

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF *AMOTEKUN* SECURITY CORPS IN OYO AND ONDO STATES

BY

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### Abstract

Insecurity such as kidnapping, highway robbery, amongst others in Oyo and Ondo states have driven both states to partner with the remaining South-western states in Nigeria to launch regional security outfit called "*Amotekun*" as a community-based approach to combat security challenges collectively. Since its establishment, there is a limited knowledge about the operational capacity of the outfit in both states. Hence, this study assessed the operational effectiveness of "*Amotekun*" in Oyo and Ondo states using a descriptive research design of qualitative and quantitative as methods of data collections. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 820 respondents that were administered copies of questionnaire, out which 770 were retrieved and analysed using descriptive analysis, and 12 interviews were successfully conducted. The findings of the study revealed that "*Amotekun*" was largely effective in intelligent gathering, surveillance security patrol, proactive response to crime and violent scene in both states. Also, moderately effective in safety of lives and properties in Ondo State. The study concluded that *Amotekun* was operationally effective in both states, but more effective in Ondo State more than Oyo State. The study recommended that the enabling Act on weapons handling and recruitment process should be overhauled.

**Keywords:** *Amotekun*, Insecurity, Operational Effectiveness, Community Policing, Security

### Introduction

Different parts of the world are bedevilled with security challenges such as terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, trafficking, organised crimes and many other social vices which has continue to serve as threat to peace and security. In west Africa, banditry, terrorism (Boko Haram, ISWAP, etc), human and drug trafficking, famer-herder violent conflict, and many other forms of organised crimes like cultism, crude oil theft, etc. appears to have overwhelmed conventional security outfits entrusted with the responsibility of internal security protections and the safety of the locals, and the outfits appeared helpless to control the internal security challenges of the region (Omitola et al., 2021). The nefarious activities of the Boko Haram, the rife of banditry, farmer-herder violent clashes and kidnapping in the North-West, South-East, South-West, South-South regions and several other insecurities in Nigeria have not only attracted more vocal calls for restructuring or state policing, but it has also led to greater demand for disintegration (Babaita, 2020). It is the perceived opinion of many that the Federal government led security forces are biased and nepotism on one side, and generally ineffective on the other hand, in providing security for their people (Oshita & Ikelegbe, 2019). Thus, the search for alternative protection and security for the citizens of the nation has become sacrosanct.

The impossibility of the centrally controlled security outfits in the nation to tackle security challenges sparked national debate, thereby forcing each region of the country, State, and Local governments to begin taking responsibility for protecting themselves and their people against non-state armed groups and criminal elements (Chijioko et al., 2021). For instance, a local vigilante group, the Nigeria Hunters Association, the *Amotekun* Security Corps, the Hisbah Security Network and the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps, among many others, had sprung up across the nation to tackle the overwhelming security challenges bedevilling the grass roots. While some were of community self-volunteering service, some states and local governments have equally deemed it necessary to establish, fund and

manage such security arrangements to complement federal-controlled security agencies in their respective domains. In the south-west region of Nigeria, the heat of insecurity in the region had led to the establishment of a regional security outfit, codenamed "*Amotekun*". The outfit is meant to protect locals within the region, especially, in the face of many attacks by herdsmen and high-profile case of kidnaping (Oluwole, 2020). Though the security challenges facing the Oyo and Ondo states are in diverse areas, the combined challenges of kidnapping and incessant attacks on farmers and locals in the two states motivated them to partner with the remaining South-Western states to deployed *Amotekun*, as a community-based approach in combating those challenges in their respective states. It is against this forgoing that this study comparatively examined the effectiveness of *Amotekun* in combating insecurity in both states.

## **Literature Review**

### **An Overview of Southwest Security Network; *Amotekun***

Articles 214 and 215 of the Nigerian Constitution recognised the constitutional responsibilities of the Nigeria Police Force. Article 214 (1) specifically provides as follows: "There shall be in Nigeria a police force to be called the Nigeria Police Force, which shall be charged with the following:" Pursuant to the provisions, no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof. It is on the basis of that provision that various debates came up on the legality behind the creation of *Amotekun*. There were also large differences of opinion among lawyers and judicial officials (Nwoko, 2021). Some believe that *Amotekun* is constitutional, on the basis that Article 14 of the same constitution states that the security of life and property of the people is the first responsibility of every government, and it stipulates that the governor is the head of the various states. State government and top government security officials will abide by the provisions of the Constitution in undertaking such efforts to ensure the safety of the public (Nwoko, 2021). It is based on this argument that *Amotekun* was launched by South-West governors to tackled insecurity in the region. Since the establishment of this community-based policing, several studies have been conducted to evaluate its effectiveness, but none of these studies seemed to comparatively examine how effective is the organisation in Oyo and Ondo states. For instance, the work of Ajiboye (2023) beamed a searchlight on the WNSN operations in Southwest Nigeria, an area that has lately become a refuge for abductors. The scholar looks at how the WNSN has changed over time as a regional security plan to counter growing insecurity and suggests a different project to deal with regional security issues. The result of this study showed that, WNSN has been instrumental in identifying the hiding places of kidnappers, obtaining intelligence, and continuously liberating kidnapped victims from the whims and avarices of their captors.

Additionally, it has persisted in offering security agencies including the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), State Security Service (SSS), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and other special forces comprehensive intelligence on kidnappers. The study concluded that WNSN is a useful and necessary answer to the protracted discussion around community policing, serving as a substitute strategy for protecting Nigeria from the various security threats facing the nation. However, this study largely focused on the entire states' operations of the WNSN without a holistic investigation into individual state. The study of Otu and Apeh (2022) evaluated the effect of regional policing in preventing crime, focusing on *Amotekun* in the Nigerian towns of Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa. The study's primary goal was to evaluate the effects of crime on Oyo State inhabitants' socioeconomic development and *Amotekun's* efforts to deter crime. A descriptive survey was used as part of the research design. The study revealed that criminal activities have a significant impact on the socio-economic development of Oyo State. Disinvestment, restrictions on the movement of people, destruction of social order, disorder which impede community cooperation and trust. Challenges to community policing identified in the survey include community mistrust, chilly relationships between government security agencies and residents, sponsorship interference and lack of modern weapons. The study recommended that the State government needs to step up its efforts by allocating more funds to *Amotekun*, which could be wisely utilized for the purchase of modern security equipment to tackle insecurity in the State. This study did not evaluate the effective is the operation of *Amotekun* in the State.

Yahaya and Bello (2020) contended that *Amotekun* had reduced the problem of inadequate manpower in the Nigeria Police Force. It has complemented the Nigeria Police Force in undertaking more robust routine patrols in every nook and cranny of the region. The initiative served as intelligent for conventional security which has replaced CCTV in most of the rural areas by gathering information about the crimes and suspicious activities for interpretation and proper action. In addition, Nwoko (2021) noted that *Amotekun* is novel, making it first time that a solution to Nigeria's security insecurity has been conceptualised at the regional level and from a regional perspective, the group has made security arrangements for itself. Nwoko (2021) argued further that this is not the first time such arrangement will be initiated citing examples of Nigeria vigilante groups across Nigeria. Hisbah and civilian IJT in Kano and Bornu states. However, these were all ethnic and collective reactions to the government's failure to effectively protection of life and property. However, apart from protecting lives and property, the *Amotekun* initiative also addresses the fear of various ethnic and regional groups against seemingly sophisticated attempts at intimidation, domination and possible annihilation by the rampaging unknown gunmen and banditry in south-west region of Nigeria.

### **Theoretical Framework Actor-Oriented Theory of Power**

This study adopted actor-oriented theory of power to give rationale behind the role of six states governors of the Southwest Nigeria, security agencies and stakeholders including *Amotekun* security corps in helping to reduce insecurity in the region especially in Oyo and Ondo states. The theory was developed by Max Weber in 1964 to explain ability of individuals to realize their will, despite resistance from others, particularly, individuals empowered to carry out some assignment (Svarstad et al., 2018). In the context of the actor-oriented power perspective, power is exercised by actors to achieve some specific objectives.

The approach was further elaborated by Norman Long (1990, 2001 and 2002) to establish whether the application of theory would improve developmental programs and bring about positive change to a given situation. According to Bosman (2004), based on Long's contribution, a deeper knowledge of the actor-oriented approach assists one in establishing how far-ranging the human responses to development interventions would be. As argued by Wang (2017), the underlying premise of this approach is that actors involve themselves in and react to specific objectives based on the information at their disposal, the changes in power that would result and the impact it would have on their goals, therefore, this perspective illuminates the issue of how actors shape structural changes based on the idea of social interfaces. This theory explained the effort made by six state governors of the Southwest region of Nigeria as critical actors that have responsibility to protect and safeguard lives and properties of citizens within their respective states being the first responsibility of any government.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted a comparative research design using qualitative and quantitative approaches of data collections which allows the researcher to identify, analyse and explain similarities and differences across the contexts of a study. In the context of this study, the application of primary (interview/questionnaire) and secondary sources of data were employed to juxtaposition and analysing security challenges of Oyo and Ondo states. The sample of the study was taken from Oyo and Ondo states. A purposive sample technique was employed to select five (5) Local Government Areas in each of the two (2) states due to high level of insecurity in the area. The selected LGAs were Atiba, Iseyin, Surulere, Saki West and Saki East in Oyo State and Odigbo, Owo, Akure, Okiti-Pupa and Irele in Ondo State. 820 Residents (farmers, academia, artisan, NPF, NSDC, *Amotekun* Corps, civil servant, civil society organisations and self-employed) residing in the selected communities were randomly selected with a shared in ration 2:3 between the two states. Three hundred and eighty-one (381) respondents were sampled in Ondo State, while three hundred and eighty-nine (389) respondents were taken from Oyo State. 770 copies of questionnaire were retrieved back and analysed using descriptive analysis, while 12 interview sessions (8 KII and 4 IDI) were successfully conducted and analyse using content analysis.

### **Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings**

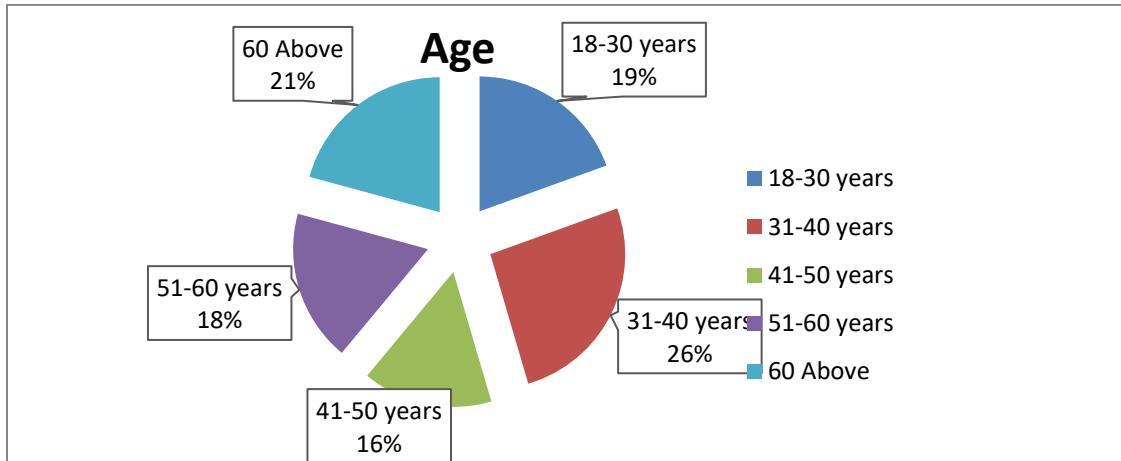


Fig 1: Age distribution of the respondents

The result in fig 1 shows age range of the respondents, 19% are between 18-30 years, 26% are between 31-40 years, 16% are from 41-50 years, 18% are between 51-60 years, while 21% are 60 years above. The shows that majority are of youthful age.

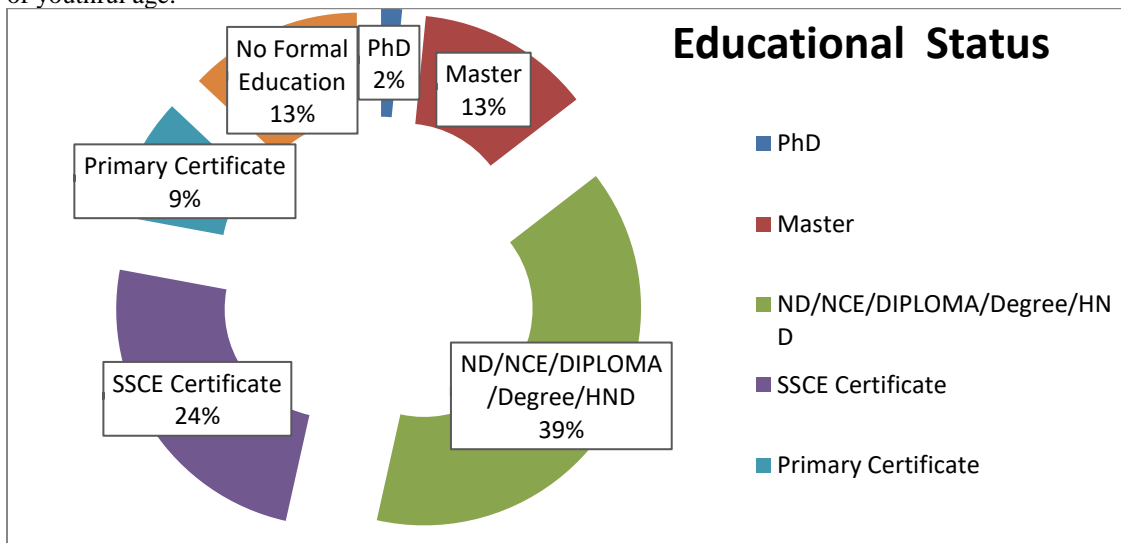


Fig 2: Educational status of the respondents

Result in fig 2 shows educational status of the respondents, 13% had no formal education, 9% had primary certificate, 24% had SSCE certificate, while 39% had ND/NCE/Diploma/HND/Degree certificate, 13% had masters degree and 2% had PhD. This implies majority of the respondents are literate.

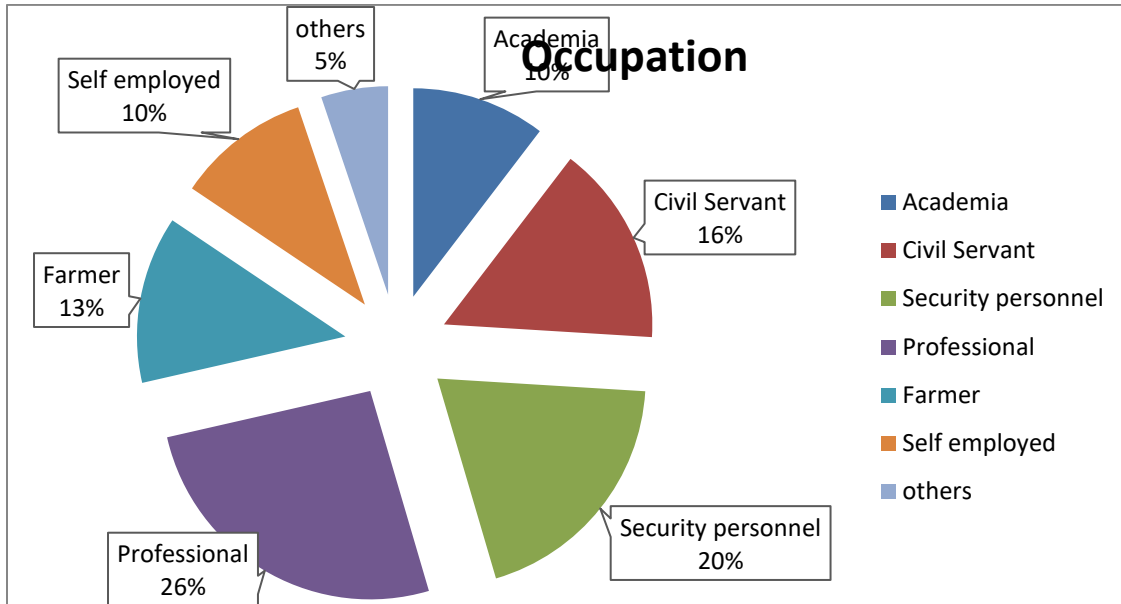


Fig 3: Occupation of the respondents

Results in figure 3 shows the occupation of the respondents, 10% are academia, 16% are civil servants, 20% are security personnel, 26% are professionals, 13% are farmers, while 10% are self-employed and 5% engage in other activities. This shows the study covers people engaged in different economic activities.

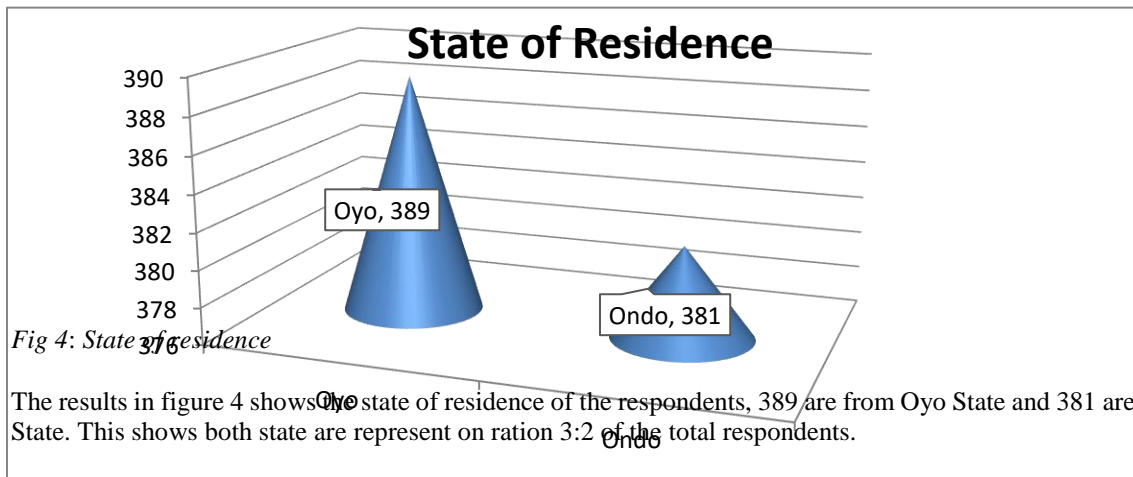


Fig 4: State of residence

The results in figure 4 shows the state of residence of the respondents, 389 are from Oyo State and 381 are from Ondo State. This shows both state are represent on ration 3:2 of the total respondents.

**Objective: Examine the effectiveness of operations of Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States**

**Table 1 Respondents opinion on the effectiveness of *Amotekun*'s operations in Oyo and Ondo States**  
**Key: Ineffective (IE) Undecided (UD) Moderately Effective (ME) Very Effective (VE)**

| Variables   | Oyo State N= 389 |                |                |                |             | Ondo State N= 381 |                |               |                |             |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
|   | IE               | UD             | ME             | VE             | Mean        | IE                | UD             | ME            | VE             | Mean        |
| Intelligent gathering, and surveillance                                   | 45<br>(11.6%)    | 55<br>(14.1%)  | 60<br>(15.4%)  | 229<br>(58.9%) | <b>3.21</b> | 45<br>(11.8%)     | 55<br>(14.4%)  | 50<br>(13.1%) | 231<br>(60.6%) | <b>3.24</b> |
| Proactive response to crime and violent scene                             | 64<br>(16.8%)    | 82<br>(21.5%)  | 152<br>(39.9%) | 83<br>(21.8%)  | <b>2.51</b> | 50<br>(12.9%)     | 52<br>(13.4%)  | 58<br>(14.9%) | 229<br>(58.9%) | <b>3.19</b> |
| Routine security patrol and crime prevention                              | 64<br>(16.8%)    | 82<br>(21.5%)  | 152<br>(39.9%) | 83<br>(21.8%)  | <b>2.51</b> | 48<br>(12.3%)     | 57<br>(14.7%)  | 55<br>(14.1%) | 229<br>(58.9%) | <b>3.19</b> |
| Synergizing with other security agencies in crime and violence mitigation | 47<br>(12.1%)    | 55<br>(14.1%)  | 58<br>(14.9%)  | 229<br>(58.9%) | <b>3.19</b> | 208<br>(54.6%)    | 60<br>(15.7%)  | 68<br>(17.8%) | 45<br>(11.8%)  | <b>3.33</b> |
| Arrest and prosecution of criminals                                       | 64<br>(16.8%)    | 82<br>(21.5%)  | 152<br>(39.9%) | 83<br>(21.8%)  | <b>2.51</b> | 42<br>(11.0%)     | 70<br>(18.4%)  | 64<br>(16.8%) | 205<br>(53.8%) | <b>3.15</b> |
| Safety of lives and property  | 65<br>(17.1%)    | 138<br>(36.2%) | 95<br>(24.9%)  | 83<br>(21.8%)  | <b>3.02</b> | 87<br>(22.8%)     | 103<br>(15.7%) | 90<br>(23.6%) | 101<br>(37.8%) | <b>3.03</b> |

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2024

Table 1 shows how effective are the operations of *Amotekun* in Oyo and Ondo states. Result from Oyo State has a mean score 3.21 and Ondo State 3.24 which indicates respondents perceive *Amotekun*'s intelligence gathering and surveillance as efficient. More so, respondents to oral interview opined that employing unconventional techniques of information collection by *Amotekun* corps has effective. A commander who is the coordinator of Saki East of the Oyo State Security Network Agency *Amotekun* explained how Intelligence gathering and information sharing between *Amotekun* and other security agencies as one of his major areas of interest. In his words:

In Oyo State today, *Amotekun* enjoys some level of trust from the communities in the State that no other security agency can boast of. We leverage on our community partnership, community information sharing, and *Amotekun* involvement in community affairs has provided us with the opportunity to gather and share helpful security information with sister security agencies in the State. KII/*Amotekun* Corps/Commandant/Saki East /Oyo/2024

Another interviewee at Iseyin town claimed that the security network get some information from the public. According to him:

Based on individual interest and share group interest, you find some people in support of what we do and some don't fancy us. Whichever way it is, some useful information is always being gathered and utilized to curtail insecurity in the communities in the State. From this understanding, *Amotekun* is always appreciative of whatever support

she gets and always maximizes it for success. KII/*Amotekun* Corps Member/Saki West /Oyo/2024

The finding corroborates with the study of Ezinwa and Dayil (2020) that *Amotekun's* role is to save and protect the Southwest residents from further invasion of terrorists and ensure the region is secured and that since the launch of *Amotekun's* operation by South-West Governors, ears have heard and eyes have seen the tremendous records of achievement the agency has broken. Being the central aim of establishing the corps, the result of this finding demonstrated that *Amotekun* effectively employed the use of the intelligence of information and surveillance from the grassroots on security threats, thereafter, mobilized to mitigate the occurrence of such threats. Consequently, it may be inferred that information collection and surveillance operations of *Amotekun* are considered to be highly efficient in both states, with a somewhat greater level of effectiveness in Ondo State.

In Oyo State, result showed *Amotekun's* proactive approach to addressing crime and violent incidents as effective with a mean score 2.51. Conversely, Ondo State has a mean score 3.19 which implies *Amotekun's* proactive reaction is considered substantially effective in Ondo State than in Oyo State. While corroborating this result, one of the interviewees in Irese town Oyo state confirmed that:

*Amotekun* corps is closer to locals in term of operation than conventional police; they are made up of people from the same community, which made them to be more knowledgeable about the terrain and the history of crime in the community and more trustworthy of serving the interests of local communities. In our own community, they do assist the community leader in settling the conflict between the farmers and headsmen. While in many instances they are always proactive to arrive at scene of the reported conflict or violence. IDI/ Male/ Residents /Oyo/2024.

A resident of Owo town who happen to be a Reverenced Father explained what he knows about the activities of *Amotekun*;

*Amotekun* corps that I know in this town are very proactive in response to the security distress. Take for example, the last time several students who were travelling were kidnapped along Irele and Owo road, immediately the officers of the organization were informed, closed to four to three vans and enough personnel were deployed inside the bush. Within twelve hours of kidnapping operation took place, the *Amotekun* were able to rescue the victims. IDI/ Male/ Religious leader/Ondo/2024

As against conventional state security outfits, respondents submitted that *Amotekun* is always on a standby to respond to emergencies at any time the need arises. This finding invalidated the assertion of Olumide (2024) that the recent surge of insecurity across the south-West region has put a question mark on the effectiveness of *Amotekun* in stemming insecurity in the region.

Regarding routine security patrol and crime prevention, result from Oyo State have a mean score 2.51, while Ondo State has mean score 3.19. These findings indicate that the security patrols and crime prevention measures carried out by *Amotekun* are perceived to be more efficient in Ondo State than in Oyo State. In the account of a respondent in Akure town:

You will find the *Amotekun* corps in some places in the State compactly ready and patrolling everywhere. People even have trust in their ability more than the police because of their non-relentless response to crime and violent scenes, night patrol and safety of life are guaranteed with their presence. IDI/Female/Resident/Ondo/2024

A transporter interviewed at Saki Park corroborated the above stressing that:

The situation on Saki-Ilorin route was very bad and that has causes nightmare for travellers traveling along the route. But with the patrol of *Amotekun* security corps, alongside other security agencies, they have helped to alleviate fear from the heart of all the road users. IDI/Male/Transporter /Oyo/2023

Specifically, oral evidence obtained in Ondo State attested to this that the agency has enough patrol vans and personnel across the State compared to Oyo State. This finding is supported by the assertion of Odewale and Oyedele (2020)

that *Amotekun* will complement the Nigeria Police Force in carrying out stronger daily patrols in all corners of the South West region of Nigeria. Also, the achievement of *Amotekun* as reported in this study pointed to the submission of Oludayo (2023) that the successful launch and achievements of the *Amotekun* group are impacting other regions of Nigeria and redefining the security management landscape of the entire country. This is another area of effectiveness of the agency as acknowledged by different categories of respondents that the agency carried out effective night patrol to prevent crime occurrences.

Furthermore, result from Oyo State on collaborating with other security agencies has a mean score 3.19 and Ondo State 3.33. It may be inferred that the partnership between *Amotekun* and other security agencies is considered to be effective in both state. A respondent in Oyo State said:

I have seen that the *Amotekun* works hand-in-hand with other security agencies, because when they arrest some criminals, they take them to the police or NSCDC and I think the collaboration is working well. IDI/Male/Residents/Oyo/2023

Similarly, a respondent in Ondo State supported the above assertion by saying:

*Amotekun* corps carry out their duties with other security agencies as their backbone, there are some instances where the need sophisticated weapon and they don't have it, especially when they want to chase armed robbers or kidnapper. Hence, the effectiveness of their collaboration with other security agencies well. IDI/Male/Residents/Ondo/2023

This finding is in line with the argument of Ofulue (2021) that the only panacea to effective crime reduction in society includes collaborating with other state security operatives either from the area of security or residents of the community to jointly fight criminality. In a nutshell, even though the organisation started in the right direction, there is a need for adequate collaboration with existing sister security agencies so that insecurity can be adequately reduced.

Also, result from Oyo State *Amotekun's* on apprehending and prosecuting criminals has a mean score 2.51, Ondo State has a mean score 3.15. Consequently, the perceived efficacy of *Amotekun* in apprehending and bringing criminals to justice is considerably greater in Ondo State than in Oyo State. However, corroborating the above quantitative report. An interviewee in Oyo State confirmed that:

The rate criminal elements in Oyo had reduced from what is obtainable before the establishment of *Amotekun*, for example, nine of the 12 abducted Lagos-bound travelers kidnapped in Ondo by suspected gunmen in the state around September, 2021 were rescued by the *Amotekun* in Oyo State and subsequently arrested the perpetrators. IDI/Male/Resident /Oyo/2024

A community leader in Akure town of Ondo State have this say,

In term of arrest and prosecution of criminals, I can give them a pass mark that within the limited time of *Amotekun*, it has successfully arrested and prosecuted many criminals particularly one-chance criminal disturbing Akure metropolis and they are ever ready to respond to any breach of law and order. IDI/Female/Community Leader/Ondo/2024

The finding aligned with the argument of Oludayo (2023) that *Amotekun* provides security services to local communities and has contributed to the crackdown on kidnappers, herdsmen crime and other forms of crime. It is therefore obvious that the *Amotekun's* capability and ability to arrest and prosecute criminal elements is undoubted in Ondo State, but there is a need to be conscious of being politically motivated so that the power of the organisation to arrest and prosecute will not be misconstrued as a means to witch-hunt political enemies.

However, result in Oyo State on safeguarding of lives and property by *Amotekun* corps has a mean score 3.02, while Ondo State has 3.03. These findings indicate that *Amotekun* is perceived to be effective in safeguarding lives and property in both states. Also, while confirming this finding, a resident in the Ondo State asserted that:

The killings and destruction of properties as a result of farmer-herdsmen clashes had reduced significantly since the establishment of *Amotekun*. For instance, *Amotekun*

corps is constantly meeting with the state leadership of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria and the leadership of the Ondo State Farmers Association to fashion out ways to end the incessant destruction of farmland by the cows of the herders. IDI/Male/Resident /Ondo/2024

The spokesperson for the community development association in Ago-Awaye said thus, *Amotekun* has bridge the gaps in the areas where police and other security agents are not covering. Incessant attacks and banditry activities have drastically reduced. The issue of kidnapping equally has reduced. All these achievements can be attributed to routine patrol of the organisation. IDI/ resident/Saki East /Oyo/ 2024

This finding is in line with the submission of Otu and Apeh (2022) which emphasizes the impact of regional policing on crime by security agencies such as *Amotekun* which enhance safety of lives and properties thereby increasing socio-economic development of the communities. Also, a study by Shaibu et al., (2024) revealed that the impact of *Amotekun* security operatives through it armed corps have been able to reduced insecurity and its menace, thereby improving the security and reducing various forms of security threats in the community.

**Table 2 Respondents’ opinion on security status of Oyo and Ondo states after the establishment of *Amotekun***

| Variables   | AFTER          |                 |                | Mean |
|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------|
|   | Low<br>1-3     | Moderate<br>4-6 | High<br>7-9    |      |
| Level of security threats such as armed robbery, farmers-herdsmen clash, kidnapping, etc. <b>After</b> the inception of <i>Amotekun</i> in the two states | 602<br>(78.2%) | 78 (10.1%)      | 90<br>(11.7%)  | 1.33 |
| Safety and security of lives and properties <b>After</b> the establishment of <i>Amotekun</i> corps   | 88 (11.4%)     | 102 (13.2%)     | 580<br>(75.3%) | 2.63 |

*Source: Researchers’ Field Survey, 2024*

Also, Table 2 shows that there has been an improvement in security with a mean score of 1.33 and 602(78.2%) respondents reported low level of security threats such as armed robbery, farmers-herdsmen clash, kidnapping, etc. after the inception of *Amotekun* corps in both states. Similarly, 580(75.3%) respondents feels safer and more secure following the deployment of *Amotekun* with mean 2.63. A traditional leader in Ekiti-Pupa said that residents of their area appreciated the Ondo State government for considering the initiative of community policing through *Amotekun* which has reduced the level of crime rate in the area. He has this to say;

*Amotekun* had offered jobs to many of our youths who are conversant with terrain of coastal security. They work hand in hand with other security agencies to ensure we live in peace and harmony. They are very effective in proactive engagement with community leaders and other stakeholders in stemming security threats uncovered before it become a major threat. IDI/Male/Traditional chief /Ondo/ 2024

In a similar opinion, a Hausa community leader who was interviewed at Zango Market of Saki West Local Government Area further explained that:

The security situation in Oke-Ogun zone 1 &2 has improved unlike before. The emergence of *Amotekun* security corps has doused ethnic tension and suspicions among Yoruba community and non-indigenes. Insecurity is becoming a thing of the past; you know contrary to our initial belief, we thought *Amotekun* was introduced to eject and witch-hunt non indigenes that are residents in this place. However, now our

doubts are cleared and we feel safe and confident in the way and manner *Amotekun* is doing their job. IDI/Male /Hausa Community Leader /Oyo/ 2024

The spokesperson for the community development association in Ago-Awaye said thus;

*Amotekun* has bridged the gaps in the areas where police and other security agents are not covering. Incessant attacks and banditry activities have drastically reduced. The issue of kidnapping equally has reduced. All these achievements can be attributed to routine patrol of the organisation. IDI/ resident/ Saki East /Oyo/ 2024

This finding negates the submission of Olumide (2024) that the recent surge of insecurity across the southwest region has put a question mark on the effectiveness of *Amotekun* in stemming insecurity in the region. Hence, residents of Oyo and Ondo felt positive effect of *Amotekun* operation in safe guarding life and property. But there is still much work to be done to secure residents against unwanted violent attacks.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, the study therefore concluded that the establishment and operation of *Amotekun* in the containment of insecurity challenges were largely effective in intelligent gathering, and surveillance, proactive response to crime and violent scenes, and routine security patrol and crime prevention, synergising with other security agencies in crime, arrest and prosecution of criminals and increase in safety of lives and properties in Ondo more than Oyo State. The study hereby recommended that the policy framework on weapons, sources of funds, and equipment for the *Amotekun* should be overhauled to enhance its operational efficiency. Meanwhile, there should be a change in the enabling Act that restricted the organisations usage of sophisticated weapons, the source of funds and every other equipment to be used by *Amotekun* should come beyond State treasury in other to avoid the repeat of challenges confronting conventional security agents; and adequate audit should be placed on the supplied equipment and fund. Equally, private-public partnership in funding *Amotekun* should also encouraged.

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