VIGILANTISM AND CRIME CONTROL IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA: A STUDY OF UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA, IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE, (M.SC) DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY\ANTHROPOLOGY (CRIMINOLOGY AND PENOLOGY)

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicate to my wife, Joy Ifeoma Nwaeze, my children, Ikechukwu, Chiamaka and Chiedozie.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I am indebted to Almighty God who was in-charge and made provisions for the resources with which this work was completed.

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Finally, I am indebted to Mr. Eze Titus, Ogbonna Innocent and Nwaeze Raphael who read through the final version of this work.

May God bless all. Amen.

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ABSTRACT

The inability of the Nigerian Police to control the increasing wave of crime has led to proliferation of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria.

This study was initiated to investigate the impact of vigilante groups on crime control in contemporary Nigeria, particularly in Udenu L.G.A of Enugu State. Seven hundred and twenty (720) respondents were sampled from Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State. Multi-stage, cluster and simple random sampling methods were used as the sampling techniques. Questionnaires were administered to respondents by six (6) research assistants whereas interviews were conducted with two (2) traditional rulers, chairman of Udenu L.G.A vigilante group, chairman of vigilante monitoring group and 24 vigilante group members.

The result indicated that Nigeria Police is ineffective with regard to crime control and vigilante groups in its current form sprang up to make up for this ineffectiveness. It also showed that vigilante groups are gaining prominence as agents of crime control in contemporary Nigeria, particularly, Udenu L.G.A of Enugu State. The result equally revealed that vigilante group members are recruited and monitored through their communities and that they are effective in crime control. Also, the result indicated that the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria is by increasing the activities of vigilante groups. Howbeit, lack of fire arms, poor funding, lack of patrol vehicles are the major problems confronting vigilante groups. More so, based on the major findings, it was recommended that vigilante group members should operate within the frame work of law. Finally, security committees should be established at the local government level and these committees should meet periodically to discuss security matters in their areas.
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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Provision of adequate security is a social pre-requisite for the survival of any society. Every society takes appropriate measures to protect the lives and property of people living within its boundaries. Business and social activities may not go on freely without adequate security. This fundamental essence of security may be the reason why societies from time immemorial made efforts to police their neighbourhoods in order to secure them from criminal victimization. Security has to do with the act of preventing and protecting in order to ensure that certain facilities, equipment, persons or activities are safe from damage, pilferage, destruction, murder or disruption.

The history of crime control dates back to the period when public order was the responsibility of appointed magistrates, who were unpaid private individuals. The first paid public police officer was the praefectus urbi, a position created in Rome in approximately 27 B.C (Roberg and Kuykendall, 1993). After the fall of the Roman Empire and the subsequent anarchy that followed, kings began to assume the responsibility for legal administration by strengthening the night watch.

Roberg and Kuykendall, (1993) also pointed out that in the twelfth century in England, through ‘Frankpledged’ system which was based on an organization of tithings (ten families) and hundreds (ten tithings), men over the age of fifteen formed a posse comitatus, a group called out to pursue fleeing felons. Thus, the sheriffs who ensured that this Frankpledge system worked were responsible for policing the country.

However, as societies became increasingly complex, social life was disrupted. Existing systems of law enforcement were inadequate to respond to the problems associated with these
changes. As a result, night watch system was introduced. This system involved bellmen who walked round the city, ringing bells and providing policing services. The bellmen were later replaced by untrained citizens and much later by paid constables. However, in 1829, Sir Robert Peel established the first modern uniformed police force, the metropolitan police of London, whose primary responsibility was the prevention of crime. (Roberg and Kuykendall, 1993, Reid 5th ed.)

Vigilantism is not a recent development. Before 1900, many vigilant groups were formed in frontier areas of the United States. In 1851 and 1856, concerned citizens in San Francisco organized vigilante committees that forcibly restored peace and order. (world book encyclopedia, u-v20:318, Encyclopedia Americana, vol.24:204). In south Africa, vigilante activity is frequently justified as ‘filling a policing gap’ due to police inefficiency, corruption and conspiracy with criminals, practical failing in the criminal justice system. In Sierra Leone, vigilante activities have been explained in terms of police ineffectiveness in combating crimes (Brownyn, 2001).

In Nigeria, vigilantism existed in the pre-colonial era. Human Right Watch and Center for law enforcement and education report, (2002) noted that “vigilante and other self – defense groups currently operating in Nigeria have roots that reach deep into the country’s history. In the colonial era, some though not all independent local communities, especially in the South east maintained their own standing Army to defend their territory against the threat of invasion from neighbouring communities. Although there was no equivalent modern day structure at that time, some parallels can be drawn between these groups which were created by local communities for their own protection, and the more recently formed self –defense groups”. This is also true in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State where vigilantism was used as a means of both social and crime control before the advert of colonial rule.
The proliferation of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria particularly in Udenu Local Government area of Enugu State is a response to crimes and criminality that have not only increased in degree, scope and volume but also have witnessed an unprecedented change in techniques, mode of operation and sophistication between 1998 and 1999 (wake of fourth republic) and the apparent failure of the Nigeria police to rise up to the occasion. Igbo (2001:219) has stated that “the apparent failure of Nigeria police to control the increasing wave of crime has led to unilateral public action against crime and criminals in some major cities of Nigeria particularly in the South east of the country”.

This is true in Udenu Local Government Area, where, presently, vigilante groups are used as a means of crime control due to increasing crime wave and the inability of the formal agents of crime control to bring them under control. In view of this, this study examined the contributions of vigilante groups in controlling crime in contemporary Nigeria, particularly in Udenu Local Government area of Enugu State.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In recent years, many communities in Nigeria have witnessed crimes of various descriptions. Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State is not an exception. Thus, crime is becoming a serious problem in contemporary Nigeria. The police who are the primary agent in the fight against crime are ineffective. Their ineffectiveness may be as a result of the fact that they are under-staffed, under-equipped, corrupt and lacked public cooperation. These have created problem of under policing in Nigeria including Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State. Thus, violent and property crimes are committed on daily basis without detection and prosecution. Many people are being dispossessed of their valuable property and others are killed or maimed for life by armed bandits. Many people hardly sleep in their houses at night for fear of criminal victimization. Those who sleep in their houses at Night do so at their own
peril. Consequently, Udenu Local Government Area has of recent been gripped by insecurity and lawlessness as armed robbery and other violent crimes reached unprecedented levels.

Hence, this situation of insecurity and lawlessness began to affect more than just the population of Udenu Local Government Area as traders from the neighbouring communities who come to Udenu to transact business in Obollo-Afor and Orie Orba, began to stay away from these towns out of fear. As a result, business and other social activities were paralyzed.

A local newspaper (Starlite) report captioned “Girl, 18 killed at Obollo-Afor described how Miss Ifeyinwa Ugwueje was gruesomely murdered in Oba Guest inn on Wednesday 18 November, 2006. The same newspaper reported that “at Orba in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, the spirit of communalism, oneness, good rapport as well as peaceful co-existence seem to have eluded the people for some time following the rampant killings everywhere including the brutal murder of shinkaffi who was said to be a famous and powerful youth leader. (The Starlite, 2006:5 and 13).

The increase in crime wave and the inability of the Nigeria police to deal with the situation effectively have given rise to the emergence of vigilante groups in its current form. These vigilante groups are to ensure the safety of both their lives and property and that of their families. Eke, (2002) noted that “from time immemorial, ordinary men and women have made several sacrifices to ensure the safety of both their lives and that of their families. That human impulse is not only common in Nigeria. Government in Western Europe, in Africa, and else where was originally set up to offer protection to their subjects”.

Thus vigilantism seems to be gaining more prominence as agent of crime control in Udenu Local Government Area. Several vigilante groups now operate in both rural and urban areas in Nigeria. Residents see vigilante groups as an outfit they can always rely on in terms of security. Put differently, the public is skeptical about the ability of Nigeria Police to provide adequate security services alone without the involvement of the public.
This study, therefore, aimed at finding out the impact of vigilante groups on crime control in Udenu L.G. A of Enugu state.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What is the rate of crime in Udenu L.G.A?
2. To what extent does crime constitute a social problem in Udenu L.G.A?
3. To what extent has vigilantism helped in controlling crime in Udenu L.G.A?
4. To what extent have police controlled crime in Udenu L.G.A?
5. What is the relationship between the police and vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A?
6. What is the community perception of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A?
7. What is the relationship between the police and the public in Udenu L.G.A?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the contributions of vigilante groups in crime control in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The specific objectives are:

1. To highlight the rate of crime in Udenu L.G.A.
2. To find out the extent crime constitutes a social problem in Udenu L.G.A
3. To determine the extent vigilantism has help in controlling crime in Udenu L.G.A
4. To find out the extent the police have controlled crime in Udenu L.G.A
5. To find out the relationship between the police and vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A.
6. To determine the community perception of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A.
7. To find out the relationship between the police and the public in Udenu L.G.A.
1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has both theoretical and practical significance. From the theoretical point of view, this study will add to the existing literature on vigilantism. It will also build up a data upon which future research can be based or serve as a point of reference for similar studies.

From the practical point of view, this study will show the security gap created in both rural and urban communities and how vigilante groups have tended to makeup for this vacuum. To this end, this may stimulate the interest of the government in providing adequate police services in both rural and urban communities or modify and assist vigilante groups to complement security efforts of the police.

In another development, this study will be of great benefit to law enforcement agencies and other stake holders in their quest for police reform. In general, it will stimulate further research in vigilantism and policing.

1.6 Definition of Concepts

In the context of this study, the following concepts have been defined as follows:

Colonialism: This refers to the period of British rule in Nigeria.

Contemporary Nigeria: This refers to present day Nigeria.

Crime: This means any act or omission that violates the criminal law of the state which is punishable by the state after prosecution and conviction.

Crime control: This means all the steps and activities taken to prevent the spread and commission of crime.

Crime prevention: Often used interchangeably with crime control refers to all efforts made to ensure that crime does not occur or is reduced to the barest minimum.

Criminal Justice system: This refers to state agencies that fight against crime. They are the police, court, prison, probation and parole services.
**Police:** This refers to the branch of criminal justice system that fights against crime and maintain law and order.

**Policing:** Any effort aimed at detecting and preventing crime as well as protection of lives and property. It can be done formally by state agents or informally by private citizens.

**Social control:** This Refers to efforts made to ensure that people’s behaviour conforms to established norms and customs of the society.

**Vigilante groups:** This refers to groups formed and funded by members of a particular community to fight against crime and protect lives and property of individuals.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter dealt with the literature review of the topic under study and it was organized under the following sub-headings:

Policing and Crime prevention, the concept of vigilantism, origin of Vigilantism,
Vigilante groups and the public, relevant crime theories, theoretical frame work and research hypotheses.

2.1 Policing and Crime Prevention

The involvement of private individuals in law enforcement processes in Nigeria has generated different reactions from different scholars. Policing and crime prevention are inseparable. The essence of policing is to prevent or control crime. Policing is all about ensuring the security of people who reside within a particular geographical location; with a common interest of protecting their lives and property and who have identified that certain acts are reprehensible to community well-being (Dambazau, 2007).

Every society has rules and regulations that guide the conduct of individuals. Violation of these rules calls for punishment or sanction by the society. Thus, the need to enforce the rules and regulations in the society gave rise to police. According to Roberg and Kuykendal (1993:53), “the history of police is the history of rule enforcement in a society, more particularly, the history of enforcement of those rules related to criminal behaviour”.

Ried (5th ed.) has noted that “the history of policing began with informal policing in which all members of a community were responsible for maintaining order”. In other words, policing from the beginning of human history was carried out by private individuals, groups,
associations and organizations in the private sector. Vigilantism is identified as one category of informal policing (Clockar, 1985).

However, as societies became more complex, these informal methods were not effective due to increased division of labour, a more heterogeneous population and lack of social solidarity. This led to a transitional type of policing like the watch system which existed in England and Colonial America. Because of the inability of the watch system to maintain law and prevent crime, modern types of policing emerged. Hence the first modern police force, the metropolitan police of London was founded in London in 1829 by sir Robert Peel. (Reid 5th ed.).

Prior to the onset of colonization by the British in 1862, African policing methods were rooted in the community and closely inter linked with social and religious structures. The enforcement of traditional customs and beliefs was carried out by community structures such as age grades, secrete societies or vocational guilds. Through these diffuse systems of crime control, law and order were maintained, largely without the use of violence. (Nigeria: rest in pieces, 2005). Policing in Nigeria prior to the advent of colonialism was necessarily informal. Age grades, masquerades, extended family, secret cults and other local organizations including vigilante groups were used in policing various communities in Nigeria” (Igbo, 1999,2007).

The advent of British colonial rule Marked the beginning of formal policing in Nigeria. The Nigeria police force was finally founded in 1930 after undergoing many stages of transformation. It is important to note that the primary purpose of policing during this period was to promote the economic and political interest of the colonial masters. In many areas, the police engaged in the brutal subjugation of communities and the suppression of resistance to colonial rule (Nigeria: rest in pieces, 2005).
Dambazua (2007; 229-230) also noted that the essence of the British Colonial effort to establish police force in Nigeria was mainly for easy colonial administration in serving the colonial government interest and this formed the foundation of Nigeria Police today.

One of the major functions of the Nigeria Police is the prevention of crime (Igbo, 1999, Igbo, 2007, Roberg and Kuykendall, 1993, Dambazau, 2007). Crime prevention has been defined as a pattern of attitudes and behaviours directed both at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of safety and security to positively influence the quality of life and to develop environment where crime cannot flourish (Dambazau, 2007).

It is a truism that one of the objectives of the police organization is crime prevention. It is also a truism that efficient policing depends on public cooperation and support. It is however sad to note that these cooperation and support from the public may be far from being achieved. Police brutality, corruption and criminality in the system have made worst the relationship existing between the police and the public. Talking about the relationship between the police and the public, US commission on civil rights cited in a journal: contemporary crises, law and social policy vol: II (1987) concluded “in 1970, the police subject Chicanos to unduly harsh treatment, including harassment and frequent arrests on insufficient grounds for investigation. As a result, police are viewed as a source of tension and fear by many barrio residents, where police cannot be trusted, some other group must serve as protectors of the community”. In the Barrio, he continued, this role falls to the young men.

The network of police reforms in Nigeria (NOPRN), an organization that monitors the performance and activities of the police in the country in a report, Dec. 2007, confirmed that “the Nigeria police have become criminalized”. (This Day. Feb. 4, 2008) . According to the same source in an 18 page progress report on its year – long monitoring of over 400 police
stations in 14 states and Abuja – the federal capital territory, NOPRIN, claimed that police personnel involvement in killing, torture, extortion and rape have become a routine in Nigeria because the police shields its personnel from legal consequences from unlawful conduct. The report concluded that the Nigeria police are now a danger to public safety and security and the conduct of its personnel could be the cause of a major public and mortality emergency on a national scale. Thus, corruption and dishonesty were widespread, engendering a low level of public confidence, failure to report crime and tendencies to resort to self help.

In the 1980s, serious crime grew to nearly epidemic proportion, particularly in Lagos and other urbanized area characterized by rapid growth and change, by inadequate government services and law enforcement capabilities. Published crime statistics were probably grossly understated because most of the countries were virtually unpoliced – the police were concentrated in urban areas where only about 25 percent of the population lived and lack of public confidence in the police contributed to the underreporting of crimes (global security, 2008).

For decades members of Nigeria police force seem to have betrayed their responsibility to protect Nigeria citizens and have instead preyed on them for economic gains. Indeed, the relationship between citizens and the police is very often characterized by confrontation and exploitation. A research conducted in 2000 by the center for law enforcement and education (CLEEN), a Lagos based NGO, found that the use of violence by the police against the citizens in Nigeria was widespread. Of 637 respondents to a survey carried out in 14 states, 14.8 percent said they had been beaten by the police 22.5 percent said that police had threatened to shoot them in the past and 62.7 percent said they had witnessed the police beating another person.
There is no doubt that the Nigeria police force is seen to be an unfriendly organization whose officers are generally high-handed and abrasive, always using their position to take unfair advantage of people in order to extort money from them. A glaring example is the killing by the police in Apo, Abuja of six young persons falsely labeled armed robbers. Moreover, there is widespread corruption among top police officers which is making it difficult for them to caution the rank and file. As reported by Thisday, (4 Feb., 2008:25), “there are currently about 36,000 personnel in the police and notwithstanding its large size, it has a centralized management, command and control structure which lacks both the will and capabilities to deliver policing resources to the points of need in the communities and thrives on diverting policing resources for private gain”

The apparent failure of crime rates to respond to increased police capacity has called into question the actual and potential effectiveness of the police as a crime control mechanism (international encyclopedia of social sciences vol: 13 and 14). In an open letter written to the acting president, Dr, Goodluck Jonathan on the state of the Nation, petroleum and natural gas senior staff association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) decried the security state of the Nation and stated that “it is clear that the security agencies lack basic capacity and adequate surveillance infrastructure to nip different cases of crime in the mud”. They therefore demanded that government should as a matter of urgency fund, equip, and holistically overhaul and reposition the security agencies in the country to enable them combat crime.
2.2 The Concept of Vigilantism

The word vigilantism is of Spanish origin and means: “watchman” or “guard” but its Latin root is vigil, which means “awake” or “observe” (Johnston, 1996). According to Johnston, six elements of vigilant activity are:

A. Minimal planning, preparation or premeditation.
B. Private agents acting in a voluntary capacity.
C. Activity undertaken without the state’s authority or support.
D. A reaction to the real or perceived transgression of institutionalized norms.
E. Aims to offer people the assurance that established order will prevail.

According to Chambers 20th century dictionary, vigilantism is an authorized body which in the absence or inefficiency of regular government exercises power of arrest, punishment etc. Dumke, cited in Encyclopedia Americana (vol. 28:113-114) says that vigilantism is the name given to self-appointed law enforcement groups who appeared from time to time on the American frontier and occasionally in older communities where established authority seemed unable to cope with lawlessness and disorder.

In South Africa, the term vigilantism takes on certain meanings across two periods of time: pre – 1994 (Apartheid era) and post – 1994 (post – Apartheid era). Literature reveals that during the Apartheid era, the term “vigilantism” generally conveyed violent actions that were political or interpreted as such. (Haysom, 1986, Bruce and Komane, 1999). By contrast, during the post – 1994 period, vigilantism has become associated with crime fighting rather than political motive. The term crime fighting represents the most common banner of justification for vigilante action in this post 1994 era (Bronwyn, 2001). Thus, vigilantism in the post Apartheid era is set up alongside and beyond the parameters of the law, as something that is not bound by the formal justice system but rather that works separately from it. While
to some, vigilantism is directly opposed to law and is therefore illegal; to others it is not necessarily perceived as wrong rather, it is seen as a welcome development since it is defined as a response to perceive inadequacy and ineffectiveness of criminal justice system.

In Nigeria, the term vigilante is used loosely to refer to a range of different groups, each with different motives. The term has been applied to groups such as the Bakassi Boys, who were initially set up with the purpose of fighting crime without an explicit political agenda, as well as to others such as Odua peoples Congress (OPC), the Yoruba ethnic militia active in south west of Nigeria. The OPC was initially created to advocate for autonomy for the Yoruba people. However, from 1999, the OPC changed its fundamental objective of seeking self-determination for the Yoruba people to crime fighting activities and the settlement of personal disputes. In some of the Northern States in Nigeria, there are other groups known as Hisba groups referred to as vigilantes, which are used to monitor and enforce the observance of sharia laws. Some of them have administered instant punishments to those caught violating sharia law. (the legitimization of torture 2002, Ethnic militia groups of Nigeria) In Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, the term vigilante denotes a group of people formed by the members of the community to control and prevent crime due to the inability of the formal criminal justice system to bring the increasing crime wave in the local government under control.

2.3 Origin of Vigilantism

As noted by Human Right Watch (HRW) and center for law enforcement and education (CLEEN), vigilantism and other self-defense groups currently operating in Nigeria have roots that reached deeply into the country’s history. Their study identified southeast (Igbo) states as the main areas where vigilante groups were predominant in the pre-colonial era. On the
contrary and as the report from HRW and CLEEN testifies to, what we know is that the modern employment of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria is widespread and ranges beyond Igbo territory (legitimization of murder and torture. 2002).

Throughout human history, ordinary men and women have paid onerous prices in order to ensure that they and their families will be protected from life choking dangers. That human impulse is no less prevalent in Nigeria than elsewhere. Governments in western Europe, in Africa, and elsewhere..... originally arose because they could offer such protection to those under their domain (Eke, 2002). To Eke, it does not make sense to talk of government which is divorced from protection that it can offer to those under its control.

However, in Nigeria, government is no longer associated with the organization of this essential commodity of governance: protection. Nigeria governments have virtually told Nigerians to provide for their own protection. It is deducible from the above statement that the proliferation of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria is as a result of increased crime rate and practical failure on the part of the police to offer protective services to the people.

The origin of vigilantism is explained in various ways. Eke (2002) gave account for the origin of vigilante activities in his home town, Okpara in Delta State as lack of the presence of governmental agencies in the daily lives of its people. Okpara has a population of more than 20,000 people. It has no police station. To this end, the people had no option than to find a way of defending and protecting themselves from criminal victimization. In other words, police in Nigeria is understaffed and cannot cover the nook and cranny of Nigerian society.

In another development, as in colonial times, the Nigeria police force has deliberately been designed to appear tough and intimidating before civilians. The primary purpose of policing in the colonial era was to subjugate and suppress resistance to colonial rule.
(Dambazua, 2007). This attitude formed the foundation of Nigeria police in the contemporary Nigeria. In this circumstance, many Nigeria communities have not looked to the Nigeria police force for their protection from violent criminals or from other sources of danger. Instead, they have resorted to other means for their own protection. These include unregulated and often violent reprisal against suspected sources of their collective endangerment. Vigilant groups were demanded by the populace for their own protection because the people have no trust in the government’s police organization. As Farris puts it, “fed up with soaring crime and ineffective police, Nigerians are embracing vigilante groups despite their murderous method” (Eke, 2002).

The Nigeria police are ineffective and corrupt. This fact made the public skeptical about their ability to live up to expectations with respect to crime control. Harry Nwana’s account of the emergence of vigilantism in his home, part of Imo State was anchored on police collaboration and betrayal. According to him, “life was made unbearable by callous activities of armed bandits. Then something intolerable happened warranting the community setting up local vigilante units. They were to stem the rise in crime, identify the criminals and involve the police at Owerri, Uruala and Okigwe. Before the members knew it, their anonymity was compromised and they were marked for elimination. It did not take a lot of investigation to learn that the culprits were local boys and that the police collaboration was part of their strength. All information placed at the disposal of the police about suspected dare devil, home based hoodlums were passed on to the men of the under world. At this stage, a voice suggested and they employed the services of Bakassi Boys whose success in other communities had become remarkable. They went to work and well know hoodlums took notice and either fled or stayed at their own peril. In a short time, he continued, locking and bolting gates became only a matter of habit, nobody needed to”…. (Eke, 2002).
The fact remains that the greatest help the police force needs to combat crime is information. The same applied to the vigilante groups. But whereas police informants were betrayed through the flippancy, irresponsible and criminal intent of the bad eggs in the force, Bakassi Boys and other vigilante groups did not have that problem or gloat about their success.

In Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State like other places where vigilante activities are taking place, the rise of vigilantism in its current form can be traced back to the explosion of violent crime that rose in the area in late 1990’s. Armed robbery and other forms of violent crime reached unprecedented levels. People were gripped by fear of insecurity and could hardly sleep during the night. The Nigeria police force did not help matters and people were afraid to report any case of crime to the police for fear of reprisal attack. Consequently, vigilante groups were formed to match force with force. This indeed alleviated the problems created by the activities of these hoodlums in the areas and people were able to sleep with their eyes closed.

In summary, vigilantism in its current form in the present Nigeria emerged as a response to violent crimes that erupted and continued to rise in many parts of the country and the obvious inability of police to control or prevent them.

2.4 Vigilantism and the Public

Public tolerance of vigilante group is very high. After suffering years of violent crime, abuse by the security forces, and government inaction, people appeared to have given up expecting the government or the police to provide protection or security. As center for law enforcement and education puts it, “when Bakassi Boys took on the task of fighting crime, they were hailed as heroes. The overwhelming feeling of many people was relief at being able to sleep
with both eyes closed”. This is an indication that the emergence of Bakassi Boys in some eastern states of Nigeria was embraced by the public. The clause ‘being able to sleep with both eyes closed’ described post Bakassi era. (Eke, 2002). Indeed a sociology professor summed up the public attitude towards the Bakassi Boys and other vigilante groups: people tolerance of vigilante groups is very high even among reasonable people.

This general acceptance of vigilante groups has permeated many sectors of the economy. A judge in Anambra State described the situation in the following ways: “no one challenges the Bakassi, no one speaks up, and people just talk about execution as if it were something normal. Even the judiciary are accepting the Bakassi; even some lawyers don’t see what’s wrong”. (Eke, 2002).

Journalist have also glorified the vigilante methods. Some articles have verged on propaganda of fear surrounding their operations. In an article in post express on Sunday, a journalist who visited Bakassi Boys Headquarters in Aba wrote “today, Aba, has the lowest crime rate in Nigeria. While criminals, some of who were chased out of Aba by the ubiquitous Bakassi Boys has virtually over run the country, residents of Aba now enjoy luxury of sleeping with both eyes closed. Indeed, one could drop a valuable article at a street corner all day long without it shifting from its position. Woe betides anyone who touches what does not belong to him. No matter where he might run to, the Bakassi Boys will fish him out and punish him accordingly”. (Sept. 29, 2001).

2.5 Relevant theories of crime

There are several theories of crime and crime control. It is however important to note that each theory has its strength and weaknesses. This section will examine these theories relevant to the study and adopt a theoretical framework.
2.5.1 Demonological explanation:

This is the earliest known attempt to explain why people engage in criminal behaviour. This explanation attributed criminal behaviour to evil spirit. In other words, demons or evil spirits can take possession of the individual, directing or pushing him or her to engage in outlawed conduct, often against his or her will (Igbo 2007:).

The individual offender is severely punished in order to cast out the demon. This explanation to crime and criminality in the society has been discarded. This is because it is not possible to find the parts of the human body where evil spirits reside and how they push the individual to commit crime (Igbo, 2007).

2.5.2 The classical explanation

The classical school of criminology was pioneered by an Italian Scholar and mathematician, Cesare Beccaria. The classical school was more interested in punishment than in why people break the law. Their views on punishment were based on their understanding of why people commit crime.

According to Dow cited in Igbo (2007:35), the classical school advocated “the punishment to fit the crime”. This was based on two other concepts that are central to their understanding of why people break the law. These concepts are free will and hedonism. The classical school believes that man naturally is a pleasure loving animal who uses his free-will to choose those activities that will bring him pleasure as against those that will bring him pain and suffering. In other words, an individual has the free – will to choose between the good and the bad, legality and illegality, criminal acts and non-criminal acts, pleasure and pain, happiness and sadness and so on. (Dambazau: 2007). To deter people from law breaking the school advocated punishment severe and painful enough to make such acts unattractive (Igbo,
2007, Dambazau, 2007, Igbo, 1999). Finally, they advocated equal treatment for the same offences regardless of the identity and personality of the offender.

2.5.3 Neo classical school:

The Neo – classical school came into existence as a result of some gaps created by the classical school. The Neo – classical school agreed with the classical school that man is naturally pleasure loving and engages in acts that bring him pleasure rather than those that bring him pain and suffering, but they disagree with them that equal punishment be meted out to offenders who committed the same offence regardless of their personal backgrounds, individual differences and other circumstances. To them, not everybody exercise free – will in a rational manner for purposes of maximizing pleasure. To Neo classical school, children, imbeciles, insane, idiots and morons cannot be said to exercise free-will rationally because of their defective mental state (Igbo, 1999). Other people included in this category are the first offenders.

2.5.4 Biological Theories

All biological explanations rest on the assumption that structure determines function and that individuals behave differently because of the fact that they are somewhat different (Vold, 1958:).

Biological theories are one of the early theories of crime pioneered by Cesare Lombroso. Lombroso and some other proponents of Biological school of criminology postulated that criminals could be identified through physical characteristics such as excessively long arms, eye defects, large jaws and check bones, etc, or genetic composition.

However, these theories were found to be inadequate in explaining criminal behaviour. Cesare Lombroso has been criticized in the sense that those identified as criminals may be so identified because of their physical looks not because they are criminals.
2.5.5 Sociological theories

Sociological theories of crime tend to attribute criminal behaviour to “the social conditions or life experiences encountered by individuals” (Harjen, cited in Igbo, 2007). The main thrust of sociological theories is that criminal behaviour is a function of some environmental factors (Igbo, 1999). Emile Durkheim (cited in Dambazau, 2007:20), a key figure of the sociological school pointed out that “societies crime is normal, and that the facts to be investigated in order to understand crime are social rather than individual, therefore its control must depend upon changes in social conditions”. It is however important to note that sociological theories generated a lot of controversies and debate.

2:5:6: Social contract theory

The major proponents of social contract theory are Thomas Hobbes, John lock and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The social contract is an agreement between the state and its citizens that spells out the relative rights and duties of both of them.

In the theory of social contract, Hobbes, pointed out that the citizens owe the sovereign absolute obedience in exchange for protection against domestic law violators (criminals or deviants) and foreign enemies. (International Encyclopedia of social sciences, vol. 13 and 14 : 378 – 380). For Hobbes, order could be achieved if all citizens enter into a contract to surrender their individual powers to the sovereign in return for the protection of life and property. On the other hand, lock suggested a minimal and irrevocable government anchored on natural laws. Rousseau on his own suggested a contract that is based on equality and democratic participation. This contract is based on “general will”. The general will relies on the coming together once a while of the entire democratic body, every citizen to reach a consensus on how to live together.
The social contract theory is said to have raised many fundamental questions about the nature and objective of government and what an ideal society should look like (Marshall, 1998).

2:6 Theoretical Framework

The social contract theory formed the theoretical framework of this study. The main thrust of this theory is that the citizens and the sovereign (state) reached an agreement that spells out the rights and duties of each other: the citizens should surrender their individual powers to the state in exchange for the protection of life and property.

This theory was chosen for the study because in Nigeria, it is the responsibility of government to protect lives and property of citizens that obey the laws of the land by providing adequate security. Howbeit, Nigeria police who is the foremost state agent in the fight against crime seems to be understaffed and ineffective in many areas including Udenu L.G.A. As a result, individuals came together to establish their own security organization: vigilante groups.

Thus, the people of various communities in Udenu L.G.A collectively agreed to form vigilante groups and also fund them. Subsequent upon this, they made rules which must be followed by all in order to ensure that their lives and property are adequately protected.

2:7 Research hypotheses

1. The formation of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A is significantly related to people’s perception of the role of police in crime control in the area.

2. There is a significant relationship between people’s level of education and their reliance on vigilante services in Udenu L.G.A.

3. There is a significant relationship between people’s occupation and their perceived effectiveness of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A.
CHAPTER THREE
Research Methodology

This chapter describes the research design, Area and scope of the study, population of the study, sample size, sampling method, instrument of data collection, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.1 Research design

The design of this study is sample survey research – a cross sectional survey research. Sample survey is that type of survey in which information is collected from only a fraction of the population selected in such a way as to represent the whole and in cross – sectional surveys (one category of sample survey), Data are collected at one point in time only (Obikeze, 1990). Thus, cross-sectional research will provide information on the characteristics of the study population at specified time period.

The researcher chose this design because first and foremost, the area that was covered by this study is large and so, this method enabled him use the sample drawn to represent the various elements of the population.

3.2 Area and Scope of the Study

3.2.1 Brief Historical Background of the Study Area

Udednu L.G. A. is one of the local Government Areas that were created by the military administration of late General Sani Abacha in Dec. 1996. It has its headquarters at Obollo – Afor. It was carved out from Isi-uzo L.G.A. On the northern side of the local government area is Ogbadigbo L.G.A of Benue State. On the East are Igbo Eze North and Igbo Eze South L.G.As. On the South of the L.G.A is Nsukka L.G.A and on the West is Isi-Uzo L.G.A. . Uden L.G.A has nine (9) autonomous communities. They include Obollo-

The people of Udenu are mostly traders, farmers and craftsmen. While majority of people living around Orba and Obollo-Afor engage in trading because these towns are housing two most important markets in Enugu State (Orie Orba and Afor Obollo) respectively, majority of people living in the hinterland are subsistence farmers and craftsmen. Orie Orba is one of the biggest markets in Enugu state and Afor Obollo, the third biggest market in the state is the center point terminal for all south bound goods including livestock from the Northern part of the country. As for the farmers, their agricultural products are palm oil, yam, cashew, kola nut, pears, oranges, paw-paw, mango, cassava, groundnut, oil bean, banana, maize, coco-yam, poultry etc.

Udenu LGA has four (4) major markets: Nkwo, Eke, Orie and Afor. It has over one hundred government primary schools and a good number of privately owned ones, seventeen government owned secondary schools, and six private ones, two vocational schools, about twenty one health institutions mostly owned by private individuals. It also has a police station, customary court, magistrate court and high court all located at Obollo-Afor. Udenu also has some industries, for instance, hotel industries mainly cited in Obollo-Afor, filling stations, foam industry at Amalla etc. There is also a post office in Obollo-Afor, electricity and water in most communities especially in major developing towns and roads that link up the neighbouring local governments.

The choice of Udenu L.G.A as area of study was informed by high degree of business activities that take place on daily basis especially at Orie Orba and Obollo-Afor with its associated high rate of crime and the fact that it has only one police station at Obollo-Afor
and two police posts at Orba and Obollo Eke respectively with police officers whose population and equipment are nothing to write home about. Besides, it has vigilante groups in all the communities in the L.G.A.. These vigilante groups make up for the inadequate and ineffective policing. Although, every village in Udenu L.G.A organizes her own vigilante groups differently, the structure and functions of these vigilante groups are the same.

3.2.2 Scope of the study

This study covered Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State. It covered the activities of vigilante groups in Udenu LGA with regard to crime control. This constituted the geographic scope of the study.

3.3 Population of the study

People between the ages of 18 years and above resident in Udenu were used as the population for the study. This is so because, constitutionally, 18 years below are regarded as under age and therefore have no capacity for rational thinking. According to the National Population Census of 2006, Udenu L.G.A has a population of 178,466 people. When projected to 2010 on the 2.5% annual growth rate, the population will be about 196,993.1 approximately.

3.4 Sample size

Seven hundred and twenty (720) respondents constituted the sample size. The contributions of vigilante groups in controlling crime were obtained by the use of questionnaire from 720 members of the L.G.A. The researcher opted for this sample size given the nature of the study, available time and resources.
3.5 Sampling method

The sampling methods that were adopted in this study are multi-stage, cluster and simple random sampling. Four stages were involved in the selection of respondents. They are selection of autonomous communities, villages, households and Respondents. The cluster method was used because the sample frame is not known. So, the nine autonomous communities that constitute Udenu L.G.A were treated as clusters. From these clusters, six communities were selected by simple random sampling ballot (lottery method). The next stage was the selection of villages and four villages were randomly selected from each of the six communities earlier selected making a total of 24 villages.

The next stage was the selection of households in which thirty households from each of the twenty four villages were selected by simple random sampling ballot, making a total of 720 households. The final stage was the selection of respondents. One person was randomly selected from each of the households making a total of seven hundred and twenty respondents.

Then, from the twenty four villages that were studied, 24 vigilante group members, one from each village were randomly selected for interview. Also, two traditional rulers, chairman of Udenu L.G.A vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group were purposeful selected for interview.

3.6 Instrument of data collection

The instruments that were used in collecting data are questionnaires and semi-structured interview. This semi-structured interview was more systematic while it ensured sufficient flexibility in the sense that the researcher made conscious effort to guide and steer the
discussion towards his interest by using a carefully planned interview guide consisting of list of items that were covered during the interview.

The type and nature of the study necessitated these instruments. The questionnaires contained items on the personal data of the respondents and their views on the contributions of vigilante groups in crime control.

The interview guide contained questions on vigilante groups which were administered to some vigilante group members, two traditional rulers, chairman of Uden L.G.A vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group.

3.7 Method of data collection

The data for the study were collected by the use of questionnaire and semi-structured interview. To facilitate the process of collecting data, six research assistants who are undergraduates and indigenes of the area of study were recruited and trained by the researcher. These research assistants ensured the cooperation of the respondents. The research assistants will be properly briefed on the objectives of the study. The questionnaires were administered on weekends under the supervision of the researcher.

Interviews were conducted with some vigilante group members, two traditional rulers, chairman of Uden L.G.A. vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group. Appointment was booked for the interview and they were told the objectives of the study. This ensured their cooperation.

It is important to note that the researcher conducted the interview assisted by trained research assistants. The researcher and the research assistants recorded the interview by means of note taking.
3.8 **Method of data analysis**

The data collected through questionnaire were tabulated and analyzed using such statistical methods as frequency distribution tables and simple percentages. This was done manually. The data collected through interview was analyzed qualitatively: the information generated in the research was examined in relation to the research objectives. The hypotheses were tested using chi-square ($X^2$).
CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter presents and analyzes the data for the study. Seven hundred and twenty questionnaires were administered to members of various communities in Udenu local government area of Enugu state. A total of six hundred and sixty (660) questionnaires were validly completed and returned. The table below shows the response rate.

Table I: No of questionnaires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questionnaires</th>
<th>No of respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Returned</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not returned</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributed</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

The above table I shows that out of 720 questionnaires distributed, 660 (91.7%) of the respondents returned their questionnaires, while 60 (8.3%) did not returned their own.

Thus, the analysis is based on the 660 respondents that validly completed and returned their questionnaires. The analysis is divided into background variables, issues of the research, test of hypotheses and qualitative analysis of the interviews.

4.2 Background Variables

This section deals with the personal data of the respondents. They include: Age, Sex, marital status, educational attainment and occupation of respondents.
4.2.1 Age of respondents

Respondents ages were arranged into an interval of 7 years as indicated in the table below.

Table II: Age of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 - 25</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - 33</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 - 41</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 and above</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table II above indicates that 185 (28.0%) of the respondents fall within the age range of 18-25 years, 126 (19.1%) fall within the range of 26-33 years, 173 (26.2%) fall within the age range of 34-41 years while 176 (26.7%) fall within the range of 42 years and above. This shows that the highest proportion of respondents are between 18-25 years, followed by 42 years and above and then 34-41 years and finally by 26-33 years.

4.2.2 Sex of Respondents

Both male and female are the respondents in the study. Table III below indicates this.

Table III: Sex of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011
Table III above shows that 55% (363) of respondents are male while 45% (297) of them are female.

4.2.3 Marital status of respondents

Table IV: marital status of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

The above table IV shows that 218 (33.0%) of the respondents are single, 399 (60.4%) are married, 9 (1.4%) are divorced and 34 (5.2%) are widowed. From the above table, it is clear that the highest proportion of respondents are married, followed by those who are single and then those that are widowed and finally those that are divorced.

4.2.4 Respondents’ educational attainment

Table V: educational attainment of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational level</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No school</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary school</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCE \ HND</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First degree and above</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011
As shown by table V, the group with the highest frequency is respondents who had secondary school education. That is 271 (41.1%). This is followed by those with elementary school education representing 187 (28.3%) of the respondents. This is followed accordingly by those with no education, 96 (14.5%), NCE/HND, 76 (11.5%) and first degree and above, 30 (4.6%).

4.2.5. Respondents’ occupation

Table VI: occupation of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil servant</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table vi above indicates that 291 (44.1%) of the respondents, representing the category with highest frequency are traders. This is followed by 207 (31.4%) of respondents who are students and 99 (15.0%) who are civil servant. Accordingly, 43 (6.5%) of the respondents are farmers and 20 (3.0%) of the respondents are professionals.

4.3 Substantive issues of the research

This section of data analysis deals with the views of the residents of udenu local government area of Enugu State on vigilantism and crime control in contemporary Nigeria in general and udenu L. G. A of Enugu State in particular. The respondents response to the questions asked were analyzed using percentages.
4.3.1 The respondents were asked to indicate whether vigilante groups exist in their locality.

Table VII: percentage distribution of respondents on the formation of vigilante groups in their locality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formation of vigilante groups</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table VII shows that 660 (100%) respondents that duly completed the questionnaires accepted that vigilante groups exist in their locality. Their views agreed with the current trend in literature as exemplified by the views of Eke, 2002 in a critical review of the HRW and CLEEN report. He maintained that the modern employment of vigilante groups in Nigeria is wide spread.

4.3.2 The respondents were asked to assess the rate of crime in their community before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form.

Table VIII: percentage distribution of respondents on assessment of crime rate in their community before current vigilantism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate of crime before current vigilantism</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>56.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>19.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>9.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

As indicated by table VIII, 370 (56.06%) of the respondents accepted that crime rate was high before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form while 130 (19.70%) of
the respondents are of the opinion that crime rate was low. 60 (9.09%) of the respondents held that crime rate was normal and 100 (15.15%) said that they don’t know.

The above tabulation shows that the largest proportion of the respondents accepted that crime rate was high before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form. Their views tend to be in consonance with the current trend in literature as represented by the views of Eke, 2002, Igbo, 2001 and 2007.

**4. 3. 3 The respondents were asked to assess crime rate in their community after the formation of vigilante groups in its current form.**

**Table IX: percentage distribution of respondents on assessment of crime rate in their community after the formation of vigilante groups in its current form.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime rate after current vigilantism</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>53.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>21.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: field work 2011**

Table IX shows that 110 (16.67%) of the respondents agree that crime rate was high after the formation of vigilante groups while 355 (53.79%) said that crime rate was low after the formation of current vigilante groups. 55 (8.33%) agreed that crime rate was normal and 140 (21.21%) held that they do not know.

From the above; it is clear that the largest proportion of the respondents held that crime rate after the formation of vigilante groups in its current form was low in their
communities. Their views agreed with the current trend in literature as exemplified by the phrase “luxury of sleeping with both eyes closed”. (post express, Sept. 29, 2001).

4. 3. 4 The respondents were asked what crime was prevalent in their area.

Table X: percentage distribution of respondents on prevalent crime in their area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalent crime</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armed robbery</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table X indicates that 370 (56.5%) of the respondents said that armed robbery is prevalent in their community. 45 (6.8%) of them accepted that murder is prevalent, 175 (26.5%) said that burglary is common, 10 (1.5%) said that it is rape while 60 (9.1%) of the respondents mentioned other crimes.

The above tabulation shows that the largest proportion of the respondents agreed that armed robbery is prevalent in their area. Their views agreed with the current trend in literature as exemplified by the researcher who referring to Eke, 2002 noted that armed robbery and other violent crime reached unprecedented level in Udenu L.G.A.
4.3.5 The respondents were asked the period crime usually occur in their area.

Table XI: percentage distribution of respondents on time of occurrence of crime in their area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of occurrence</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XI shows that 150 (22.7%) of the respondents agreed that crime usually occur in the morning period in their area while 100(15.2%) said that it is in the afternoon hour, 410 (62.1%) of them were of the view that crime usually occur in the night in their community.

From the foregoing, it is clear that most crimes occur in the night. This view again concurs with what the researcher who made reference to Eke, 2002 noted “people were gripped by fear of insecurity and could hardly sleep in their houses during the night for fear of criminal victimizations”.

4.3.6 The respondents were asked whether increasing crime wave constitutes a social problem.

Table XII: percentage distribution of respondents on whether crime constitutes a social problem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constitutes a social problem</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011
Table XII above indicates that 580 (87.9%) of the respondents representing the frequency with the largest proportion are of the view that crime constitutes a social problem and only 80 (12.1%) of them held that it do not constitute a social problem.

This finding agreed with what a local newspaper, starlite reported: “In Orba in Udenu Local Government Area, the spirit of communalism, oneness, good rapport as well as peaceful co – existence seem to have eluded the people for sometime following the rampant killing everywhere including the brutal murder of shinkaffi who was said to be a famous and powerful youth leader”

4:3:7. The respondents were asked how increasing crime wave constitutes a social problem in their community.

Table XIII: percentage distribution of respondents on how crime constitutes a social Problem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Problem</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of life and property</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disruption of business activities</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleepless night</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XIII above shows that 480 (72.7%) of the respondents, representing the category with the highest frequency said that crime constitutes all the problems stated above.

This is followed by 90 (13.6%) of the respondents who admitted that crime leads to loss of life and property. Accordingly, 56 (8.5%) of the respondents said that crime leads to
sleepless night and 34 (5.2%) of them believed that crime leads to disruption of business activities.

This finding agrees with what the researcher noted in his statement of problem when he said that Udenu L.G.A has of recent been gripped by insecurity and lawlessness as armed robbery and other violent crimes reached unprecedented level thereby causing business and other social activities to be paralyzed.

4:3:8  The respondents were asked what they think was responsible for crime in their community.

Table XIV:  Percentage distribution of respondents on what they think is responsible for crime in their community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of crime</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad company</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth taking hard drugs</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:  field work 2011

From the above table XIV, 245 (37.1%) of the respondents, representing the highest proportion of the respondents agreed that Bad company is responsible for crime in their locality. This is followed by 180 (27.3%) of them who said that youth taking hard drugs is the cause of crime. Accordingly, 135 (27.3%) said that unemployment is responsible for crime in their area and 100 (15.1%) were of the view that poverty leads to crime.
4:3:9  The respondents were asked if they have fallen victim of crime in their area.

Table XV:  Percentage distribution of respondents on whether they have fallen victim of crime in their area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim of crime</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:  field work 2011

Table XV above indicates that larger proportion of the respondents, 410 (62.1%) admitted that they have fallen victim of crime in their community while 250 (37.9%) of them said that they have not fallen victim of crime in their area. The views of majority of respondents concur with the current trend in literature as represented by the views of Eke, 2002 when he was narrating Harry Nwana’s account of the emergence of vigilantism in his home town. According to him, life was made unbearable by the callous activities of armed bandits in his home town.

4.3.10 The respondents were asked how often they see police in their community.

Table XVI: Percentage distribution of respondents on how often they see police in their area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>See police</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a Month</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a month</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:  field work 2011
Table XVI above shows that 200 (30.3%) of the respondents see police daily, 246 (37.3%) see police once a week and 118 (17.9%) of them see police once a month and 96 (14.5%) see police twice a month.

From the above data, it means that 460 (69.7%) of the respondents see police once a while. The 200 (30.3%) of them that see police on daily basis may be those that are living around Obollo-Afor, Orba and Obollo-Eke where there are police station and police post respectively. This information is in alliance with the views of Igbo (1999:128) that the Nigerian police is understaffed.

43:3:11 The respondents were asked to rate the performance of the police in controlling crime in their area.

Table XVII: percentage distribution of respondents on how they rate police performance in controlling crime in their area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police performance</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Good</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XVII above indicates that 2 (0.3%) of the respondent agreed that police has performed excellently. 48 (7.3%) rated police performance as V. Good, 122 (18.5%) of them rated the performance of police as fair, while 488 (73.9%) are of the view that police performance in terms of crime control is poor.
From the above data, it is clear that the highest proportion of the respondents believe that police has performed poorly in respect of crime control.

The respondents were asked what they think led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form in their area.

Table XVIII: Percentage distribution of respondents on what they think led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form in their community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present vigilante groups</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police ineffectiveness</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of presence of police</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing crime wave</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XVIII above shows that 152 (23.0%) of the respondents agreed that police ineffectiveness led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form. 198 (30.0%) said that it is lack of presence of police, 280 (42.4%) are of the view that it is increasing crime wave while 30 (4.6%) said that they don’t know.

The implication of the above data is that the formation of vigilante groups in its current form is a result of increasing crime wave and the ineffectiveness of the police in controlling them.

This is in agreement with Eke, 2000 (lack of the presence of police), Global security, 2008 (serious crime grew to nearly epidemic proportion), Igbo, 2001 (The apparent failure of the Nigerian police to control the increasing wave of crime has led to unilateral public action against crime and criminals in some major cities of Nigeria).
The respondents were asked how often they see vigilante group members in their area.

Table XIX: Percentage distribution of respondents on how often they see vigilante group members in their community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>See vigilante</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a month</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>660</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XIX above shows that 498 (75.5%) of the respondents see vigilante group members on daily basis, 144 (21.8%) see them once a week, 6 (0.9%) of them see vigilante group members once a month while 12 (1.8%) see them twice a month.

The above data shows that majority of the respondents see vigilante group members on daily basis. This is in agreement with HRW and CLEEN report (2002) that vigilantism and other self-defense group currently operating in Nigeria is widespread and have roots that reach deep into the country’s history.
The respondents were asked to rate the performance of vigilante groups in crime control in their community.

**Table XX:** Percentage distribution of respondents on how they rate the performance of vigilante groups in their area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vigilante groups performance</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. good</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: field work 2011*

Table XX above indicates that 120 (18.2) of the respondents agreed that vigilante groups are excellent in crime control. 206 (31.2%) said that they are v. good, 318 (48.2%) are of the view that they are fair in terms of crime control while 16 (2.4%) said that their performance is poor.

The above data is an indication of the fact that the highest proportion of the respondents are of the view that vigilante groups are effective in crime control in their community. This finding is in alliance with what a journalist who visited Bakassi Boys Headquarters in Aba wrote “Today, Aba has the lowest crime rate in Nigeria. While criminals, some of who were chased out of Aba by the ubiquitous Bakassi Boys have virtually over-run the country, residents of Aba now enjoy luxury of sleeping with both eyes closed. (Post Express, Sept. 29, 2001).
4.3.15 The respondents were asked whom they think should be given the responsibility of crime control in their community.

Table XXI: Percentage distribution of respondents on whom they think should be given the responsibility of controlling crime in their area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Controlling crime</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigilante group</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village chief</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XXI above shows that 108 (16.4%) of the respondents said that the police should be given the responsibility of controlling crime, 509 (77.1%) of them opined that vigilante groups should be left with that responsibility, 20 (3.0%) said that it is the village chief while 23 (3.5%) of them don’t know.

From the above findings, majority of respondents 509 (77.1%) are of the view that the control of crime should be the responsibility of vigilante groups. Their views agreed with the current trend in literature as exemplified by a sociology professor who summed up the public attitudes towards the Bakassi Boys and other vigilante groups: People’s tolerance of vigilante groups is very high even among reasonable people.
4.3.16 The respondents were asked the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria.

Table XXII: Percentage distribution of respondents on the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solving crime problem</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the number of policemen</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the activities of Vigilante group</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing equipment to police</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing police cooperation</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011

Table XXII above indicates that 120 (18.2%) of the respondents said that increasing the number of policemen is the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria, 352 (53.3%) of them believe it is by increasing the activities of the vigilante group while 80 (12.1%) said that it is by providing equipments to the police and 108 (16.4%) opined that enhancing police cooperation is the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria.

From the above findings, the greater proportion of the respondents, 352 (53.3%) are of the view that increasing the activities of vigilante groups is the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria. Their views again concurred with that of sociology professor who summed up public attitudes towards the Bakassi Boys and other vigilante groups: people tolerance of vigilante groups is very high even among reasonable people.
4. **Test of hypotheses**

This section deals with the test of hypotheses.

Three hypotheses were tested

**Hypothesis 1**

The formation of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A. is significantly related to people’s perception of the role of police in crime control in the area. To test this hypothesis, variables such as what the respondents think led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form in their area and their rating of police performance completed by the respondents were cross tabulated. They are items 16 and 17 respectively of the questionnaire. See table XXIII below

**Table XXIII: Distribution of respondents by rate of police performance and cause of formation of vigilante groups in its current form.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate Police Performance</th>
<th>Cause of Formation of vigilante groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Police ineffectiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>0 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Good</td>
<td>4 2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>48 31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>100 65.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>152 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \chi^2 = 75.1; \text{df}=9; \ p= \leq 0.05; \ c=16.919 \]

**Source: field work 2011**

\[ \chi^2 \text{ calculated } = 75.1 \]

\[ \chi^2 \text{ critical (0.05,9) } = 16.919 \]
Conclusion

With the $X^2$ calculated (75.1) greater than the $X^2$ critical value (16.919) at 0.05 level of significant, we accept the alternative hypothesis which states that the formation of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A. is significantly related to people’s perception of the role of police in crime control in the area. This is in agreement with the submission by Igbo (2001): "The apparent failure of the Nigerian Police to control the increasing wave of crime has led to unilateral public action against crime and criminals in some major cities in Nigeria”.

Hypothesis 2

There is a significant relationship between people’s level of education and their reliance on vigilante services in Udenu L.G.A. To test this hypothesis, variables such as educational attainment completed by the respondents and their rating of the performance of vigilante groups in controlling crime were cross tabulated. They are items 4 and 20 of the questionnaire respectively.

See table XXIV below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Attainment</th>
<th>Rating of vigilante groups</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>V. good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No school</td>
<td>20 (16.7%)</td>
<td>30 (14.6%)</td>
<td>44 (13.8%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
<td>96 (14.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary school</td>
<td>34 (28.3%)</td>
<td>60 (29.1%)</td>
<td>88 (27.7%)</td>
<td>5 (31.2%)</td>
<td>187 (28.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>56 (46.7%)</td>
<td>90 (43.7%)</td>
<td>121 (38.0%)</td>
<td>425 (25%)</td>
<td>271 (41.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCE/HND</td>
<td>8 (6.7%)</td>
<td>19 (9.2%)</td>
<td>46 (14.5%)</td>
<td>3 (18.2%)</td>
<td>76 (11.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First degree &amp; above</td>
<td>2 (1.6%)</td>
<td>7 (3.4%)</td>
<td>19 (6.0%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
<td>30 (4.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120 (100%)</td>
<td>206 (100%)</td>
<td>318 (100%)</td>
<td>16 (100%)</td>
<td>660 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field work 2011
\[ X^2 = 17.7; \text{ df} = 12; \ p \leq 0.05; \ c = 21.026 \]

\[ X^2 \text{ Calculated} = 17.7 \]

\[ X^2 \text{ critical (0.05, 12)} = 21.026 \]

**Conclusion:**

With the calculated \( X^2 \) (17.7) less than the critical \( X^2 \) value (21.026) at 0.05 level of significance, we reject the alternative hypothesis (HI) which holds that there is a significance relationship between people’s level of education and their reliance on vigilante services in Udenu L.G.A. The researcher then concludes that reliance on vigilante services does not depend on one’s education in Udenu L.G.A. This is in agreement with the submission by a sociology professor who summed up the public attitudes towards the Bakassi boys and other vigilante groups: people’s tolerance of vigilante groups is very high even among reasonable people.

**Hypothesis 3**

“There is a significant relationship between people’s occupation and their perceived effectiveness of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A.” To test this hypothesis, respondents occupation and their rating of vigilante groups performance were cross tabulated. Items 5 and 20 of the questionnaire were used. See able XXV below.
Table XXV: Distribution of respondents on rating of vigilante groups performance on crime control by occupation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Rating of vigilante groups performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>46 (38.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>8 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading</td>
<td>58 (48.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil servant</td>
<td>5 (4.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>3 (2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X² = 92.5, df = 12, P < 0.05, C = 21.026

Source: field work 2011

X² Calculated = 92.5

X² = critical (0.05, 12) = 21.026

With the calculated X² (92.5) greater than the critical X² value (21.026) at 0.05 level of significance, we accept the alternative hypothesis which holds that “there is a significant relationship between people’s occupation and their perceived effectiveness of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G. A. The researcher then concludes that perceived effectiveness of vigilante groups in udenu L.G . A is related to one’s occupation.

4.5 Qualitative analysis

This part of data analysis deals with the interview schedules. Vigilant group members, traditional rulers, chairman of udenu L.G.A vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group were interviewed to illicite information from them on crime , their
mode of operation, their relationship with the police and their relationship with the public.

Semi-structured interview was the second instrument used in collecting data. The two interview schedules were used for vigilante group members and traditional rulers, chairman of udenu L G A vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group respectively. Each of the interview schedules was analyzed as follows:

4.5:1 Analysis of interview conducted with members of vigilante groups:

The interview was conducted with four (4) group leaders of vigilante groups and twenty ordinary members in udenu.

Personal data:

Sex: All members of vigilante groups interviewed are males.

Age: The age range of members interviewed is 20 – 40 years

Marital status: Eighteen (18) of them were married while six (6) of them were not married.

Educational Qualification: Three of the interviewees held NCE. The remaining twenty one held either TC 2 or SSCE.

Grade: four vigilante group leader and twenty ordinary members were interviewed.

Issues on vigilantism and crime control.

Assessment of crime rate before and after the formation of vigilante groups in its current form.

The interviewees were of the opinion that crime rate was on the increase before the current vigilantism. They however said that crime started to decrease after the formation of current
vigilantism. In any case, one would expect such response from them since the impression they were creating was that they were doing a nice job

**Whether increasing crime wave constitutes a social problem.**

On this issue, there was a consensus among the interviewees that crime constitutes a serious social problem. They mentioned loss of lives and property, disruption of business activities, sleepless night as some of the problems caused by increasing crime wave.

**Cause of vigilantism in its current form.**

There was also consensus among the interviewees that vigilantism in its current form started as a result of increasing crime wave in Udenu LGA and inability of the Nigerian Police to checkmate it. In their opinion the police men in Udenu LGA were collaborating with the criminals to perpetuate crime

**Types of weapon used**

They mentioned automatic double barrels, matches, koboko, torch light, rope and whistle as the weapons they use.

On further enquiry, they stated that certain crime requires giving the culprits some latches of koboko or tying him or her with rope. This findings suggest that severe punishment is part and parcel of their crime control strategy.

**Time for reporting to and closing from office.**

The vigilante group members that were interviewed said that they reported to their duty post between 9 – 9.30 pm and closed between 5.30 – 6 am except two of them who were members of Udenu LGA vigilante group who claimed that they work round the clock (24) hours daily. The finding suggests that vigilante groups in Udenu LGA work mainly at night.
Financing of vigilante group members

With the exception of two interviewees who were members of Udenu L.G.A vigilante group, the others said that they were financed by their communities. According to them, each village was grouped according to families and men kept vigil in turn. However, they said that men above 45 years and some other persons who were engaged in essential duties paid some amount of money for the upkeep of the guards in terms of provision of torch lights, battery, cutlasses, double barrels, whistle etc. They however said that they were not paid anything since each male member of the community contributed to vigilantism in one way or the other. This finding affirms the opinion of majority of community members who held that the members of the community formed and financed vigilante groups.

The two members from Udenu L.G.A vigilante group interviewed said that they were financed by the local government authority in addition to the money they collected from business men and women as part of the payment they make for security.

Their relationship with police

Most of the vigilante group members interviewed agreed that they had cordial relationship with police. They held that the Nigeria police force inaugurated them and when arrests were made, the offenders were handed over to the police for prosecution.

This finding agrees with the opinion of most community members who held that the relationship between the police and vigilante groups was cordial.

Whom they are working for

Most of the vigilante group members interviewed said that they were working for the community. The other two members from Udenu L.G.A vigilante group said that they were working for the government of Udenu.
This finding suggests that vigilante group members worked for the interest of members of the community.

**Major problems in the performance of their functions.**

Vigilante group members interviewed pointed out that lack of fire arms, poor funding, lack of patrol vehicle were among the major problems confronting them.

The above finding suggests that vigilante group members were confronted with some major problems which affected their operation in a negative way.

**How best can the problem of crime in Nigeria be solved**

While some members of vigilante groups were of the opinion that the problem of crime in Nigeria could be solved by providing employment opportunities to our youth, others believed that the vigilante groups should be funded properly and also giving incentives to enable them combat crime adequately and effectively.

This finding suggests that the problem of crime could be solved through provision of employment to our youth and proper funding and incentives to the vigilante groups.

4. 5. 2 Analysis of interview conducted with traditional rulers, chairman of Udenu L.G.A vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group.

**Socio – demographic data**

**Sex :** The traditional rulers, chairman of Udenu L.G.A. vigilante group and chairman of vigilante monitoring group were male.

**Age :** The ages of interviewees ranged between 40 – 70 years

**Marital status :** They were all married.

**Educational qualification:** The highest qualification recorded among the interviewees was WASC while the least was FSLC.
Issues on vigilantism and crime control

Assessment of crime rate in their communities before and after the formation of vigilante groups in its current form.

They all said that crime rate was high before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form. They however held that crime rate was low after the formation of vigilante groups.

Prevalent crime in their communities

The interviewees were not unanimous in prevalent crime. Some said, it was robbery while majority held it was burglary.

Causes of crime in their communities

They mentioned hardship, unemployment and greed as some of the causes of crime.

Rating vigilante groups performance

The interviewees held that vigilante groups performed fairly good. That is to say that vigilante groups were effective in crime control. They pointed out that once it was 8.30 pm, the vigilante group members locked up the major routes to villages and beside, nobody passed there without a lighted lamp. Unfamiliar faces were interrogated and those suspected were handed over to the police for interrogation.

Whether their community members support vigilante groups.

On this issue, the interviewee except one held that the members of their communities supported vigilante groups. One however said that their funding and support came from the local government authority and some businessmen.

Their relationship with the police

The interviewees held that they had cordial relationship with the police. One of them explained that suspects were usually handed over to the police. He further opined that they
usually met with police on appointed dates and discussed security matters. This was supported by others.

**Whether they are satisfied with the mode of operation of vigilante groups.**

They had consensus of opinion: They were satisfied with the mode of operation of vigilante groups. To them, the mode of operation of vigilante groups was responsible for its effectiveness. It deterred people from engaging in criminal acts.

**Their relationship with their communities**

They maintained that they had cordial relationship with their community members. One of them pointed out that the people relied more on them than the police. In extreme cases criminals could be summarily executed he said. People with questionable character and suspected criminals were always reported to us not the police. The findings suggest that they related well with their community.

**How best can the problem of crime in Nigeria be solved.**

Among the ways the crime problem of Nigeria could be solved as mentioned by the interviewees are: Providing job opportunities to our youth through industrialization, better remuneration for the police and other law enforcement agents to enable them combat crime effectively, and funding and giving incentives to vigilante groups to enable them perform their functions effectively in terms of crime prevention.

These findings are in agreement with what the vigilante group members suggested in respect of solving the crime problem in Nigeria.
4:6: Major findings

i. The data collected indicated that vigilante groups exist in various communities in Udenu L.G.A. (See table VII)

ii. It also indicated that the rate of crime was high before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form (see Table VIII)

iii. It was found out that the rate of crime became low after the formation of vigilante groups (See table IX)

iv. We found out that armed robbery and burglary were crimes committed frequently (See table X).

v. The data revealed that increasing crime wave led to loss of life and property, disruption of business activities and sleepless night (See table XIII)

vi. It was discovered that many people had fallen victim of crime in their area (See table XII)

vii. The data collected showed that police in Udenu L.G.A. had performed poorly (See table XVII)

viii. It was also discovered that increasing crime wave and police ineffectiveness led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form (See table XVIII).

ix. The data showed that members of community see vigilante group members on daily basis. (See table xix).

x. Vigilante groups were perceived to be effective in controlling crime (See table XX)

xi. Members of the community believed that vigilante groups should be given the responsibility to control crime (See table XXI)

xii. Community members believed that the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria is by increasing the activities of the vigilante groups (See table XXII).
xiii. A chi-square test revealed that the formation of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A. is significantly related to people’s perception of the role of police in crime control in the area.

xiv. A chi-square test also revealed that there is no significant relationship between people’s level of education and their reliance on vigilante services in Udenu L.G.A.

xv. A chi-square test again revealed that there is a significant relationship between people’s occupation and their perceived effectiveness of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A.
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the findings of this study. Moreso, the chapter provided conclusion of the study on the basis of the result obtained from the analysis of the data collected and made some recommendations.

5.1 Summary

The aim of this study was to examine the contributions of vigilante groups in crime control in Udenu L. G. A. of Enugu State. This is as a result of the proliferation of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria and the controversy surrounding its existence.

Three hypotheses were adopted for the study. The target population was people who were aged between 18 and above, resident in Udenu L.G.A. A sample size of 720 respondents was constituted through multi-stage, cluster and simple random sampling methods.

Questionnaire and semi-structured interview schedules were the other instruments of data collection used in this study. The questionnaire was used to collect data from members of the community while interview schedules were used to collect qualitative data from traditional rulers, chairman of Udenu Local Government vigilante group, chairman of vigilante monitoring group and some vigilante group members. Data presentation was done through the use of tables and percentages while chi-square was used to test the hypotheses.

The followings are some of the major findings:

I. Vigilante groups exist in various communities in Udenu L.G.A
ii. The rate of crime was high before the formation of vigilante groups in it’s form
iii. The rate of crime was low after the formation of vigilante groups.
iv. Armed robbery and burglary were crimes committed frequently
v. Increasing crime rate led to loss of life and property as well as disruption of business activities and sleepless night.

vi. Police in Udenu L.G.A had performed poorly.

vii. Increasing crime wave and police ineffectiveness led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form.

viii. Vigilante groups were perceived to be effective in controlling crime.

ix. Community members believed that vigilante groups should be given the responsibility to control crime.

x. The formation of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A is significantly related to people’s perception of the role of police in crime control in the area.

xi. There is no significant relationship between people’s level of education and their reliance on vigilante services in Udenu L.G.A.

xii. There is a significant relationship between people’s occupation and their perceived effectiveness of vigilante groups in Udenu L.G.A.

Difficult terrain, illiteracy on the part of some respondents were some of the problems encountered by the researcher in the course of this study.

The researcher recommended that:

i. Vigilante activities should be carried out by well trained, able bodied persons recruited from the community.

ii. Incentives and adequate logistics should be made available to vigilante groups to ensure effectiveness in their operation.

iii. Adequate legislative frame-work for the operation of vigilante groups should be put in place to enhance the relationship between the police and vigilante groups.
iv. Vigilante group members should be trained in aspect of crime detection and knowledge of the law.

v. Security committees should be set up at the local government level and should be headed by the Divisional police officer (D.P.O).

vi. Further research be carried out on vigilante, joint police/Army patrol and law enforcement in Nigeria.

5.2 Conclusion

The main objective of this study was to examine the impact of vigilante groups on crime control in Udenu L.G.A of Enugu state. The proliferation of vigilante groups in contemporary Nigeria and the controversy surrounding it’s existence necessitated this study.

The data collected indicated that vigilante groups exist in Udenu L.G.A. It also showed that the rate of crime was high before the formation of vigilante groups in it’s current form. However crime rate was low after the formation of vigilante groups. It was also discovered that high rate of crime and police ineffectiveness led to the formation of vigilante groups in it’s current form. More so, vigilante groups were perceived to be effective in crime control. So, community members believed that vigilante groups should be given the responsibility to control crime and so on.

Based on these findings, the researcher made some recommendations.
5.3 LIMITATIONS

The researcher encountered some problems in the course of this study. They include:-
difficult terrain; illiteracy on the part of some respondents which compelled the research
assistants to read and explain the questions in the questionnaire. Some gave the questionnaire
to somebody else to fill on their behalf.

5:4 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made

1. Vigilante activities should be carried out by well trained, able bodied persons
recruited from the community.

2. State government should encourage vigilante activities. Incentives and adequate
logistics should be made available to vigilante groups. This is to ensure effectiveness
in their operation.

3. To enhance the relationship between the police and vigilante groups, there should be
adequate legislative frame work for the operation of vigilante groups.

4. Vigilante group members should be trained in aspects of crime detection and
knowledge of the law. This is to enable them to operate within the provision of the
law.

5. Security committees should be set up at the Local Government level and should also
be headed by the Divisional Police Officer (D.P.O.). The committees should organize
periodic meetings to discuss security issues.

6. Finally, the researcher recommends that further research be carried out on vigilante
group, joint Police/Army Patrol and Law Enforcement in Nigeria.
REFERENCES


Post Express, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2001.


The world encyclopedia, world book inc. 233 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.


Thisday, Wednesday, April 21, 2010 vol. 15.

APPENDIX 1

INTRODUCTION

Department of sociology/Anthropology
University of Nigeria Nsukka.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a postgraduate (M.Sc) Student of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I am conducting a research on vigilantism and crime control in contemporary Nigeria: a study of Udenu L.G.A of Enugu state. The objective of this study is to examine the contributions of vigilante groups in controlling crime in contemporary Nigeria. You are please requested to help in the successful completion of this study by responding to these questionnaire items. Note that your response will be confidentially treated.

I shall therefore be very grateful if you would kindly answer the following questions as comprehensively as possible.

Thanks for your co-operation in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Nwaeze Richard Ikechukwu
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
APPENDIX II
QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE

There are two parts, ‘A’ and ‘B’ to this questionnaire. Part A deals with personal data while part B contains information on vigilantism and crime control.

INSTRUCTION: please tick or fill as appropriate.

PART A: PERSONAL DATA

1. Sex: a. male □ b. female □
   d. 36 and above □
   c. Secondary School □ d. N.C.E/HND □
   e. First Degree and above □
   d. Civil servant □ e. Professional □
   f. Others (specify) …………………

PART B: INFORMATION ON VIGILANTISM AND CRIME CONTROL

7. How would you assess crime rate in your community before the formation of current vigilante group  a. High □ b. Low □ c. Normal □
   e. Don’t know □
8. How would you assess crime rate in your community presently? a. High □
   b. Low □ c. Normal □ d. Don’t know □
9. What type of crime is prevalent in your area? a. Armed robbery □
   b. Murder □ c. Burglary □ d. Rape □
e. Other specify………………

10. When does crime usually occur in your area? a. Morning period □
    b. Afternoon period □ c. Night period □

11. Does increasing crime wave constitute a problem in your community?
    a. Yes □ b. No □
    If Yes please elaborate…………………………………………………..

12. What do you think is responsible for crime in your community?
    a. Poverty □ b. Unemployment □
    c. Bad company □ d. Youths taking hard drugs □

13. Have you fallen victim of crime in your community? a. Yes □ No □

14. How often do you see police in your community? a. Daily □ b. once a week □
    c. once a month □ d. Twice a month □ e. other specify………………………

15. Do police officers respond quickly to crime in your community?
    a. Yes □ b. No. □

16. How would you rate the performance of police in controlling crime in your community? a. Excellence □ b. very good □ c. fair □ d. poor □

17. What do you think led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form in your community? a. Police ineffectiveness □
    b. lack of presence of police □
    c. Increase in crime wave □ d. don’t know □

18. Who formed and financed vigilante groups in your community?
    a. Members of the community □ b. The local government □
    d. The state government □ e. The police □

19. How often do you see vigilante group members in your community?
20. How would you rate the performance of vigilante groups in controlling crime in your community?  
   a. Excellence  
   b. Very good  
   c. Fair  
   d. Poor

21. How is the relationship between the police and the vigilante group in your community?  
   a. Cordial  
   b. Not cordial  
   c. Enemity

22. What is your relationship with vigilante groups in your community?  
   a. Cordial  
   b. Not cordial  
   c. Enemity

23. Do you accept the formation of vigilante groups in your community?  
   a. Yes  
   b. No

24. Whom do you think would be given the responsibility of controlling crime in your community?  
   a. Police  
   b. Vigilante groups  
   c. Village chief  
   d. Don’t know

25. What is the best way of solving the problem of crime in Nigeria today?  
   a. Increasing the number of Policemen  
   b. Increasing the activities of vigilante groups  
   c. Providing equipment to police  
   d. Enhancing police co-operation

26. Do you have any observation to make regarding vigilante groups and their mode of operation in Nigeria?  
   a. Yes  
   b. No
   if yes please state it: .................................................................
   ........................................................................
   ........................................................................
APPENDIX III

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MEMBERS
OF VIGILANTE GROUPS

1. Introduction: (Purpose of the interview, moderator)

2. Personal data: sex, age, marital status, educational qualification, grade

QUESTIONS

1. How do you assess crime rate in your community before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form?

2. How do you assess crime rate in your community presently?

3. Which crime is more prevalent in your community?

4. Does increasing crime wave constitute a social problem in your area?

5. What is the cause of crime in your area?

6. What led to the formation of vigilante groups in its current form?

7. What kind of weapon do you use when on duty?

8. When do you report to and close from duty each day?

9. How are your financed?

10. How is your relationship with the police?

11. How is your relationship with your community?

12. Who are you working for?

13. What is your major problem in the performance of your functions?

14. How best can the problem of crime in Nigeria be solved
APPENDIX IV

SEMI – STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR TRADITIONAL RULERS, CHAIRMAN OF UDENU L.G.A. VIGILANTE GROUP AND CHAIRMAN OF VIGILANTE MONITORING GROUP.

1. Introduction: (purpose of interview, moderator)
2. Personal data: sex, age, marital status, educational qualification, grade.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you assess crime rate in your community before the formation of vigilante groups in its current form?
2. How do you assess crime rate in your community presently?
3. Which crime is more prevalent in your community?
4. What is the cause of crime in your area?
5. What is your view about the formation of vigilante groups in your area?
6. How do you rate the performance of vigilante groups in your community?
7. Do your community members support vigilante groups?
8. How is your relationship with the police?
9. Are you satisfied with the mode of operation of vigilante groups in your area?
10. How is your relationship with your community?
11. How best can the problem of crime in Nigeria be solved?
Appendix v

CRIME STATISTICS IN UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
TABLE A: Offences Recorded by the Nigeria Police (Obollo-Afor Police Station) From January to December 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFENCE</th>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Robbery</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic sabotage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheating</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict likely to cause breach of peace</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Obollo-Afor Police Station.**

Table A above shows offences recorded in Udenu Local Government Area by the police (Obollo-Afor police station) from the month of January to December 2007. As shown in the table above, Udenu L.G.A. witnesses crimes of various types. It must however be emphasized that the few crimes reported in table (A) are not a true reflection of the volume of crime in the L.G.A. Official crime statistics have
consistently remained gross underestimation of the actual volume of crime as exemplified in Udenu L. G. A. of Enugu State. Dambazau, (2007: 165) has noted that “crime statistics are supposed to show the nature and extent of criminal behaviour, but for obvious reasons, such as lack of consensus on what behaviour should be regarded as criminal; the fact that some crimes are undetected and therefore unreported to the police; and the secrecy of crime itself, the statistics are mostly inadequate”. This problem results in what is referred to as “the dark figure”. That is, the volume of crime not registered in the criminal statistics. Igbo, (2007:67) also noted that crimes known to the police, which appear in the criminal statistics, constitute only a ‘tip of the iceberg’.