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Torture and Inhumane Acts in Nigeria: The Nigerian Government's Response to Human Rights Violations and the Impact of the Democratic System on Individuals' Lives

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Abstract

Often carried out by law enforcement authorities, military personnel, and other government institutions, torture and inhumane acts remain major human rights issues for Nigeria. Reports of violence, extrajudicial punishments, and coercive interrogation techniques continue notwithstanding constitutional protections and international human rights duties. The frequency of torture in Nigeria is investigated in this paper together with its underlying causes: political corruption, economic instability, and systematic mishandling of human rights. The study also examines the Nigerian government's reaction to violations of human rights, the function of international organizations, and the effect of democratic government on the safeguarding of personal liberties. This paper emphasizes the pressing necessity of policy reforms, law enforcement training, and diplomatic interventions to eradicate torture and promote human dignity by means of legislative frameworks, historical settings, and case studies. Among the recommendations include tightening legal responsibility, using intelligence-based interrogation methods, and improving global cooperation to stop violations of human rights.

Keywords: Torture; human rights violations; police brutality; military abuse; democracy; rule of law; corruption; economic instability; legal framework; Nigeria; intelligence-based interrogation; extrajudicial punishment; policy reform

Introduction

Many countries are nowadays pushing for and looking for the well-known type of government called democracy. When democracy and human rights are indistinguishable in certain conditions, they guarantee freedom, justice, and equality in all spheres of life. Democracy uses its mechanism to protect and uphold basic human rights, which are defined by their moral character, reasonable approach, and suitable degree of limited quantity. Furthermore, democracy guarantees the thorough defense of human rights in several spheres, like the right to life, liberty, property, freedom of expression, and personal security. Constitutionally, these rights have been clearly stated and assured. Unfortunately, poor handling of human rights has led to a notable

frequency of torture in Nigeria. By torturing people, government entities—including police and the military—engage in acts of violence.

Still, it is not unusual for government agencies—including military personnel and law enforcement—to practice acts of torture and other brutal treatment. Under military control, cases of torture and cruel acts proliferated as a means of punishing the violations of Nigerian citizens. Despite the frequent observation of such brutal acts, the conditions of torture have significantly compromised the principles of due process and the rule of law.

During government operations, several agencies—including police officials, army troops, and soldiers—committed crimes of inhumanity and torture. These agencies felt that using torture and breaching human rights were efficient ways to get clear, coherent information from people under investigation. This literary work explores in a Nigerian context the topic of torture and horrible crimes. It seeks to investigate the reaction of the Nigerian government to violations of human rights as well as cover subjects including poverty, corruption, and the economic state of the nation.

Chapter 1

1.0 THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR TORTURE AND CRUEL ACTS IN NIGERIA

Acts of torture and inhumanity, mostly committed in Nigeria, are carried out by police officials and military personnel, who frequently employ these techniques to confuse people accused of criminal activity. Reports show that in military barracks and police custody, where these methods are used to get confessions or gather intelligence by pressure, torture and brutal treatment are pervasive. Legal bans notwithstanding, these cruel techniques have become firmly rooted in the security procedures of certain law enforcement departments, especially in police headquarters, where they are routinely applied for questioning and monitoring.

1.1. Three Recognizable Frameworks in Which Torture and Other Cruel Acts Occur in Nigeria

1.1.1. Islamic Law (Sharia Law)

In Nigeria, three main institutions exist where cases of torture and cruel behavior arise. Among these is the Islamic legal system, sometimes known as Sharia law, which has drawn criticism for allowing harsh penalties deemed cruel and demeaning. Punishments for specific transgressions have been officially approved in numerous northern Nigerian states where Sharia law is applied, including amputation, stoning, and decapitation (Amnesty International, 2019). Human rights groups argue that such acts violate international human rights conventions, particularly the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), which forbids cruel, barbaric, or humiliating treatment or punishment (United Nations, 1984).

Furthermore, government agencies like the police and military have been documented in Nigeria to utilize torture to get information or confessions from people suspected of crimes (Human Rights Watch, 2013). Notwithstanding legal systems meant to safeguard citizens, the use of severe corporal punishments under Sharia law remains a topic of debate, particularly regarding its fit with human rights values (Okeke, 2017).

1.1.2 Police and Military

More specifically against individuals engaged in demonstrations and dissent, government agencies including the Nigerian Police Force and military have routinely been accused of torturing and physically assaulting people in the framework of police investigations and military operations (Amnesty International,

2020). In addition to international human rights treaties to which Nigeria is a signatory (United Nations, 1984), this behavior breaches Nigerian law against inhumane treatment.

Amnesty International (2014) has recorded several incidents whereby detainees under police custody suffered protracted imprisonment without trial, forced confessions, and severe physical and psychological abuse, including beatings. Moreover, the African (Banjul) Charter on Human and People's Rights guarantees that every person is entitled to the defense of their intrinsic human dignity and respect for their legal status. Emphasizing the Nigerian government's transgression of these values, Article Five of the Charter specifically forbids exploitation, slavery, the slave trade, torture, and harsh, inhuman, or humiliating treatment or punishment (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981).

Despite these legal safeguards, Nigerian security agencies continue to extensively use torture as a law enforcement weapon. Notwithstanding strong proof that these techniques are unreliable and violate basic human rights, reports indicate that Nigerian police and military authorities defend these acts as required for preserving order and obtaining confessions (Faul, 2015). Dealing with these abuses calls for police changes, rigorous implementation of anti-torture rules, and responsible steps to match Nigeria's security policies with international human rights criteria.

Chapter 2

2.0 UNITED NATIONS DEFINITION OF TORTURE

By applying the UN definition of torture, I have suggested that Nigerians should not give this definition top priority. We present the definition of torture below. First, it is crucial to understand that acts of torture and inhumane behavior reflect a suspension, repugnance, and disturbance of the basic human rights of people living inside a community. According to the following definition, one could consider torture a necessary element of human rights abuse.

The United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) defines torture as:

"Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity" (United Nations, 1984).

While this definition provides a universal framework for identifying and condemning acts of torture, its application in Nigeria presents significant challenges. The prevalence of state-sponsored torture, police brutality, and military abuses suggests that the principles outlined by the UN have not been adequately prioritized in the country's legal and security frameworks. Furthermore, the persistence of inhumane acts in Nigeria indicates a failure to fully integrate international human rights standards into domestic law enforcement and judicial practices.

Torture and inhumane acts represent a direct violation of fundamental human rights, disrupting the principles of justice, dignity, and due process. Despite Nigeria's commitment to international treaties, reports from human rights organizations indicate widespread violations, often justified under the pretense of national security or crime control (Amnesty International, 2020). Addressing these violations requires stronger enforcement mechanisms, accountability measures, and a shift in legal and institutional priorities to uphold human dignity and eliminate torture as an accepted practice.

Despite this, it is noteworthy that the current United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) does not specifically cover rape (United Nations, 1984). Nonetheless, Amnesty International (2019) recognizes rape

as a fundamental element of cruel acts and classifies it as a form of torture. As such, rape or pedophilia is a very repugnant and horrible occurrence of violence committed against women inside an institutional setting. Nigerian army and police officials must focus their attention away from the present knowledge of torture and cruel acts, as these activities compromise and weaken the fundamental rights and benefits given to citizens (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Using cruel methods of information extraction or extraction from people under suspicion is not the best way to get necessary intelligence from them (United Nations, 1984).

Methodically, the Convention tightly forbids any occurrence or clause allowing the use of torture by Nigerian troops or any other country anywhere (United Nations, 1984). Nonetheless, Nigerian police and military officials must get the information and skills required to carry out extensive investigations with the intention of generating strong and coherent evidence (Amnesty International, 2020). Moreover, the use of torture and cruel methods is not relevant when looking at criminal cases, especially in connection with physical violence such as beatings and the use of nails (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981).

Moreover, as stated by groups like Human Rights Watch (Human Rights Watch, 2020), both military personnel and law enforcement agencies in Nigeria must follow the set standards and rules concerning the defense of human rights. Thus, it is imperative that the United Nations, African Union, and Nigerian government cooperate to create a wide and all-encompassing range of new measures aimed at safeguarding the rights of individuals accused of crimes and ensuring that they are not subjected to unjust treatment (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981). Cognitive skills include intelligence as well as those of questioning, judging, and conducting interviews or discourse (Faul, 2015).

Chapter 3

3.0. Economic, Political, and Social Factors Influencing Torture and Inhumane Acts

3.1. Economic Factors

In addition, in underdeveloped and resource-rich areas, the Nigerian economic situation has been a major factor in the frequency of torture and inhumane crimes. Economic inequity, poverty, and resource conflicts have contributed to the increasing prevalence of militarism and breaches of human rights (Amnesty International 2020). Over the past ten years, the disintegration of economic ties has resulted in more government intervention, militarism, and overly forceful treatment of underprivileged groups.

The Niger Delta conflict, in which indigenous people—such as the Ogoni people—have experienced violent persecution in their fight for control over oil resources, is among the most well-known instances of this (Human Rights Watch 2013). Security personnel, particularly the military and police, have often used fatal force, torture, and arbitrary detentions against those accused of opposing government policies or multinational oil companies (Okeke, 2018). This economic conflict has resulted in systemic persecution of indigenous people, whereby demonstrations against resource extraction and environmental damage are frequently greeted with state-approved violence (United Nations, 2015).

Beyond the Niger Delta, economic struggle has driven criminal activity that has resulted in more government crackdowns and violations of human rights. People accused of theft, fraud, or insurrection are sometimes subjected to cruel questioning methods, arbitrary detentions, and extrajudicial killings as unemployment and poverty continue (Amnesty International, 2019). Economic policies failing to offer stability and job possibilities have led to a vicious cycle of violence whereby the state turns to force and repression instead of sustainable economic changes (World Bank, 2021).

Moreover, financial disparity directly affects the capacity of the government to defend human rights. Strong economies and stable governments help to explain why people support human rights campaigns, legal responsibility, and law enforcement openness more in those countries. But in Nigeria, economic unrest has resulted in weak institutional structures whereby law enforcement abuses and corruption are unbridled and unchecked (Transparency 2020). The use of torture and cruel treatment will probably continue as a tool of social and political control without economic reforms giving equal wealth distribution and employment possibilities top priority.

In Nigeria, poverty, economic uncertainty, and resource disputes, as well as other factors, have greatly influenced torture and cruelty. Marginalized groups will endure militarization, abuses of human rights, and government persecution if economic inequalities exist. Dealing with these problems calls for better legal protections, investment in human capital, and socioeconomic changes to stop state-sponsored violence and thereby preserve fundamental human rights.

3.2. Political Factors

Political instability has significantly contributed to the prevalence of torture and other cruel acts in Nigeria. One of the most pressing concerns is the Boko Haram insurgency, which has been linked to political manipulation, weak governance, and systemic human rights violations (Amnesty International, 2020). There have been allegations of collusion between some political figures and Boko Haram, with reports indicating that certain politicians have either directly or indirectly supported the group to undermine national stability or achieve personal political gains (Onuoha, 2014). This has further complicated efforts to combat terrorism and protect civilians.

Despite the Nigerian government's counterterrorism efforts, both federal and state authorities have largely failed to hold perpetrators accountable for the widespread use of torture and inhumane actions against citizens. Human rights organizations have repeatedly criticized the Nigerian government for turning a blind eye to allegations of extrajudicial killings, unlawful detentions, and enforced disappearances by security forces under the pretense of fighting insurgency (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

The Boko Haram insurgency has profoundly affected national security, freedom of movement, and economic activities in Northern Nigeria. Civilians in affected regions live in constant fear of attacks, restricting their ability to engage in daily activities and travel freely (Ewi & Salifu, 2017). In addition to Boko Haram's actions, rival factions and politically motivated groups have exploited the insurgency to advance their own interests, further destabilizing the region and contributing to a surge in human rights abuses (United Nations, 2021).

Beyond physical violence, Boko Haram's impact has extended to economic and social structures, leading to the collapse of businesses, forced migration, and loss of livelihoods in the northern states. Many communities that once thrived on trade and agriculture have been economically crippled, as people flee their homes in search of safety (Ogbonnaya, 2018). The government's failure to address these socio-political crises has allowed the cycle of violence, torture, and displacement to persist.

The intersection of political instability, weak governance, and insurgency has significantly contributed to torture and human rights abuses in Nigeria. Addressing this issue requires stronger accountability measures, increased transparency in counterterrorism operations, and greater efforts to dismantle the political networks enabling extremist groups. Furthermore, protecting civilian rights and ensuring lawful conduct by security forces must be prioritized to break the cycle of violence and repression.

3.3. Social Factors

Social components can assist those who have gone through multiple forms of torture—such as growing their family and social networks, practicing creativity, or getting spiritual support from leaders of their political group and local community. In some ways, societal surroundings could support negative emotions and powerlessness among those who have gone through torture. The emotional and psychological recovery of survivors depends much on social support structures.

Through intimate family, friends, or broader community connections, restoring social networks helps validate experiences and lessen isolation. Art, music, and writing are among the creative activities that offer therapeutic means for survivors to process and communicate trauma, therefore enabling them to recover agency over their stories (van der Kolk, 2014). Many also still depend critically on spiritual and religious support, which provides hope and healing following trauma (Pargament, 2002). Moreover, community leaders—inside political groups or regional organizations—can create communal healing environments that honor common pain and act for justice and reconciliation (Miller, 2009).

Social elements, however, can also have adverse effects on torture survivors, particularly in hostile surroundings or under stigma. In these situations, unfriendly people or lack of assistance aggravate emotions of powerlessness and strengthen a sense of victimhood. When destructive activities become accepted or justified within the society, social conventions can reinforce cycles of violence in conflict-prone areas. Douglas Noll (2011) claims that a basic tenet of the science of international relations is that people are essentially driven by self-interest and exhibit egoistic inclinations, which may lead to acts of violence, conflict, and aggression unless limited by the presence of a threat. This understanding of human behavior clarifies how violence can spread in such areas, especially in cases when the social and political systems fail to enforce responsibility and advance peace.

Boko Haram's activities provide a sobering illustration of how unbridled brutality and injustice may bloom. Boko Haram has heightened the sense of powerlessness and disappointment in impacted populations by their systematic use of brutality and terror. Rooted in a profound self-interest and contempt of human dignity, these acts have helped to widen the social and political crises and impede healing and reconciliation (Cook, 2015). As Noll advises, in the absence of stabilizing influences, violence and aggression become practical tools for expressing control, thereby extending cycles of misery and revenge.

Chapter 4

4.0 Nigerian Government's Response and Foreign Diplomatic Perspectives

Although the federal republic of Nigeria admits the lack of qualified and successful critiques, it has been claimed that it has knowledge and awareness of the use of cruel acts and torture inside the country. Still, the Nigerian government is aware of its natural weaknesses and tendencies toward ideas. But recently, especially under the direction of former President Goodluck Jonathan, the Nigerian governments—especially in terms of creating sensible plans to handle cases of human rights abuses and violations—have made great progress. According to Adamu (2013–2015), the Nigerian government is assiduously implementing policies to guarantee the availability and sufficiency of systems for handling cases of violations of human rights.

Diplomatically, acts of torture and cruel treatment violate people's rights; this is especially true in cases where techniques including physical beatings and nail extraction are used. Still, the main goals of this approach are to either destroy or marginalize the prisoners, therefore reducing the likelihood of torture and other cruel treatment in Nigeria.

According to Michelle Faul, the research by Amnesty International indicates that the frequency of torture in Nigeria has become rather standardized and systematized. The presence of unofficial officials in charge of torture (OC) in various military bases and police stations clearly demonstrates this. Still, the practice of arbitrarily branding and gathering many people and torturing them under the guise of spotting or apprehending Islamic radicals—extremists—is reminiscent of a historical witch hunt. Moreover, even to the most apathetic observer of human rights, the extent and degree of torture inflicted upon the male, female, and young population of Nigeria by the authorities assigned the responsibility of ensuring the welfare and safety of the citizenry is deplorable and terrible, transcending national boundaries.

The Nigerian government has set up a commission meant to eradicate the widespread torture practice in the country. It is noteworthy that the Federal Republic of Nigeria is aggressively tackling violations of human rights throughout the nation. Nonetheless, it has been noted that the Nigerian government has developed a significant budget plan of around 9 billion naira to improve and advance the basic human rights of people all throughout the nation. This includes ensuring fair treatment and providing consistent and appropriate medical care for prisoners. It is vital that the Nigerian Constitution acknowledge Chapter 2. R.P. Barton claims that the responsibility of protection is conventional and has increasing importance in contemporary diplomacy.

Barston (year, p. 4) claims that numerous kinds of protection that embassies and consulates are now obliged to handle have come from people's greater mobility, the growth of international sports, and the incidence of world conflicts. Particularly in relation to groups like Boko Haram, it has been noted that the Nigerian government has been actively establishing international negotiations and strengthening the bilateral relationship to eradicate acts of torture and inhumane treatment in the framework of the issue of torture in Nigeria, in cooperation with foreign agencies. Notably, human rights violations by the Nigerian military have deprived individuals of their liberties.

The 2013 World Report emphasizes the results of the United States Department of State, which cause serious questions about the abuses of human rights by the Nigerian security forces under their control against the Boko Haram attacks. The Nigerian government should communicate with the National Human Rights Advocate and pass laws requiring incarceration of those who transgress human rights. The human rights advocate has also made significant efforts to completely stop the use of torture as a means of gathering information from national citizens. This is so because the use of torture as an interrogation method is antiquated and useless, usually causing damage to human life instead of producing positive results.

4.1. Diplomatic Perspective

Diplomatically, the use of intelligence interviews—more especially, questioning and evaluation interviews—can help the Nigerian military and police significantly get positive results without turning to torture or other cruel methods. Unlike physical force, intelligence interviews—also known as non-coercive interrogation techniques—concentrate on obtaining information using psychological approaches, rapport-building, and critical questioning (McCoy, 2006). These approaches have been demonstrated to be more successful in providing consistent intelligence while maintaining human rights criteria (Shalev, 2005). Particularly with relation to its law enforcement departments, Nigeria has come under heavy fire recently over its use of torture during interrogations. One well-known instance happened in the past year when Nigerian police tormented a suspect. The suspect finally confessed to issues of which they had no prior knowledge as the degree of the physical abuse grew stronger.

This incident is a prime example of the larger problem: torture not only results in false confessions, therefore compromising the court system, but also fails to offer correct information. Torture has been demonstrated to corrupt the facts since people under severe pressure may confess to crimes, they did not

commit only to alleviate their suffering (McCoy, 2006). This approach thereby aggravates the issue of injustice inside the Nigerian judicial system rather than producing the intended results.

Given these problems, the Nigerian government must pass laws allowing the military forces and law enforcement agencies to employ intelligent interviews. The Nigerian military and police can increase their operational results and simultaneously defend individual rights by concentrating on intelligence-gathering methods free of physical violence. Effective worldwide initiatives stressing the need for psychological strategies over physical force might inspire the application of intelligent interviews (Shalev, 2005). These approaches—which rely on cognitive interviewing techniques, open-ended inquiries, active listening, and building confidence with suspects—all of which produce more consistent and useful intelligence.

To help victims of torture in their quest for justice, the Nigerian government can work with foreign human rights groups like Amnesty Worldwide. Advocacy of the rights of torture victims worldwide has been greatly aided by Amnesty International; their knowledge could assist the Nigerian government to solve structural problems with its law enforcement methods. Together, these groups can supply the tools victims need to pursue justice and advocate changes in Nigerian interrogation techniques (Amnesty International, 2017). This cooperation would be crucial in increasing knowledge of the negative consequences of torture on people and society, thereby helping to drive the justice system of Nigeria free of torture and cruelty.

Moreover, the general acceptance of intelligent interviews could support radical transformation inside Nigerian society. Studies have demonstrated severe psychological repercussions of torture, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), among other conditions (Shalev, 2005). Beyond the individual victims, these consequences sweep through societies and help to create a culture of mistrust, dread, and hatred. Nigeria may establish a fairer system that advances both security and human rights by offering a substitute that honors human dignity. Using intelligent interviews would probably result in more consistent admissions and help Nigeria's justice system to be more credible on the international scene.

Legally speaking, national laws in Nigeria already outlaw torture, as established in the Constitution and several international human rights treaties Nigeria has ratified, including the United Nations Convention Against Torture (McCoy, 2006). Notwithstanding these legal bans, torture is nonetheless rampant in the security industry because of ingrained systematic problems, poor enforcement, and lack of responsibility. Adopting intelligence interviews will not only help Nigeria to comply with world norms but also give its people the chance to exercise their right to freedom of expression and defense from cruel treatment.

Considering all factors, the adoption of intelligence interviews in Nigeria presents a viable and necessary solution to the ongoing issues of torture and cruel treatment within the nation's law enforcement system. Supported by international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, the Nigerian government might shift toward a more efficient, compassionate, and fair method of questioning that upholds human rights and generates more trustworthy intelligence free from using force.

Chapter 5

5.0. THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

5.1. ECONOMY IN NIGERIAN

Other businesses and services within the nation have faced several difficulties since the farm sector gave way to the oil sector. According to the Dutch disease theory, the immobility of sectors goes beyond the existence of oil and includes other natural resources such as gold, gas, and minerals. Before 1970, the main sector in Nigeria was the agricultural one. However, the commercial discovery of the oil sector and the consequent rise in prices throughout the mid-1970s have replaced agriculture as the main industry in Nigeria.

Researchers like Samson have already used the Dutch Disease approach to examine the Nigerian situation. This leads one to investigate the degree of the difficulties or interdependence resulting from the reliance on oil in other industries. To answer this question, a thorough investigation will be carried out all throughout a country in all spheres.

Poverty rates have increased, terrorist activity has grown, bribery has become more common, and other businesses have been abandoned or are declining as the agricultural sector gave way to the oil business. The government has tried to improve the agriculture industry, but poor implementation and use have regularly undercut its efforts. Although it is still a major industry in the economy, the influence of the oil sector on the GDP has been regularly dropping every year. As a result, Nigeria now boasts the biggest economy among all the countries in Africa. Still, the oil business has accumulated a sizable body of useful books and informational brochures. Most early and influential books on the topic provided an idealistic and utopian view of business. Okeke's (1988) study of the Nigerian oil industry claims that the country's notable increase in crude oil output has led to quick economic development, ranking Nigeria among the fastest-growing economies in emerging countries. But I contend that, mostly because of differences from the agriculture sector to the oil sector, this strong reliance on the oil industry for income production has generated negative circumstances for economic development in Nigeria.

The change in Nigeria's economy has led to increasing poverty's frequency throughout time. The change from a mostly agricultural country to one mostly dependent on oil has driven administrations to give the agricultural sector top priority to increase output in that field.

Furthermore, the agriculture industry has developed a link with the theory of economic growth and development to help to improve the development of human resources. There is now a greater demand for agricultural transformation than for economic transformation. The agricultural industry provides a major source of employment for about 70% of young people in most developing nations, especially in Nigeria. Given the main source of employment in Nigeria, the agriculture industry is rather important. The Nigerian government may properly handle problems including poverty, unemployment, and resource constraint inside the nation by giving the agricultural sector top priority and avoiding depending on the oil sector.

All things considered; a nation's foreign exchange earnings generation depends much on its agricultural output. Improving and growing the Nigerian agriculture industry helps to generate foreign exchange and is a major source of income. This is especially crucial since it lets income sources away from the oil industry be more diverse. Moreover, even in times of negative global food supply and demand, investing in agriculture can be considered a suitable approach for raising foreign exchange reserves inside the non-oil sector.

Furthermore, the agricultural sector significantly helps to meet the capital requirements for general economic development and expansion as well as increase farmers' income and therefore reduce poverty inside the country. Nigeria's agriculture sector is still vital for the general state of its economy even if its agricultural economy has changed to become the oil sector. With around 38% of the country's total GDP coming from agriculture, which has been roughly consistent over the previous seven decades, Nigeria's economy is clearly mostly rural. About 80% of the contribution made in the agricultural sector comes from crops; the remaining 4% comes from fishing and forestry. Moreover, it is important to underline that the agriculture sector is a major contributor to creating numerous job opportunities for the national labor force. This industry also performs the vital role of supplying the food and nutrients needed by the always increasing population.

5.2. Agriculture

With more than half of Nigeria's GDP coming from agriculture, the industry has become the main driving force since the country's freedom. However, the neglect of agriculture following the discovery of oil has

resulted in more negative impacts than positive ones. Although Nigerian agriculture has enormous promise, this potential is still unrealized. The current decline in productivity is characterized by a lack of growth.

Most farming systems, marked by their small scale, remain essentially subsistence-oriented and mostly dependent on weather conditions. Many agricultural policies have proven ineffective either because of insufficient data or because macroeconomic policies that affect capital costs, inflation, and exchange rates overwhelm them. Recognizing the urgent problems the agriculture sector faces; the Federal Government of Nigeria has decided that this is a vital subject needing quick attention and assistance. The present work evaluates Nigerian agricultural expansion opportunities using the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) approach. The results show that, in terms of monetary value, a slight rise of about 1% in technological developments within the oil sector generates the most significant welfare gains—\$142.72 million.

Looking at several food and agricultural industries, one finds that their worth exceeds that of the oil sector. Especially in terms of return on investment, some agricultural sub-sectors—such as livestock, fruit, and vegetables—outperform sectors of the oil and manufacturing industries. Moreover, the results show that in agriculture the results of technological developments related to unskilled labor show the best returns among many other industries.

Within the framework of food security, agriculture is rather important, as over 90% of Nigeria's total food consumption comes from it. This contribution is essential to ensuring the population's welfare and peace because it provides its citizens with the food and nutrition they need. Furthermore, the positive influence of agriculture in Nigeria has been crucial in promoting economic development and expansion, therefore producing the necessary funds for the execution of many developmental initiatives inside the nation. Olatunji (2002) claims that a sizable fraction of the adult population in Nigeria still finds their main job in the agricultural sector.

This industry has been crucial in supporting other sectors by supplying essential raw materials for manufacturing operations. Early in the 1950s and 1960s, agriculture was crucial in promoting economic development and expansion in Nigeria, therefore creating job possibilities for a significant number of people. Within the framework of the oil sector, the country saw a clear increase in the consumption of petroleum products, which led to an annual rise in the southern part of Nigeria of 23.4% from 1970 to 1978. Motivated by this positive trend, a refinery with a capacity of 160,000 barrels was established in the south-south region. Later, this growth also encouraged the building of a third refinery in Kaduna in 1980. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the oil industry has played a significant role in fostering the flourishing economy of Nigeria. Following the change from the agriculture to the oil sectors, the tertiary sector is critical in creating job possibilities for the working people of Nigeria.

Beginning in the 1970s and continuing now, the oil industry has made major contributions to revenue generation in Nigeria. Government income and foreign exchange gains have always come mostly from oil. The plentiful oil reserves can help explain the considerable increase in foreign investment. Moreover, the income from oil has been critical in promoting sensible economic development and growth. Oil has been a significant source of government income since the 1970s, enabling the establishment of investments and successful businesses.

5.3.OIL SECTOR IN NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT

Once considered the pillar of economic prosperity, Nigeria's oil industry has had a mainly negative impact on its economy and progress. Particularly in the Niger Delta area, Nigeria's great oil wealth has not matched the sector's contribution to the nation's crises over to its prosperity. Policymakers, companies, and the public all find this controversial as the extraction and exports of oil have aggravated poverty, environmental damage, and social injustice.

The existence of oil in Nigeria has resulted in what is sometimes known as the "resource curse"—a paradox whereby nations rich in natural resources typically suffer from poorer economic results and slower progress (Ross, 2012). Though most of the Nigeria's oil is taken from the Niger Delta, where the local population still suffers great poverty and hardship, the oil industry generates great riches here (Okona & Douglas, 2003). While the government spends large sums of money on oil-related initiatives without helping the local community, the oil-rich area lacks access to essential social amenities, including clean water, electricity, and healthcare (Ibaka, 2001). The mismanagement of oil money, corruption, and the disregard of local development mostly account for this phenomenon, as massive extraction operations prioritize multinational oil corporations over the welfare of Nigerian people.

Beyond the social and economic domains, the detrimental influence of the oil sector has profoundly harmed Nigerian banking and economic growth. Rising investor confidence and increased risk in local and international financial transactions have caused oil-related conflicts, now a regular part of Nigerian life, to disturb the banking industry (Jebli & Ojo, 2017). This instability deters foreign investment and stunts the expansion of other industries, including manufacturing and agriculture. Furthermore, oil-related conflict—which is typified by terrorist groups in the Niger Delta—has reduced the security of the nation, therefore discouraging economic development and the creation of a solid banking system.

Furthermore, the effects of Nigerian oil output on the surroundings have been disastrous. Fertile land has been destroyed, and air and water pollution has resulted from oil spills, gas flaring, and careless waste management; aquatic habitats that local populations depend on for their livelihoods have also been damaged. Particularly affecting the people nearest to the oil extraction sites, these environmental difficulties have caused major health problems in the Niger Delta, including respiratory diseases, cancer, and other chronic disorders (Ite, 2012). The deterioration of land makes it impossible for nearby farmers to grow food, therefore jeopardizing food security and aggravating poverty in the area.

Considering these unfavorable effects, the researcher think Nigeria should change its strong dependence on the oil industry and pay more attention to the agriculture sector. Once the foundation of Nigeria's economy, agriculture can create more employment, enhance public health, and drive environmentally friendly economic development. Reviving the agricultural industry would assist in lowering unemployment, lessening poverty, and improving access to basics including food, clean water, and healthcare (Fakayode & Olorunfoba, 2015). Moreover, investments in the agricultural sector could help small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), main drivers of economic development in underdeveloped countries, greatly profit. By encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in rural Nigeria, SMEs will boost local economies, generate employment possibilities, and enhance livelihoods.

Nigeria must give agricultural development priority if it is to really overcome the obstacles presented by the oil industry, thereby ensuring that rural areas are helped with the required technical training, financial resources, and infrastructure. The government should fund agricultural innovations, give farmers incentives, and construct the required infrastructure to assist in environmentally friendly farming methods. This change will not only lessen Nigeria's reliance on oil income but also build a stronger economy able to resist world economic swings that sometimes leave oil-dependent nations exposed to crisis. Although the oil industry has brought Nigeria temporary riches, its long-term effects have been mostly negative for the nation's economy, people's health, and stability of its financial system. Securing a prosperous future for the Nigerian population depends on a combined effort to emphasize agriculture and support sustainable development.

Chapter 6

6.0. Poverty and Corruption Practices in Nigeria

Nigeria has gone through a succession of both internal and outside crises since winning its freedom in 1960. Due mostly to Nigeria's vast natural resources and national ranking as the most populous nation in Africa, the three main ethnic groups of the country—Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo—have long fought for political power (Ikelegbe, 2006). Many military coups d'états resulting from this struggle for power have involved bloodshed and violence as major political leaders tried to grab control by force. These coups were mostly meant to seize control of the giant resources of the country, especially the wealth of oil, and keep power via military rule (Suberu, 2001).

The self-centered goals of those in positions of authority within the federal government help to explain the general degree of governmental corruption in Nigeria. The Nigerian political system has rooted corruption for decades, leading to its rampant growth (Okigbo, 2012). Transparency International (2020) ranks Nigeria as among the most corrupt countries in the world still. Dealing with this ingrained problem calls for a thorough reorganization of government agencies such that individuals engaged in dishonest behavior face severe penalties and that openness is given top priority in all government operations.

Corruption, particularly among the political and commercial elite, sustains poverty in Nigeria to a great extent. Driven more by personal benefit than a dedication to societal progress, the ruling class sometimes shows traits of bad leadership (Oluwatayo, 2011). Especially in sectors like customs and excise, these leaders regularly engage in corrupt activities like bribery and misappropriation of public monies (Ikelegbe, 2006). This often exacerbates poverty and inequality in the nation by siphoning off state resources for personal wealth instead of prioritizing the development of Nigeria's great people and material resources.

Nigeria still suffers from widespread poverty and inequality even if it claims one of the biggest economies in Africa. The general corruption in the governmental and business spheres aggravates economic uncertainty even more (Ajakaiye, 2019). The distribution of public money into private hands stunts the nation's progress and results in little to no advantage for the people. Particularly due to terrorist groups like Boko Haram, the severe degrees of insecurity in the nation have also hampered Nigeria's economic development and discouraged foreign investment (Akinola, 2020). Investors continue to exercise caution when allocating funds to a country that cannot guarantee security, thereby exacerbating the economic stagnation.

For Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency poses a major security threat, having resulted in many attacks, kidnappings, and a high death toll (Oluwaseun, 2018). The insurgency has displaced thousands of people and destroyed important infrastructure, aggravating the nation's security issues. This uncertainty, combined with systematic corruption, starts a vicious cycle that aggravates national poverty. Particularly in the northeastern area where Boko Haram operates, the Nigerian government has battled to handle both problems properly, therefore erasing the state's power and control (Akinola, 2020). Unquestionably, then, the relationship between poverty and insecurity is one whereby both events support one another and impede development. Nigeria still struggles with poverty and instability even if it has a booming population and plenty of natural riches. Dealing with corruption and insurgency would need both a reform of political systems and a fresh emphasis on national security since they remain fundamental impediments to the growth of the country (Okigbo, 2012).

6.1. POVERTY

The Oxford English Dictionary defines poverty as the state or condition distinguished by a lack of significant wealth or restricted possession of tangible resources. But when one is already living a fulfilled and contented

life, what is the underlying goal in striving for riches? The search for a simpler existence marked by happiness and satisfaction is intrinsically more satisfying than the search for wealth and the related sadness. Although the Food Poverty Profile for Nigeria (2014) offers a justification for the quite high poverty rates in the nation, more investigation is required to precisely estimate the degree of deprivation there is.

People living under the poverty line—that is, \$2 a day—may go without meals because of financial restrictions, underscoring the challenges of surviving on such a low income. Given access to drinkable water, the person lives in a livable house. Food poverty affects approximately half of the Nigerian population—174 million people—based on Ozughalu, Ogwumike, and Fidelis' 2014 estimates. Still, Nigeria boasts plenty of natural and human resources.

Confidential several African countries, including Nigeria, with the biggest economy on the continent, poverty has become a major focus point. The 2014 Economic Outlook Report of Nigeria indicated that poverty rates were expected to drop soon, therefore reducing the current somewhat high levels of destitution in Nigeria. The 2014 Food Poverty Profile for Nigeria clarified the effects of food shortage there and suggested possible remedies to solve this problem.

Nigeria is now in a moment of transformation and growth. Having become independent 64 years ago, this country has many achievements to show, including major contributions in the domains of oil, agriculture, natural gas, coal, and many other minerals. The current state of affairs covers not only poverty but also issues of corruption, misallocation of resources, economic instability, and the effect of greed, among other elements. The inability of a country to develop amid numerous challenges calls for the application of a measurable strategy of action.

Ogunleye (2008) claims that one practical way a nation may perhaps contribute to its general growth is by implementing good management and best use of its resource endowment. Working with Eric requires a unique set of talents to effectively pursue this direction. Moreover, the current chapter focuses on the causal link among corruption, poor resource management, and the general Nigerian state of poverty. Apart from hindering national development, elements like insecurity and insufficient infrastructure also operate as further restrictions. Establishing a strategic alliance between Nigeria, UNICEF, and other international agencies committed to eradicating world poverty could help bring about a good impact.

The rise in population has presented major difficulties for many cities, especially the flood of immigrants from all around the world to Nigeria. If the government is to significantly lower poverty, it must give initiatives in rural areas top priority since these areas suffer disproportionately from high degrees of poverty. Given the large area of accessible land, the argument is that agriculture should be considered a commercial operation providing a possible solution for the elimination of poverty over the African continent.

Research by Eric Kehinde Ogunleye (2006) on the natural abundance in Nigeria indicates that the Nigerian government has been mismanaging its most dependable natural resource. Nigeria must resolve its significant issues to overcome this roadblock. Effecting significant change depends on one being proficient in managing certain resources. Though many people still live in poverty, Nigeria is currently showing economic development. There is a dearth of well-known infrastructure able to run across all spheres with efficiency.

6.2. Recommendations and Solutions to the Problem of Torture and Cruel Acts in Nigeria

In the present setting, I have found a complete answer to solve the pervasive cases of torture and cruel behavior committed by Nigerian police and military members. The solution recommended is the acceptance of intelligent interviewing as a necessary substitute for torture. This approach should be used before coercion or violence to get information from criminals or suspects. The demand for efficient interrogation techniques continues to grow, and it is clear from intellectual research and methodical evaluation that these are the most moral and effective ways to get important information. By contrast, torture is still not just morally repugnant

but also useless over time; it frequently results in erroneous confessions and aggravates social damage. Regarding diplomatic and international representation, the application of torture or cruel acts compromises human dignity and transgresses international human rights norms. Nigeria must abandon practices that violate people's fundamental rights as it tries to improve its global reputation and conform with international standards. Using cruel techniques like stoning and nailing has been strongly denounced; it is obvious that other approaches, such as communication-based questioning, provide a more compassionate and successful one.

Introducing intelligent interviews into Nigeria's detention and police systems would, in my opinion, significantly enhance ethical behavior and the efficacy of law enforcement. There are some steps that could be suggested to eliminate torture and other cruel policies among the security personnel of Nigeria:

Nigeria should give the implementation of intelligent interviewing methods top priority in its security system. Apart from violating fundamental human rights, torture compromises the rule of law and encourages a vicious cycle of cruelty instead of addressing criminal affairs. Police and military personnel, among other law enforcement officials, have been shown to turn to physical violence, especially in cases of inadequate knowledge in investigative techniques. Turning toward organized, non-coercive techniques like intelligent interviews can help criminal investigations to be more reliable and of quality (Amnesty International, 2020). Human rights groups, especially Amnesty International, should improve their involvement in Nigeria by offering thorough educational campaigns and legal help to authorities of law enforcement and prisons. Regular visits to prisons, combined with advice on best practices for interrogation and detention management, can help transform institutional cultures and reduce the need for torture. Moreover, companies like Amnesty International could support the creation of strong worldwide monitoring systems that confirm adherence to human rights treaties and provide law reform advice (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

Nigeria's government should closely collaborate with foreign agencies like the United Nations to create diplomatic plans meant to combat abuses of human rights, including torture. Nigeria can improve its reputation on the international scene by encouraging communication and cooperation with agencies concentrated on human rights protection, thereby resolving internal issues regarding violations of human rights.

Nigerian institutions of police and military must undergo thorough reforms if they are to properly fight torture. The legislation covers the establishment of independent monitoring agencies to track interrogations and detention standards. Furthermore, including psychological tests and contemporary forensic methods in interrogations would provide more moral substitutes for physical coercion, therefore assuring that justice is done without compromising human dignity.

Apart from tackling violations of human rights, Nigeria must concentrate its economic plan to guarantee sustainability and long-term expansion. The agriculture sector, which helps the nation try to lessen reliance on oil income, presents major opportunities for economic development. Should Nigeria give agriculture priority, it may boost public health, create jobs, and encourage environmentally friendly development. The government should focus on this following recommendation:

Investing in rural infrastructure- including roads, storage facilities, and irrigation systems—should be of major importance. Such investments would improve output and lessen farmers' sensitivity to erratic weather conditions.

Farmers and agricultural companies depend on credit and financial support systems; hence, access to these is vital. A strong financial system that provides low-interest loans, subsidies, and insurance could support small-scale farmers and agricultural innovation, enabling them to compete internationally.

Repositioning Agriculture as a Growth Driver: Nigeria may go from comparative advantage in agricultural output to competitive advantage by stressing agricultural innovation. Along with improving local food production, this change will support the expansion of agribusinesses, thereby addressing poverty and

unemployment. Agricultural exports could become a major source of foreign trade, boosting the national economy.

Nigeria might move from a country mostly dependent on oil to a diversified economy propelled by sustainable practices in agriculture and other sectors if it uses these ideas. In addition to helping to maintain economic stability, such practices will advance social fairness and human rights, therefore reducing internal strife and raising Nigeria's profile internationally.

Conclusion

Ultimately, deeply ingrained in systematic corruption, political unrest, and economic inequalities, the continuation of torture and inhumane crimes in Nigeria still constitutes a serious violation of human rights. Law enforcement and military departments still use cruel interrogation methods and extrajudicial penalties despite legal systems and international norms forbidding such actions. Dealing with these problems calls for immediate reforms covering intelligence-based interrogation techniques, tougher responsibility standards, and more worldwide cooperation. Nigeria can only escape the cycle of human rights violations and build a fair and equitable society by relentless dedication to human dignity, rule of law, and economic restructuring.

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