AN APPRAISAL OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

Ndem Etia Ndem
Directorate of Public Order and Information Management
University of Uyo, Uyo, Nigeria
ndem_ndem@yahoo.com
+2348060088050

Abstract

This paper is an appraisal of the criminal justice system in Nigeria. The paper predicates its appraisal on some propositions extracted from the structural functional theory. On methodology, the paper relies substantially on secondary method of data collection which it analyses using content analysis. Findings reveals that poor and inadequate infrastructure, corruption, inadequate personnel, inadequate working facilities and equipment, lack of motivation and incentives, constitutes the major issues and problems bedevilling the criminal justice system in Nigeria. The paper therefore argued that there is the urgent need for reform in Nigeria's criminal justice system so as to ensure effective justice delivery to the citizens. Accordingly, the paper recommended among other things, that there should be institutional capacity building in Nigeria's criminal justice system. There should be frequent and regular training and retraining of the police, judges, magistrates, judiciary staff, correctional service staff and such other staff within the criminal justice system in the country. This will help to bring about the needed reform and accordingly ensure effective justice delivery to Nigerians.

Keywords: **Criminal Justice System, Criminal Justice Institutions, Nigeria Police, Judiciary, Nigerian Correctional Service**

Introduction

Criminal Justice System is an essential part of any civilized nation and it helps to ensure justice, fairness, the practice of the rule of law and the institutionalization of a democratic system. The criminal justice system is a system comprising many bodies, groups, institutions and agencies that have been charged with the responsibilities of ensuring social agreement and mass compliance with the law, and deciding whether or not an individual is guilty of violating the laws of society, and the appropriate punishment to be meted to such an individual. In addition to the foregoing, the criminal justice system is also responsible for the care and rehabilitation of individuals found guilty of breaking the law and to whom prescribed punishment is meted out.

The Nigerian criminal justice system, especially since the country's return to democracy in 1999, has been under criticism especially by human rights advocates, scholars in the academia, highly spirited and concerned citizens as well as some operators of the system (Osasona, 2015; Onimajesin, 2009; Ogundipe, 2006; Ali, 2006). The system has been criticized as having been compromised and performing abysmally below standards when compared with what happens in other countries. The noticeable criticism trailing the system in Nigeria as observed by Amnesty International is the appalling state of the Nigerian justice and correctional system. According to Amnesty International, "the Nigerian correctional system is filled with people whose human rights are daily and systemically violated" (Amnesty International, 2008). Amnesty International also observed that, the criminal justice system is utterly failing the Nigerian people, calling it "a conveyor belt of injustice, from beginning to the end" (Amnesty International, 2008). The Nigeria Police and the Judiciary on the other hand complain of being under staffed, ill–equipped and poorly funded (Ali, 2006).

It is equally public knowledge that the Nigeria police and Nigeria correctional cells are congested and filled with persons or suspects awaiting trials or those whose cases are still being investigated. As noted by Omote (2009), allegations of corruption and abuse of office have been leveled against judicial

officers. Clients are also alleged to be ready to pay for services of their counsel and pay magistrates and judges as well. It was in the light of the deplorable state of affairs in almost all sectors of life in Nigeria and the near loss of hope by common people in securing justice and seeking redress, that prompted the Umaru Musa Yar 'Adua's administration to come up with institutional reform programmes in his "Seven (7) Point Agenda and Vision 2020" on May 29th, 2007 (Yakubu, 2009; Arinzona–Ogwu, 2008;).

The problems of the Nigerian Criminal Justice System are many and varied, cutting across all the component units of the system and varying from poor investigation and policing techniques, inadequately trained manpower, lack of infrastructure, delayed trials, outmoded criminal legislations to poor co-ordination and planning within the justice sector. Above all, corruption appears generic and seems to put the system in bad light and at the same time crisscrossing all the facts of the system. Rotimi, (1982), Iwarimie-Jaja (1989) and Dambazau (2007), blamed the woes of the system on lack of concerted efforts and political will to vigorously overhaul the system by successive governments. Given the general dissatisfaction and perhaps the ineffectiveness and inefficiency associated with the criminal justice system in Nigeria, this paper offers an appraisal of the criminal justice system in Nigeria.

Theoretical Perspective

The theory that is suitable or appropriate for this study and which explanatory framework aptly provides insight to the issues under study, is the structural functionalism theory of Talcott Parsons. This perspective has its origin and development traceable to the works of evolutionary scholars such as August Comte and Herbert Spencer, while later scholars like Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons refined the theory (Omonijo, 2008). Structural functionalism views society as a system that has several parts, which are related to one another and at the same time function independently, but contribute their quota to the maintenance and survival of the entire system. It therefore assumes that there exists harmony, order and stability in the system, which is attributable to the independent nature of each part as well as existing values and norms governing its operation. This brings about co-operation and consensus in the system.

The theory views society as a single interconnected social system, each element of which performs a definite function. The basic characteristic is the integration of its components and functional integration of system occasioned by interdependence of parts. The theory recognizes equilibrium in the social system. Structural functionalism theory appears to be the right framework to adopt for this study. This is because the framework views human society as a system made up of interdependent and interrelated components which function in unity to make a whole and that the component parts function harmoniously for the benefit of the whole social system. The harmonious functioning of the entire system helps in the actualization of the needs of the system; thus enabling the system not to break down. In this study, the component parts of the social system are the law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the correctional institutions that must work harmoniously to maintain the efficient functioning of the Nigeria criminal justice system.

Criminal justice institutions of any state are a network of roles ranging from those of the police, the judiciary, and the correctional services. For the institution to perform optimally, there must be functional interchange between the role players. The police roles (arrest – detention, investigation – prosecution), affect the role of the Judiciary (arraignment – trial and sentencing) in the courts. For instance, the quality of investigations and timely appearance of the accused in courts significantly influence the quality and time of judgment. The same could be said of the role of the courts to the correctional centres (custody – discipline – and reforms). Timely dispensation of judgments significantly influences the capacity of inmates in the correctional centres. This network of relationship affects the system as a whole. The performance or lack of it has its impact on the criminal justice system as a whole.

Conceptual Clarification

I. The Concept of Justice

Justice is a concept of moral rightness based on ethics, rationality, law, natural law, religion, equity and fairness, as well as the administration of the law. It takes into account the inalienable and inborn rights of all human beings and citizens, the right of all people and individuals to equal protection before the law

of their civil rights. The concept of justice abhors discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, colour, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, wealth, or other characteristics, and is further regarded as being inclusive of social justice.

According to most contemporary theories, justice is overwhelmingly important: Rawls (1971) claims that "Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of system of thought". Justice literally means giving someone his or her due. Fair treatment, justice and freedom are not just desired by mankind, but are fundamental to human existence the world over. Philosophers see justice as the happiness of everyone when everyone's interest and life are guaranteed and protected in the society. Justice on the whole is the legal process of arriving at a valid and reasonable judgment on a case based on the laws of the land. Justice is a primary regulator of social practices and interactions in the society. (Rawls, 1971). Justice can be grouped into many different categories depending on conception and circumstances. Such categories include personal justice, legal justice and social justice. Of all these categories of justice, legal justice is the only one that is directly concerned with enactment and administration of law. (Iwe, 1989).

II. The Criminal Justice System

The Criminal Justice System is "an apparatus the society uses to enforce the standards of conduct necessary to protect individuals and the society". It is the sum total of society's activities to defend itself against the action it describes as criminal. It also refers to that integral fusion of machineries of government that aim to enforce law and redress crime. The machineries are the law enforcement agents which control and prevent crime. These include the police, the chief law officer/prosecutor, courts (judiciary) and the correctional service.

Adebayo (2012), said that the criminal justice system is the "institution and practices of government whose main focus is to mitigate and deter crime, uphold social control and sanction individuals who violate the set laws of a specific state with rehabilitation and criminal penalties. In Nigeria, the criminal justice system is therefore the whole gamut of criminal laws (substantive and adjectival), the institutions which include the Nigeria police, the Attorney-General and Minister/Commissioner for Justice including prosecuting law officers, the judiciary and the Nigeria correctional service. All these institutions are required to work hand in hand to address crime.

Evolution of the Criminal Justice System in Nigeria

The evolution of the criminal justice system in Nigeria dates back to the pre-colonial era. Before the colonial era various ethnic groups and tribes had different ways of administering criminal justice in their domains based on their various cultures or traditions. Criminal justice administration wore a formal and Western look in 1861 when the British government on conquering Lagos in 1851 and with subsequent annexation of Lagos in 1861 set up legislative councils to make laws to control the masses and regulate business activities involving many European countries and Africans (Burns, 1929). The British Council and the Royal Niger Company Charter established courts of justice and an armed constabulary in 1899 to enforce laws and regulations in the region. (Burns, 1929).

From 1861-1874, ten (10) different courts were created with only four(4) devoted to criminal matters namely: the supreme court, police magistrate court, the court of civil and criminal justice, the West African court of appeal and the Privy Council (Elias, 1967). However, the laws enacted by the colonial legislative council were based on the laws, values and customs of the English people (Elias, 1967). When Lord Lugard took over the direct administration of Nigeria from George Goldie and his Royal Niger Company in 1900, he retained all of its structures, that is, courts, laws and regulations (Tamuno, 1970). In 1904 Lord Lugard introduced criminal code to the Northern protectorate (Arikpo, 1967). This code was modeled after the code that was introduced into Queen's land, Australia in 1899 by the British government. After the amalgamation of northern and southern protectorates in 1914, Lord Lugard made the criminal code of 1904 to be applicable to all the protectorates in Nigeria, but was immediately considered inappropriate for the northern protectorate. Thus the penal code was introduced to cater for Muslim interests, customs and values while the criminal code was still applicable in the southern protectorate (Adewoye, 1977; Okonkwo, 1964). At present, Nigeria uses tripartite system of the criminal

law and justice. This includes the criminal code based on common law and the English legal system; the penal code based on Muslim and Maliki system of law and justice, and customary law based on customs and traditions of Nigerian people.

Currently, the Nigerian justice system generally functions through the judiciary, characterized by a wide variety of courts of various levels. The courts are distinctly defined hierarchically with their various constituents and jurisdictions. The authorities of the courts are of stages depending on the nature of the cases and the parties involved. The adversarial system of adjudication is adopted in the Nigeria legal system cum criminal justice system. In this method of adjudication, each party to a case has ample opportunity over the way in which facts are collected and presented. Each party to a case has the obligation to assemble and present its witness and evidence in a manner that is most favourable to its case and averse to the opposition party. The adversarial system of adjudication is also called the accusatorial method. Parties are adversaries and engaged in continuous argument in which both parties try to establish its right or innocence as the case may be. Freedom of expression and fair hearing are indispensable in the Nigerian criminal justice system. These are bases that guarantee just treatment of parties to a criminal matter. The availability of freedom of expression and fair hearing in a criminal trial would naturally make an average reasonable person to feel safe in a trial and accept whatever the final judgment may be in the case. The adversarial system of criminal justice which is in practice in Nigeria is in contradistinction to the inquisitorial system which is in force in some European countries like France. In this system, it is the judge who takes the initiative in conducting the case, rather than the prosecution and the defense (in the adversarial system). In the inquisitorial system, the judge is the one who leads the investigations, examines the evidence and interrogates the witnesses (Oxford Dictionary of Law, 2006).

An Appraisal of the Criminal Justice System in Nigeria

The administration of criminal justice in Nigeria entails a synergy between relevant institutions in the country with the aim of ensuring that the society experiences peace, order and justice. The institutions include (but not limited to); the Nigeria police, the judiciary and the correctional service.

The Police and Criminal Justice in Nigeria

According to Tamuno (1970), the Nigeria police is a product of colonial administration. It was born out of a thirty-member consular guard formed in 1861 in Lagos colony, which later transformed to an armed paramilitary called the Hausa Constabulary formed in 1879. It was in 1896 that the Lagos police was established, while earlier in 1894, the Niger Coast constabulary was formed in Calabar. North of the Niger, the Royal Niger Company set up a Constabulary in 1888 in Lokoja (Aire, 1991). After the formation of the protectorates in the North and South in early 1900, both the Royal Niger Company Constabulary and the Niger Coast Constabulary produced Northern and Southern Nigeria police respectively (Aire, 1991).

In 1907, the Police re-organization scheme enabled the colonial government to consolidate its administration over the provinces by relying on traditional rulers for the maintenance of security. It was in 1930 that both the Northern and Southern police were merged to form the Nigeria police with Lagos as the headquarters, while the Nigeria police Act was enacted in 1943 by the British colonial government. The present Nigeria police is a creation of Police Act Cap 259 Laws of the Federation 2004. Its functions and powers are derived from this Act.

The 1999 Constitution makes provisions on issues regarding the police and its duties. For instance, section 194 (1) of the constitution provides that "there shall be a police force for Nigeria and subject to the provisions of this section no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof". However, it is the Police Act of 1943 which actually outlines the roles of the police. For example, the Act empowers police to arrest without warrant, to detain and search suspected persons, and to serve summons, (Sections 24, 28 and 29). In spite of these powers and its omnibus status within the legal framework and the huge financial commitment involved in maintaining the men and officers of the Nigeria police, their services are still being rated poor (Ndagi-mundagi, 2016). Some of the problems bedeviling the Nigeria police as an institution are poor investigation and policing techniques, planting of criminal evidences,

damage of exhibits, extortion of money, poor data storage and retrieval system and corruption (Ndagi-mundagi, 2016).

The first step in criminal proceedings is for victim(s) of crime to make official report at the police station to officers whose duty it is to investigate such complaints with a view to deciding whether or not to invite or arrest the offender(s). This process leads to the issue of awaiting trial and holding charge. Most times, the offenders are kept in hostile environment, intimidated and tortured to make confessional statements. These acts often carried out by the police violate Section 34 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which stipulates that "every individual is entitled to human dignity and respect; no person shall be subjected to torture or inhumane or humiliating treatment". Section 25 (f) equally adds that " a person who is charged with an offence and has been detained in lawful custody awaiting trial shall not continue to be kept in such detention for a period longer than the maximum period of imprisonment prescribed for the offence".

Sub-section 35 (4) and 36 (5) further protect the liberty of the suspect by declaring that "any person who is arrested or detained shall in accordance with Section 35 (1c) be brought to a court of law within a reasonable time and if not tried within a period of (a) 2 months from the date of his arrest or detention in a case of a person who has been released on bail; he shall without prejudice to any further proceedings that may be brought against him, be released either unconditionally or upon such conditions which are reasonably necessary to ensure that he appears for trial at a later date. These police mostly do not comply with. Section 36 (5) on the other hand avails a suspect the presumption of innocence until he or she is proved guilty by the court. Yet the police sometimes prejudge and condemn offenders through induced confessional statements. Worst still are cases where criminal proceedings are stalled due to transfer of the Investigating Police Officers (IPO) out of jurisdiction with case files or his inability to produce witnesses who would have testified against the suspect.

Evaluation of Police performance using the above section of the law suggests performance failure. For instance, Agbakoba and Ibe, (2004), Iwarimie-Jaja, (1989), asserted that poor condition of service, inadequate training of men and officers of the police force account for part of the reasons for police ineffectiveness. Omote (2019), however noted that more than 20,000 personnel have been recruited into the force since 2018. An upward review of their salaries has been carried out, some have even been promoted rapidly and the federal and state governments have released funds for the purchase of fire arms and functional vehicles. The Police Equipment Fund was also launched in Nigeria to tackle the problem of lack of facilities and successive governments have also intensified efforts on police training by sponsoring their oversea training (Omonobi and Ochayi, 2008). As could be observed in Nigeria, despite the fact that government is trying in the direction of providing equipment and other inputs, efforts need to be intensified in the direction of human capital development particularly in the area of intelligence gathering, investigation and prosecution (Ndagi-mundagi, 2016). Quite a number of police personnel lack knowledge of modern policing science which encompasses surveillance, intelligence gathering and reconnaissance; let alone knowledge of forensics which involves highly scientific analysis of crime science and apparatuses (Ndagi-mundagi, 2016). There is therefore, the growing need for adequate manpower training and collaboration between the Nigeria police force and international police organizations on areas of manpower training, equipment and other exchanges.

The Judiciary and Criminal Justice in Nigeria

The present judiciary system in Nigeria is modeled after the British type following the historical antecedent which culminated in the amalgamation of the southern and northern protectorates in 1914. There is a well established hierarchy of the courts within the Nigerian legal system. In Nigeria, the Supreme Court is the apex court. Immediately below the Supreme Court is the Court of Appeal. Immediately below the court of appeal are eight (8) courts with co-ordinate jurisdiction. The are the National Industrial Court, State High Court, Federal High Court, High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Customary Court of Appeal, Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Sharia Court of Appeal, and Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory. All these eight (8) courts as well as the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court are generally referred to as courts of records. Decided

cases in the courts of records are generally reported in law reports and their decisions must be followed by the inferior courts in the hierarchy. Courts of records are all creations of the constitution whereas all the courts other than the courts of records are not creations of the constitution and are not courts of records.

Immediately below the courts of records are the magistrate courts and the district courts which are courts of co-ordinate jurisdiction. They take precedent from the decided cases of the courts of record. Below the magistrate court and district court are the customary court and the area court which are of co-ordinate jurisdiction. There is no practice of judicial precedent in customary court and the area court and lawyers are not allowed to advocate for litigants thereat. Note that magistrates' court and customary courts are mainly applicable in the southern states of Nigeria while district courts and area courts are mainly, applicable in the northern states. Today, there are two levels of courts in Nigeria: federal and state courts. The federal courts have the power to adjudicate on matters brought before it within the state in which it is located. Courts provide the forum for resolving disputes through the application of the laws, although not all disputes are brought before them. In resolving disputes, courts should enjoy judicial independence, free from outside pressure. They should also judge the cases dispassionately. In Akwa Ibom state, there are customary courts, magistrate courts and High courts in almost all the local government areas of the state.

Magistrate courts in Nigeria are the most important courts when talking about the criminal justice system, as more than 90 percent of criminal cases that get tried commence in the court, and 80 percent of cases terminate in magistrate courts (Pedro, 2012). However, in spite of a good number of magistrate courts in Nigeria, there are reported cases of correctional centres congestions (Uso-Essien, 2016). The above is not unconnected to the misfeasance of the police who hastily charge offenders to court on the ground that the accused relatives fail to meet with bail conditions, the stringent court bail conditions, and remand orders from court and some unnecessary adjournments. Osasona (2015), observed equally that punishments and sentences imposed by courts are not reflective of any institutional design aimed at achieving specific ends across social classes. Osasona opines further that though sanctions in the criminal and penal codes infer deterrence, retribution and humiliation as the goal of these legislations, judgments do not uniformly reflect this for the same classes of offences. He averred that court judgments are discriminatory against the poor and the politically unconnected; for instance a magistrate court imposed a ₦2000 fine on Salisu Buhari, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives for forgery and perjury, while another magistrate court sentenced Godson Onyeorozie to 17 years imprisonment without option of fine for the same class of offence.

Similarly, Olarinoye (2013), observed that a federal high court handed John Yakubu Joseph, a former Director in the civil service, a two year jail term, with a ₦25, 000.00 fine option after he admitted to taking part in the stealing of ₦32.8 billion police pension fund while yet another high court sitting at Oshogbo sentenced Kelvin Ighodalo to 45 years imprisonment for stealing a mobile phone belonging to a state Governor without any option of fine. Successive governments have over the years committed huge resources into building new courts, rehabilitating existing ones as well as providing functional vehicles for Judges and magistrates, and giving enhanced pay packages to them, yet there are observable cases of corruption and illegality in the system (Uso-Essien, 2016). Given these, there is palpable negative public perception on the integrity of courts in Nigeria. As observed by Osasona (2015), beyond ethical issues, the judiciary system is bedeviled with procedural deficiencies that make it difficult to dispose of cases expeditiously.

The Correctional Service and Criminal Justice

The British imperial government introduced the prison service (now correctional service) in Lagos during the colonial era. By 1960, there were prisons establishment in every provincial headquarters in Nigeria (Iwarimie-Jaja, 1989). The largest correctional service complex in Nigeria, which has both medium and maximum security branches, is the Kirikiri correctional centre, Lagos (Rotimi, 1982). Nigeria has a centralized system of correctional service administration; this means that every correctional service centre in Nigeria is under the management and control of the Federal Ministry of Interior and at the top of the organizational hierarchy of the Nigeria correctional service is the Comptroller General of Correctional

Service (NHRC, 2012). At present, Nigeria has 145 correctional service centres, 83 satellite correctional service camps, 10 correctional service farms, 2 booster institutions and 9 cottage industries for training of inmates (NHRC, 2012).

However, the Nigeria Correctional Service seems to be facing performance failure. According to Osasona (2015), one of the outstanding features of the correctional service in Nigeria is the high percentage of awaiting trial inmates and a consistent decrease in the number of convicted persons who are the fulcrum of the correctional policy in Nigeria. For instance, Ogundipe (2006), observed that Kirikiri medium correctional service centre with a built up capacity for 835 inmates, houses 2,554 inmates with more than 2,100 of them awaiting trial. Also, the Owerri correctional service centre originally built to accommodate 548 inmates, now houses 1,827 inmates and 1,663 of these are awaiting trial inmates. The Port Harcourt correctional service centre has a built up capacity for 804 inmates, but houses 2,798 inmates out of which about 2,487 are awaiting trial (Ogundipe, 2006).

The awaiting trial issue is not peculiar to the above mentioned correctional service centres but paint the ugly situation of the deplorable state of correctional service centres in the country. Equally, the cost of feeding awaiting trial inmates alone stands at ₦5.5 billion per year (Ogundipe, 2006). Hence, the monetary costs of feeding awaiting trial inmates who are presumably innocent in the eyes of the law until convicted by the court are huge and prohibitive. Aside correctional service centres congestion, poor correctional service centres facilities, inadequate funding, poor training of staff, outdated infrastructure etc, are said to be the most glaring problems facing the correctional service centres (Ogundipe, (2006). This is an issue that calls for reforms; the reform does not only have to centre on the physical rehabilitation of correctional service centres, but also concerted social and human rehabilitation programmes of inmate need to be given due attention.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing appraisal, it can be seen that there is a strong need for reform in Nigeria's criminal justice system so as to ensure effective justice delivery to all citizens. The justice system should not only be developed to protect the privileged few, but it must also be developed to protect the poor caught up in the system either as victims or offenders, without which there is no justice. There is an urgent call for reforms and modernization of all institutions of criminal justice delivery in Nigeria in general as this will assist in development of justice under the country's democratic dispensation and governance.

Based on the foregoing, the following recommendations are necessary if the criminal justice system in Nigeria is to be repositioned:

1). Officers and men of the Nigeria police need to be trained and retrained. The lack of knowledge in the use of modern investigative techniques and skills in detecting crime has made the police mainly to use torture to extract confessions from suspects. In addition, the Nigeria police should be well funded by the government and concerted efforts must be made by the powers that be to eradicate corruption and other vices that characterize many law enforcement agencies and organizations in the country.

2). There should be institutional capacity building in the justice system. This will involve increase in the number of courts, appointment of more Judges and Magistrates into the judiciary system. There should be frequent and constant training and retraining of Judges, Magistrates and their judiciary staff within the criminal justice system on the reform programmes necessary for the 21st century.

3). Regular law reforms are necessary to meet the day to day challenges of the time. In the criminal justice system of Nigeria, some reforms that need to take place can be undertaken without legislative change, while some can only be achieved through legal reforms. Such legal reforms can be in terms of sentencing reforms, streamlining and adoption of plea bargaining, prosecutor reforms and unification of criminal procedures in the entire country.

4). Legislation is also recommended to streamline the guidelines on pretrial processes, bail and general management of cases from initial arraignment through trial to sentencing.

5). The correctional service centres infrastructure is outdated, outstretched and overcrowded. Government should build new correctional service centres or expand the existing ones, fund them adequately and modernize them to ensure that there is positive impact on the behaviour of inmates.

References

Adewoye, O. (1977). *The judicial system in southern Nigeria, 1854-1954.* In law and justice. New Jersey: Atlantic Highlands Humanities Press.

Agbakoba, O. & Ibe, S. (2004). *Travesty of justice.* Lagos: Human Rights Law Service.

Aire, P. T. (1991). *Imperial policing, the mergence and role of the police in colonial Nigeria.* Philadelphia: Open University Press.

Ali, O. Y. (2016). Delay in the administration of justice at the magistrate court: factors responsible and solution

Amnesty International (2008). Nigeria: criminal justice system utterly failing Nigerian people. Press release Monday, 25th February, 2008.

Arikpo, O. (1967). *The development of modern Nigeria.* Baltimore: Penguin Books.

Arizona-Ogwu, L. C. (2008). Yar' Adau's 7-point agenda: impost and implementations, Vanguard Newspaper, 27 December, 2008.

Burns, A. S. (1929). *History of Nigeria.* London: George Allen and Unwin Limited.

Dambazau, A. B. (2007). *Criminology and criminal justice.* Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.

Elias, O. T. (1967). *The British commonwealth, the development of its law and constitution.* London: Steven and Sons Limited. http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue893.html. http://www.yusufali.net/article/delaynitheadministrationocjustice.pdf.

Iwarimie-Jaja, D. (1989). Corrections in Nigeria: a system in need of reform. *Criminal Justice International,* 3(5), 21-38.

Iwe, N.S.S. (1989). *The History and Content of Human Rights*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing Inc.

Moore, M. (1997). The legitimization of criminal justice policies and practices. In Wilson, J. et al (eds.) *Perspectives on Crimes and Justice.* London: National Institute of Justice Research Report.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) (2014). NBS/EFCC/ UNODC business crime and corruption survey.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) (2012). Harmonized report of 2012 prison audit.

Ndagi-mundagi, M. U. (2016). Nigeria's under-staffed police. Daily Trust Newspaper. 26th March, 2016.

Nigeria Police Act (1990). CAP 259 laws of the federation.

Nigeria Prison Services (2014). Statistical Information, October 31.

Ogundipe, O. A. (2006). *Prospect for the platform of prison in democratic Nigeria. The Reformer:* A Bulletin of the Nigeria Prison Service.

Okonkwo N. (1964). *Criminal law in Nigeria.* London: Sweet and Maxwell Publishing Company.

Olarinoye, G. (2013). Aregbesola's phone. Thief bags 45yrs jail term. Vanguard Newspaper Online. 30th April, 2013. Available online at: www.vanguardngr.com/2013/04/aregbesola'sphone-theif-bags-45-yr-term.

Omonobi, K. & Ochayi, C. (2008). Nigeria: police equipment fund fraud - EFCC arrests Dumuje. Vanguard Newspaper, 12th April, 2008.

Omote, R. (2009), Problems in the administration of justice in Nigeria. Vanguard Newspaper online 29th October 2009. Available online at: www.vanguardngr.com/2009/10/problem-in-the-amdinistration-of-eriminal-justice-in-nigeria.

Omouijo, D. O. (2008). Patterns of corruption in Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). M. Sc. Thesis Submitted to Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka.

Onimajesin, S. I. (2009). Criminal justice system in Nigeria: an appraisal. *Humanities and Social Sciences Review*. 1(2), 195-205.

Osasona, T. (2015). Time to reform Nigeria's criminal justice system. *Journal of Law and Criminal Justice*, 3(2), 73-79.

Oxford Dictionary of Law (2006). *Oxford dictionary of law.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pedro, L. (2012). Criminal jurisdiction of magistrate courts in Nigeria: a need for review. A Paper Delivered at the Biennial National Convention and Delegates Conference of Magistrate Association of Nigeria, May 1st 2013, at Jos, Plateau State.

Rawls, John (1971). *A Theory of Justice*. Harvard University Press, www.heinonline.org

Rotimi. A. R. (1982). Prison administration in modern Nigeria. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 7(8), 45-61.

Senam, N. (2017). *Mass Media Law and Ethnics.* Uyo: Inela Ventures and Publishers Limited.

Tamuno, T. M. (1970). *The policing in modern Nigeria.* Ibadan: Ibadan University Press

Uduigwomn, A. F. (2005). *Philosophical Jurisprudence.* Calabar: Jochrisam Publisher Limited.

Uso-Essien, E. U. (2016). The quest for justice to victims of crime: whether Nigeria? *University of Uyo Law Journal*, 9(2), 244-266.

Yakubu, T. N. (2009). Nigeria: Yar' Adua' Seven-Point Agenda and Vision 2020 - Political Slogans or Economic Growth Mechanisms, Vanguard Newspaper, 9th April, 2009.