death sentence in such instances where the victim dies.¹¹

Other strategic initiatives against kidnappings are Specialised anti-kidnapping unit within the major law enforcement agency; Anti-kidnapping Act; Police Anti- Kidnapping Squad; Department of State Services (DSS)

3 Contemporary issues

The contemporary issues in this study are highlighted below:

- Prevalent abuse of citizens' human rights in terms of violent kidnapping by terrorists and miscreants who kidnap for monetary ransom and in most cases rape and kill their victims, constitute a grave violation of personal freedom; human dignity and deprivation of liberty and has remained unabated for several years in Nigeria. According to American Psychological Association, Kidnap victims experiences physical and psychological trauma in the process of the ordeal ranging from shock; anxiety; depression, helplessness, etc.¹² National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) reports 570 killings and 278 kidnappings in April, 2025,¹³ while 1,172 people were allegedly abducted between January and September 2024.¹⁴ The legislature is obliged to adopt efficient strategies to tackle the menace and protect the inhabitants in compliance with the provision of Section 14(1) (b) of the Constitution of Nigeria (LFN) 1999 which provides that the primary obligation of the Government is the security of the people
- It is viewed that the Nigeria government lacks effective crime prevention initiatives. The law enforcement sector lacks adequate funding and modern technological infrastructures and sophisticated weaponry to incapacitate terrorists and miscreants. Thus, the criminal justice system is impacted by obsolete outmoded investigative techniques culminating in ineffective prosecution process whereby the gaps in the investigating process usually undermine the prosecution value. According to Ochuko Oluku; & Oba Inimiesi:
"The various intelligence bodies in Nigeria can best be described as mimic institutions designed in line with what obtains in other parts of the world. Though they bear the image of similar institutions in advanced countries, they are less focused on field intelligence functions. Their personnel are unpatriotic and unmotivated. They treat the business of intelligence gathering with levity, and resources allocated to them are often misappropriated."¹⁵ For instance, in Japan, the government adopts multifaceted crime prevention initiative consisting of community policing; grassroots volunteer patrols; situational environmental design; and

¹¹ ALJAZEERA, *Nigeria outlaws ransom payments, kidnap now punishable by death*: <https://www.aljazeera.com>. 27 April, 2022

¹² American Psychological Association (2013) "Adjusting to life after being held hostage or kidnapped". <https://www.apa.org/top/cs/trauma/hostage-kidnap>

¹³ Nigeria National Human Rights Commission: <https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng>.

¹⁴ Nigeria National Human Rights Commission, "Presentation of September 2024": <https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng>.

¹⁵ Ochuko Oluku; & Oba Preye Inimiesi, "Kidnappings in Nigeria and Intelligence Gathering", Journal of Social Theory and Research. Vol. 4 No.1, 2024, 69

rapid technological innovation.¹⁶ Also, UK focuses extensively on crime prevention strategies which includes Multiagency partnerships; Early intervention & diversion; Targeted Policing, etc.¹⁷.

- Inefficient governance and corrupt practices among politicians in Nigeria is a grave impediment to human rights concepts. Efficient governance depicts effective protection of citizen's fundamental human rights and efficient coordination and delivery of socio-economic services in ensuring accountability without diverting public resources for personal purpose.¹⁸ Nigeria was estimated to have lost over \$400 billion to corruption since its independence.¹⁹ Whereas, the political office holders should serve as a shield to the indigenes, however, they have negligently failed to counter terrorism and miscreants, but rather embark on reckless acts of empowering thugs with sophisticated weapons to attack / kidnap opponents in order to achieve their selfish political ambitions.²⁰ This contradicts societal interest and rule of law concept. For instance, President Tinubu reaffirmed his administration's commitment to judicial reforms when he directed the Attorney-General of the Federation to issue appropriate guidelines for the exercise of the Power of Prerogative of Mercy which includes compulsory consultation with the prosecuting agencies.²¹ However, there has not been a total compliance with this guidelines.²² Hence, there was massive public backlash against Nigerian President, Ahmed Tinubu for including those convicted of kidnapping, murder, fraud, and drug trafficking in the pardon list consisting of 175 convicts in October 2025.²³ This culminated in public outcry that President Tinubu is encouraging criminals.²⁴ Article 72 of the Constitution of India is an efficient model. It empowers the President to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment, but strictly in accordance to ministerial advice and subject to judicial review.²⁵ Similarly, in August 2025, the Public Relations Officer of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Bauchi Command, Ahmed Tata, recalled that none of the democratically elected governors in

¹⁶ Erik Herber, "Crime prevention in Japan orchestration, representation and impact of a volunteering boom", *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice* (2018) Vol. 54, pp. 102-110

¹⁷ Home Office, "Modern Crime Prevention Strategy" www.gov.uk

¹⁸ Sheu, Habeeb A; & Ogunsola, Babatunde A. (2024) "Corruption, Governance failure and the proliferation of kidnapping in Nigeria", *Journal of Management and social sciences* 13(2) p.130 jmsseditorial@gmail.com

¹⁹ Okoye Rita, "Corruption in Nigeria", *Ezekwesili Daily post*, 2012..en.wikipedia.org

²⁰ Egbel, Friday. R; Onyejugbu Dominic Chukwuemeka; Chinwere Uzochukwu, "Policy Flaws and Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria" *Journal of Law and Judicial System* Vol. 2, Issue 2, 2019, pp 23-28

²¹ Bayo Onanuga, *President Tinubu signs Instrument of Clemency and Pardons, moves Secretariat of Prerogative of Mercy Committee to Justice Ministry*, State House Abuja, 29 October, 2025: <https://statehouse.gov.ng>.

²² NALTF, *Details of the Presidential Pardon and Clemency*: <https://naltf.gov.ng>. 1ST Nov. 2025; BBC, <https://www.bbc.com>.

²³ Stephen Angbulu, *Tinubu revokes pardon for Sanda, 140 high-profile inmates*, *Punch Newspaper*, 30 October, 2025: <https://punchng.com>.

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Imo Udofa, "The Abuse of Presidential Power of Pardon and the Need for Restraints", *Beijing Law Review*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2018.

the state had signed death warrants since 1999.²⁶ According to the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS), as of March 2025, Nigeria had 3,688 convicted criminals on death row, an increase from 3,590 in 2024, and this is based on the Governors' reluctance to sign execution warrants.²⁷ This paper proposes that the law must be strengthened towards effective incapacitation of criminals through effective crime preventive policy

- The battle against terrorism ought to take a dynamic approach. Merely relying on militaristic is not sufficient, information gathering and intelligence sharing is a crucial factor that must be adopted to foil terrorism. For instance, in North America and Europe, the intelligence agencies which includes the Central Intelligence Agency; Secret Intelligence Service play significant role in ensuring that suspected terrorists are identified and apprehended before perpetrating violence.²⁸ The prosecutor must adopt strategic devices wherever an accused raises a statutory defence in extenuation, and the investigator has a duty towards the accused to ensure that an innocent person is not convicted, while perpetrators are dully punished towards upholding the interest of justice and societal virtues.
The paper contends that investigators must conduct investigation diligently and accurately with credible evidence through challenging any arbitrary evidence presented by suspects with a view to discrediting it.
- Another critical issue undermining human rights enforcement in Nigeria, is the statutory age for criminal responsibility. In terms of Nigeria Criminal Code Act (LFN) Section 30, children under 7 years are not criminally liable while those between 7 and 12 can only be held liable if the prosecution proves they had the capacity to know their actions were wrong at the time of the commission of the offence (a rebuttable presumption). Section 50 of the Penal Code (LFN) provides a similar concept. In terms of the Child's Right Act (CRA) 2003, and Section 29 of the Constitution (LFN), anyone under 18 years is a child, thus, criminal trials involving them is conducted in juvenile courts, with focus on rehabilitation, not punishment. However, many children under 18 are paragons and are highly capable to understand the consequences of their actions fully. Reducing this age would augment compliance with the required legal standards and serve as deterrent to others. The need to safeguard the rights of children must be balanced with the interests of the society.
- Considering the wave of kidnapping across Nigeria, the UN agency calls for justice: when he said: "We are shocked at the recent surge in mass abductions in North-central Nigeria, we urge the Nigerian authorities to ensure such vile attacks are halted and to hold those responsible to account".²⁹
According to Igbinnedion Denis, "The reality is that many victims return carrying scars that are not visible to the eyes. Some experiences are so traumatic that survivors may never fully

²⁶ Punch Newspaper, *Legal experts urge governors to sign death warrants*, Agency Report, 5 August, 2025: <https://punchng.com/legal-experts-urge-governors-to-sign-death-warrants>.

²⁷ *Premium Times Nigeria*, *3688 inmates on death row in Nigeria*, 12 March, 2025: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com>.

²⁸ www.capitolmarkets.com.

²⁹ Thameen Al-kheetan, "Nigeria: Hundreds abducted in the north as insurgent attacks rise": UN NEWS, Global perspectives. 25th November 2025

recover from them. Some withdraw from society, battle depression...even take their own lives”³⁰

It is viewed that, in such instances where perpetrators are caught while perpetrating violence, summary trial system should be adopted in order to facilitate justice dispensation without undue delay. Also, the government must support kidnap victims financially and medically. According to the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to life and human dignity, where a natural or legal person or other entity is found liable for reparation to a victim, they should provide reparation to the victim, and States “*should endeavour to establish national programmers for reparation and other assistance to victims in the event that the parties liable for the harm suffered are unable or unwilling to meet their obligations.*”

4 Findings

- Notwithstanding the persistent violation of Right to freedom and human dignity by miscreants and terrorists in Nigeria, only a minimal percentage of perpetrators are penalized. It is viewed that offenders must be punished in a way that is proportional to the crime committed so as to repose security assurance in the society. Also, criminals should be appropriately incarcerated, in order to enhance a peaceful co-existence of the inhabitants and deter the offender and others from perpetrating crimes.

5 Conclusion and recommendations

The study provides an in-depth analysis of the insecurity trends in Nigeria and contended that the unabated incessant kidnapping of innocent citizens in Nigeria, is unwarranted as it is contrary to the concept of justice. The paper reveals that weak governance and corrupt practices of political office holders tend to encourage a disregard for human rights doctrines.

The study discovered that teenagers are increasingly involved in violent and organized crime, whereas, majority of them are paragons and merely taking advantage of the statutory protection. Hence, if the age of criminal liability is reduced whereby teenagers are held accountable for their violent acts, it will serve as deterrent to others.

In light of the aforementioned, the paper recommends as follows:

- It is expedient the Government promote police-public cooperation, community policing, private security outfits, and embark upon effective funding of the security outfits. Hence, it is important to introduce enabling laws to back up and regulate the activities of the various vigilante and security groups.
- Surveillance and intelligence technology must be adopted with effective information gathering strategy encompassing intelligence sharing and efficient collaboration of the various security agencies with the communities; use of CCTV systems, motion-sensor security lights and drones to track kidnappers
- This paper proposes that the various law enforcement sectors be adequately funded and well equipped with modern technological infrastructures and sophisticated weaponry; and

³⁰ Igbiniedion Dennis, “Nigeria kidnapping crisis: Beyond ransom, a trail of trauma and destruction ‘the hidden pain of kidnapping in Nigeria’”: Edo Political Forum: , FaceBook. 6th June 2026.

enhancing training for the various security corps; vigilante networks; and law enforcement officers

- It is recommended that the various investigating departments be supervised by experienced and legally trained officers who should be responsible to testify in court concerning investigations conducted.
- The Nigeria immigration policy must be reviewed towards securing the borders and boundaries of Nigeria against the great influx of terrorists from neighbouring countries invading Nigeria relentlessly. The governments must ensure efficient natural surveillance system ranging from regular street and public road lighting for improving visibility without hideouts.
- There should be standard guidelines regarding participation and protection of witnesses in the legal process, they should be provided with adequate protection and financial supports. Most families cannot afford the lawyer's bills, meanwhile, the Legal Aid Council offers legal aids to those who cannot afford it, however, it lacks funding and human resources hence, many families end up withdrawing their human rights enforcement claims.
- It is paramount that the government rehabilitate the law enforcement sectors through regular trainings on how to utilise CCTV surveillance system and forensic evidence for effective investigation of criminal cases.
- It is expedient the government improve the salary structure of the law enforcement officers/ local security agents, and adopt a strategic pension and insurance schemes to motivate them towards efficient performance of their duties. For instance, in the UK, Police Pension Scheme provides baseline death-in-service lump sums for serving officers. The Police Federation Group Insurance local branch scheme offer around 120,000-pound life insurance baseline cover which includes terminal illness, for serving officers.³¹

References

- [1] Ngwama, J.C., & Justice Chidi, (2014). Kidnapping in Nigeria: An Emerging Social Crime and the Implications for the Labour Market. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol.4(1) <https://ijhss.thebrpi.org>
- [2] Adewusi-Bakare M.B, (2024), Revamping Human Right to Life Through Effective Penalty for Offence of Murder: South Africa and Nigeria Perspective, *International Journal of Criminal, Common and Statutory Law*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, 2024, 101-110: (<https://www.criminallawjournal.org>).
- [3] Adewusi-Bakare M.B, (2024), Re-Assessing the Crime Control System of Nigerian Police Toward Ensuring Equity and Justice, *Journal of Legal Studies, Humanities and Political Sciences*, Vol.11 NO.3, 2024, 26-33
<https://sadijournals.org/index.php/JLSHPS/article/view/B94>;
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14142833>
- [4] Sheu, Habeeb A; & Ogunsola, Babatunde A. (2024) "Corruption, Governance failure and the proliferation of kidnapping in Nigeria", *Journal of Management and social sciences* 13(2) p.130 jmsseditorial@gmail.com

³¹ Police Federation: <https://polfed.otg>

- [5] Erik Herber, "Crime prevention in Japan orchestration, representation and impact of a volunteering boom", *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice* (2018) Vol. 54, pp. 102-110
- [6] Home Office, "Modern Crime Prevention Strategy" www.gov.uk
- [7] Ochuko Oluku; & Oba Preye Inimiesi, "Kidnappings in Nigeria and Intelligence Gathering", *Journal of Social Theory and Research*. Vol. 4 No.1, 2024, 69
- [8] Egbel, Friday. R; Onyejugbu Dominic Chukwuemeka; Chinwere Uzochukwu, "Policy Flaws and Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria" *Journal of Law and Judicial System* Vol. 2, Issue 2, 2019, pp 23-28
- [9] Imo Udofa, "The Abuse of Presidential Power of Pardon and the Need for Restraints", *Beijing Law Review*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2018.
- [10] Okoye Rita, "Corruption in Nigeria", *Ezekwesili Daily post*, 2012..en.wikipedia.org
- [11] Mayeni Jones, Kyla Herrmannsen *Nigeria's kidnapping crisis: Too scared to speak after hundreds of schoolchildren kidnapped* : <https://www.bbc.com>. 30 Nov. 2025.
- [12] ALJAZEERA, *Why mass kidnappings still plague Nigeria a decade after Chibok abductions*: Pelumi Salako, <https://www.ajazeera.com>. 3rd April 2024
- [13] Igbinnedion Dennis, "Nigeria kidnapping crisis: Beyond ransom, a trail of trauma and destruction 'the hidden pain of kidnapping in Nigeria': Edo Political Forum: , FaceBook. 6th June 2026.
- [14] Bayo Onanuga, *President Tinubu signs Instrument of Clemency and Pardons, moves Secretariat of Prerogative of Mercy Committee to Justice Ministry*, State House Abuja, 29 October, 2025: <https://statehouse.gov.ng>.
- [15] Stephen Angbulu, *Tinubu revokes pardon for Sanda, 140 high-profile inmates*, *Punch Newspaper*, 30 October, 2025: <https://punchng.com>.
- [16] Thameen Al-kheetan, "Nigeria: Hundreds abducted in the north as insurgent attacks rise": UN NEWS, *Global perspectives*. 25th November 202
- [17] Igbinnedion Dennis, "Nigeria kidnapping crisis: Beyond ransom, a trail of trauma and destruction 'the hidden pain of kidnapping in Nigeria': Edo Political Forum: , Facebook. 6th June 2026.
- [18] Adewusi-Bakare, M.B. [2024]. Revamping the Human Right to Life through Effective Penalty for the Offence of Murder: South Africa and Nigeria Perspective. *International Journal of Criminal, Common and Statutory Law*, 4(2), 101-110. (<https://www.criminallawjournal.org>)
- [19] Abdulkabir O.S, "Causes and incisive solutions to the widespread of kidnapping in Nigeria: Current Administration under scholastic scrutiny": *Journal of political sciences & public affairs* (2017) Vol. 5(2):. <https://www.longdom.org>.
- [20] Tamayo Gomez, "The social construction of kidnapping: A critical Perspective",: *The British Journal of Criminology* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1093>
- [21] NALTF, *Details of the Presidential Pardon and Clemency*: <https://naltf.gov.ng>. 1ST Nov. 2025; BBC, <https://www.bbc.com>.
- [22] LJAZEERA, *Nigeria outlaws ransom payments, kidnap now punishable by death*: <https://www.aljazeera.com>. 27 April, 2022
- [23] American Psychological Association (2013) "Adjusting to life after being held hostage or kidnapped". [https://www.apa.org/top\[cs/trauma/hostage-kidnap](https://www.apa.org/top[cs/trauma/hostage-kidnap)
- [24] Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of (Nigeria (as amended).
- [25] Criminal Code Act (LFN)
- [26] Penal Code Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN)

- [27] Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015. (LFN)
Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (LFN) 1999
Child's Rights Act (CRA) 2003 ³²
- [28] 2015 Violence Against Person Prohibition Act (VAPP).
- [29] Section 273 of the Penal Code (LFN),
- [30] Section 364 of the Criminal Code Act (LFN)
- [31] Nigeria National Human Rights Commission: <https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng>.
- [32] Nigeria National Human Rights Commission, "*Presentation of September 2024*":
<https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng>.
- [33] Punch Newspaper, *Legal experts urge governors to sign death warrants*, Agency Report, 5 August, 2025: <https://punchng.com/legal-experts-urge-governors-to-sign-death-warrants>.
- [34] Premium Times Nigeria, *3688 inmates on death row in Nigeria*, 12 March, 2025:
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com>.