AN ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND MOB JUSTICE IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA MARKET SULEJA, NIGER STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the phenomenon of mob justice in relation to crime in Nigeria. Using Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida Market Suleja as a case study, the study examined the prevalence, forms, and causes of crime and mob justice. The systematic sampling technique was used to select 286 traders in the market for questionnaire administration, while the purposive sampling technique was used to select the leaders of market authority and security organisations for an in-depth interview. The data obtained revealed that the physical structure of the market and ineffective security services are the major causes of various forms of crime in the market, while mob justice, occurring in various forms, is also prevalent due to not only the rise in crime but also ineffective security. It is recommended that the government should restructure the market and re-enforce the security organisations to combat crime and mob justice in the market and beyond.

Keywords: Crime, Mob Justice, Violence, Security, Market.

INTRODUCTION

As history shows, mob violence whereby non-state actors kill other people in the name of justice has occurred all over the world at different times and in different places with much higher frequencies in some contexts than in others (Verweijen, 2016). In modern times, the concept

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of human rights evolves to protect individuals against mob violence and other actions that interfere with fundamental freedoms and human dignity (Adu-Gyamfi, 2014).

Human rights are the inalienable rights of every human being irrespective of their race, sex, nationality, and any other affiliation. They are lawfully guaranteed by human rights law and are fundamental when they are entrenched in a country's constitution. They include civil, political, and social rights which contain rights to a fair trial and the right to freedom from torture, or cruel, inhuman treatment or punishment.

The experiences of the first and second world wars motivated international actors to make a signed declaration on human rights which came to be known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR, which contains 30 articles, states the basic rights and fundamental freedoms all human beings are entitled to and is recognised internationally. Articles 10 and 11 respectively guaranteed the right to a fair trial and the right to stand innocent of a crime before being proven guilty. The UDHR was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10th, 1948, the first time that countries agreed on a comprehensive statement of inalienable human rights (Andreopoulos, n.d.).

As a nation, Nigeria is built on the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice, and has entrenched human rights as fundamental in its constitution. Section 34 (of chapter 4) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for the dignity of a person and prohibits torture or any degrading treatment of a human being. Section 36 (5) provides that in determining any civil and criminal matter, the accused person should be given a fair hearing as every accused person is innocent until the contrary is sufficiently proved in a competent court of jurisdiction. And section 33 (1) categorically states that "every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria". Nigeria is also a signatory to the UDHR among other international human rights

treaties, and to safeguard the people of Nigeria, the government is allocating huge funds to security (Eboh, 2019).

However, the rate of violent and property crimes in the country keeps growing at an alarming proportion, resulting in the loss of thousands of innocent people and properties worth billions of Naira. According to Oluwaleye (2021), seven out of 10 Nigerians are afraid of becoming the victims of crime. As the people lose confidence in the ability of the formal authorities to protect them from the menace of criminals, the phenomenon of mob violence keeps growing as the people resolve to take the laws into their hands to inflict brutal punishment on suspected criminals. In the face of global efforts to promote the UDHR, these such practices also flourish in other developing countries like Kenya, Ghana, Cameroun, South Africa, and Tanzania. It is against this background that this paper assessed the phenomenon of mob justice vis-à-vis crime in Nigeria with a specific focus on Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB) modern market, Suleja, Niger state.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

The rise in the incidence of crime in Nigeria like in other developing countries seems to overwhelm the law enforcement agencies. As a result, many citizens around the country respond by forming community-based groups which work in a variety of ways – sometimes hand-in-hand with the official police and sometimes not. But the existence of many informal police served only to increase crime, if not by administering punishment to suspects falsely accused, then by taking the law into their own hands. Although mob violence is not peculiar to Nigeria, what makes the Nigerian incidents of mob violence baffling is that most people, including the educated, are not opposed to it in principle and consequently, most of the incidents go unreported as they are not considered newsworthy.

One of the many places where the phenomenon holds sway in the country is IBB's modern market in Suleja, Niger state. Using the market as a point of reference, many questions abound. What are the various forms of mob justice? What are the reasons people resort to mob justice?

How prevalent is mob justice? While there are many research works dedicated to finding and providing answers to the likes of the foregoing posers, none primarily centre on IBB modern market Suleja, and as such, their findings may not validly be applied to it. This is a result of the peculiarities of the social realities of each society, probable similarities notwithstanding. It is thus safe to say that there are, at the moment, no scientifically established forms, causes and implications of the phenomenon of mob justice in the IBB market. In other words, no known study has yet established the peculiar forms, causes and prevalence of mob justice in IBB modern market, Suleja Local Government Area. It is this gap that forms the basis for this research endeavour.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study assessed the phenomena of crime and mob justice in IBB market in Suleja, Niger State, Nigeria. Accordingly, the following are the specific objectives of the study:

1. To examine the prevalence of crime and mob justice in IBB Market Suleja.
2. To identify the various forms of Crime and mob justice in IBB Market Suleja.
3. To identify the causes of crime and mob justice in IBB Market Suleja.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of the mob is defined by Gurumayum (2016) as "a short gathering of people who get involved in sudden upheavals or upsurges" (para. 2). The phenomenon of mob justice occurs when a group of non-state actors act as accusers, jury and executioners in the instant trial and punishment of an alleged criminal with an out fair hearing. There are many instances in which people have been burnt and killed before there was enough evidence of their guilt (Baloyi, 2015). The practice of mob justice going on for several decades is still prevalent in Nigeria (Kpae & Adishi, 2017), South Africa (Baloyi, 2015), Malawi (Kasalika, 2016), Congo (Verweijen, 2016) and Tanzania (Chalya et al,

2015) among many other African countries. In Nigeria, in the years 2020 and 2021, 83 and 107 people were killed in reported cases of mob justice respectively, while 32 cases of mob violence were reported in May 2022 alone (Daily Trust, 2022). Similarly,

> In 2011, the Kenyan police for the first time included lynching in its crime statistics. The officials recorded 543 victims. In Uganda, 582 people died as a result of lynching in 2014. That is 1.6 cases per day on average. According to the United Nations, mobs have brutally killed 16 people in Malawi in recent months (Krinninger, 2016: para. 4).

While brutality is the core feature of mob violence, it occurs in different forms. According to Verweijen (2016), it often consists of beating, stoning and burning, and it is commonly accompanied by acts of property destruction such as setting fire to houses and belongings. Gurumayum (2016, para. 2) added that "dismantling houses, ravaging properties and destroying the belongings of the culprits are the major ways of punishing the culprits through mob justice" as a deterrent measure to the victim and other members of the society.

Causes of crime and mob justice vary in nature and degree across different societies. Rampant crime is, however, often cited as the major causative factor of the phenomenon in all societies. There are a wide range of socio-economic factors which are responsible for crime such as the wide gap between the rich and the poor and the limited access to labour markets for some groups (Ng'walali & Kitinya, 2006).

However, as some studies show, the inefficiency of the criminal justice system as well as people's high level of distrust in it, and not just rampant crime breeds mob justice. In this vein, Baloyi (2015) concluded that people take the law into their own hands by eliminating those who rob, steal and rape their loved ones because they no longer have confidence in the police. This is because, in many instances, the communities are doing their part of reporting suspects to the police but for one reason or the other they are being released and that is the reason why people resort to punishing suspects on their own as they feel that

criminals will not face justice if handed over to the police (Kasalika, 2016).

Another factor responsible for mob justice is the lack of understanding of the legal processes as an accused person is often presumed to be guilty by the public. For instance, accused persons released on bail or due to lack of evidence, aid the people's belief about the corruption or incompetence of police and magistrates, consequently leading to them resolving to take the laws into their hands (Ghoshal, 2010).

Belief in supernatural forces in African societies is still very high, and it is cited as another cause of mob justice incidents in many African societies. Some people are still being targeted and mobbed on accusations of sorcery. In the words of Verweijen (2016):

Suspicions of supernatural manipulation frequently surface in the case of unexpected deaths believed to be 'unnatural', for example, those that involve young people. Responsibility for the death is often ascribed to relatives or neighbours, indicating that existing conflicts play an important role in sorcery-related accusations (p.2).

Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and corruption have been reported to be remote causes of crime on the one hand and mob justice on the other hand. Poor people in many developing countries are subjected to risk, insecurity, and vulnerability due to their exposure to danger, victimization, or violence and their inability to access justice when wronged. Such threats caused frustration which leads to aggression and the transfer of it against any unlucky victim. As Kasalika (2016) said:

> From what we have gathered, many people are frustrated due to negative socio-economic factors that have been registered in the country. It is no longer a secret that many people are frustrated and that has a direct bearing on how people behave. Normally, people with suppressed emotions tend to act angrily whenever they find an opportunity to vent their frustrations on. That explains why many suspects are being killed by angry mobs (paras. 6-7).

This problem is exacerbated by rapid urbanization and the migration of people as it is pointed out that both crime and lynching occur more frequently in poor and informal settlements because these areas face major existential threats (Krinninger, 2016). In certain countries, asylum seekers and refugees are being subjected to incidences of mob violence by citizens of their host countries who are either racists or view refugees as exploiters of their material and non-material resources such as jobs. This is true of most Western Europe countries where the natives harass and sometimes beat to death the immigrants from Africa, Asia and Eastern European countries seeking asylum or jobs (Ng'walali & Kitinya, 2006). The recent recurring incident of xenophobic attacks in South Africa is another example.

Nevertheless, civil war is said to have an indirect role in the occurrence of crime and mob justice in some countries. Countries affected by civil wars have a high number of illegal arms that can be easily obtained and used by criminals to facilitate crime and increase the severity of harm (Ng'walali & Kitinya, 2006). And, when the police fail to address the incessant crime, members of the population, well-versed after years of war in the use of violence to solve problems, take justice into their own hands (Ghoshal, 2010).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theories that guided this research endeavour are Anomie and Emergent Norms theories. The anomie theory, developed by Emile Durkheim in the 19th century, provides an analytical insight into the understanding of the major cause of lawless behaviours like crime and mob justice. Durkheim noted that law is the institution that seeks to foster social order in society, and when the law fails to effectively and adequately regulate the behaviours and conducts of members of society, the result might be an upsurge of social maladies which he refers to as anomie, meaning a state of deregulation or normlessness (Igbo, 2008). In the light of the Anomie theory, the underlying cause of crime and mob justice in IBB Market Suleja is the failure of the legal system to effectively regulate the behaviours of the people.

The Emergent Norms theory on the other hand was propounded by Turner and Killian (1972) as an explanation for collective action or crowd behaviour. The theory postulates that unconventional collective action is a direct result of new norms that suddenly emerge to enable people to handle a crisis accordingly. The basic suppositions of the theory are that collective action is rational, that collective action is a response to an ambiguous precipitating event, and that new norms of behaviour appropriate to the collective action situation emerge through group processes without prior coordination and planning (Mariel & Arthur, 2013). Turner and Killian (1972) developed the Emergent Norms construct to address the inadequacies of Contagion and Convergence theories of crowd behaviour both of which postulated that a crowd is a norm-less entity and that collective action is a sort of irrational behaviour.

When a suspected criminal in IBB Market is apprehended, the people rationally come together to form a crowd, abandon the usual norms guiding their behaviours and come up with new norms they deem appropriate enough to deal with the crisis as Turner and Killian (1972) theorized. As these new norms begin to be institutionalized within the crowd, pressures for conformity and against deviance within the crowd develop while discontent is silenced (Mariel & Arthur, 2013).

Materials and Methods

i. The Study Location

Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida Modern Market, popularly referred to as the IBB market is the precise location of this study. It is located in the centre of Suleja town, which is the administrative headquarters of Suleja Local Government Area of Niger state. Geographically, Suleja is located about 40 kilometres away from the capital city of Nigeria (Abuja), and about 100 kilometres away from the Niger State capital (Minna). However, Suleja is the commercial capital of Niger state with the highest internally generated revenue of the state coming from the local government. The biggest centre for commercial activities in Suleja is the IBB market.

Officially commissioned on the 3rd of June 1991 by the then military president of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, the market lies in about 8 hectares of land, demarcated with a wall and 11 gates and a host variety of businesses. According to an official of the market, there are 3812 shops in the market with other numerous shops outside the market's original territory.

The outward areas of the market have formed different smaller markets as peripheries of the main market. One of them is a big factory by the western side of the main market which consists of Tinkers and Iron and Scraps dealers popularly known as 'Yan Gwan-Gwani'. It is one of the areas mapped out by security agents in Suleja for careful surveillance as a result of the large-scale drug dealings and frequent social unrest that happen in the area. There is also a GSM village popularly referred to as the 'Murada complex' eastward. It is also a haven for fraudsters who hide under the umbrella of phone sellers and engineers to defraud their unsuspecting victims. The cattle market (Yan Turaku) that is on the northern side of the market had long been relocated elsewhere and replaced with textile and boutique businesses. Similar fate recently befell the other livestock market (Yan Kaji) southward.

The market opens between 8:30 am and 6:00 pm daily. When the main market officially closes by 6:00 pm, most of the traders re-converge in its periphery known as 'Kasuwan Dare' (night market) for night business, until around 10: pm. More often than not, anti-social elements perpetrate heinous crimes like armed robbery and assaults around the night market.

Being under the jurisdiction of the local government, the market officials are employees of Suleja local government council responsible for controlling and coordinating the affairs of the market. They are a team of 18 officials and numerous casual staff – headed by the Secretary and "Sarkin Kasuwa" who respectively perform executive and ceremonial functions in the affairs of the market. The administrative block of the market is by the left hand side of the main gate.

The security personnel charged with the responsibility of protecting lives and properties as well as maintaining peace and order

in the market are the Nigeria Police and Suleja Emirate Civil Security Corps (SECSC). While the former operates in a police outpost within the administrative block of the market and are responsible for the general maintenance of peace and order in the market, the latter only assist the police in term of surveillance, especially at night.

ii. Research Design

This research is conducted using survey design. While the researcher is much familiar with the circumstances surrounding the occurrence of the mob justice phenomenon in IBB market, it was necessary to administer a survey to assess and subsequently analyse the thoughts, opinions and feelings of the population under study.

iii. Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

All adults within and around IBB Market Suleja constitute the population of this study since it is their actions that constitute the phenomena of crime and mob justice in the market. An adult in Nigeria refers to any male or female from 18 years and above. The population cut across three (3) major categories as follows: (i) traders (ii) Security agents, and (iii) market officials. The study used the traders as the major target while the security personnel and the market officials were contacted for more detailed qualitative information. The traders are those who occupy the 3812 shops within the market, those who occupy the various shops around the market, those who display their commodities in the open space and hawkers within and around the market. It is difficult to know the exact number of people in this category but can be estimated to be around 5000.

For the purpose of this study, a sample size of 357 respondents was selected out of the 3,812 shop owners within the market. The 357 samples selected were guided by the Research Advisor (2006) computation and reports on sample size determination which is based on a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level.

Both systematic and simple random sampling techniques were used. The systematic sampling technique was used to select the 357 respondents from the traders. Since the study used the 3,812 shops in the market, it was deemed imperative to determine the nth of the

sampling frame in order to be guided on how to select the first respondent. The nth was determined as shown below:

$$\frac{3,812}{357} = 10.6 \text{ app. } 11.$$

The nth of 11 above indicates that the first respondent was selected randomly from within the first 11 shops. After that, the other respondents were selected systematically after every 11 shops starting from the first respondent that was selected randomly. However, the response rate is 80% as only 287 of the 357 samples responded appropriately.

In addition, a purposive sampling technique was used to select 2 respondents – one each from the other two categories of the population (market officials and security agents).

iv. Instruments of Data Collection

Self-administered questionnaires and interviews were the major instruments used to collect both quantitative and qualitative data between November 2021 and February 2022.

The questionnaire was used to collect data from the first category of the population – the traders. The questionnaire is structured with five closed ended questions on the demographic characteristics of the respondents, and 10 questions on the research matter, only three of which are open ended.

The need to corroborate the qualitative data necessitated the conduct of interviews. The respondents from the other two categories of the population – the security personnel and the market officials – were those interviewed. The type of interview was in-depth. Nevertheless, the researcher made direct non-participant observations on criminal occurrences, incidents of mob violence and the response of security and market officials to mob violence in the market.

v. Methods of Data Presentation and Analysis

The quantitative data collected from the traders were presented in frequency distribution tables. The Simple percentage is utilized in order to give the frequencies a more accurate outlook. The qualitative data collected from the police and the market official, as well as the

researchers' non-participant observation, are integrated into the textual analysis of the quantitative data.

RESULTS

i. Demographic Attributes of the Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents by Gender, Age, Educational attainment, Class and Religion

Characteristic	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	235	81.9
	Female	52	18.1
	(Total)	287	100%
Age	18 - 28	58	20.2
	29 - 38	172	60
	39 - 48	44	15.3
	Above 48	13	4.5
	(Total)	287	100%
Educational Attainment	No Education	25	8.8
	Primary education	74	24.9
	Secondary education	153	53.7
	Above secondary	33	11.6
	(Total)	285	100%
Ethnic Group	Hausa	68	23.7
	Gbagyi	12	4.18
	Nupe	6	3.2
	Igbo	111	38.7
	Yoruba	28	9.7
	Other*	62	21.6
	(Total)	287	100.%
	Islam	153	53.31
Religious affiliation	Christianity	133	46.34
	Other*	1	0.34
	(Total)	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

* Gwandara (9), Kanuri (16), Ijaw(2), Ibibio (1), Igala (10), Tiv (3) and Ebira (21)

* Religion = Traditional religion

Table 1 above shows the distribution of the respondents based on their demographic characteristics. It shows that the traders in the market are a reflection of the heterogeneity of Suleja town as they are of different ethnic and religious groups. It is, however, important to point out that in terms of religious affiliation, all the Igbo respondents are Christians just as all the Hausa respondents are Muslims. It is clear also that the traders are not stark illiterates as 79.6% have formal education ranging from primary to secondary education.

Though it appears that there are much more males than females among the traders, the researcher observed that such is not the case. The numerical advantage of males over females in the sample is owing to the fact that most of the female traders in the market are petty traders while the sample is drawn only from shop owners.

ii. The Prevalence of crime and mob justice in IBB market Suleja

Table 2: Respondent's Perception on the Frequency of Crime in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	145	50.5 b
Weekly	124	43
Monthly	4	1.4
Occasionally	14	5
Total	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 2 above shows that crime is almost a daily occurrence in IBB Market Suleja as over 50% of the respondents believed. Within the period of conducting this field survey, the researcher learnt about two big incidents of armed robbery and three incidents of burglary. One of those incidents of burglary cost the victim (a gold dealer) properties worth millions of naira which led to the arrest of the security personnel on duty at the time the incident occurred.

The effort was made to obtain Police statistics on crime in the market but it was not readily available. However, the Police also affirmed that crime in the market is a daily occurrence. In the words of the officer interviewed:

We handle five to ten cases of major crimes on daily basis. At the moment, we are handling no fewer than 27 cases of theft, burglary and assaults. Some arrests and even prosecutions have already been made while some other suspects are yet to be apprehended.

Table 3: Respondent's Perception on the Frequency of Mob Justice in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	135	47
Weekly	114	39.72
Monthly	14	4.9
Occasionally	24	8.36
Total	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 3 above shows that just like crime (Table 2), mob justice is also rampant in the market. While the majority of the respondents (47%) believed it is also a daily occurrence, the police officer interviewed also said mob justice occurs "almost daily" in the market. But when asked about an estimated figure of such occurrence in a day, week or month, he says:

I cannot categorically give you any figures now. But hardly a day passes by without having this case of some people taking the law into their hands somewhere in this market. As a matter of fact, it has become the order of the day, though our men always intervene before the victims get severely injured or killed.

Within the period of conducting this field survey, the researcher also witnessed up to nine incidents of mob justice in the market. In all but two of such incidents, the victims were brutally beating up by the mob, with the exceptional cases being that of stripping the suspect naked and that of tying the suspect to an electric pole with the

properties he allegedly stole for all passers-by to see. The latter was eventually taken by the vigilante to the police outpost, much to the disappointment of the mob.

Table 4: The Respondents' Experience of Mob Justice Incident in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Zero time	22	7.7
One time	39	13
Two times	26	10
Three times	24	8
More than three times	176	61
Total	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4 above shows that a significant percentage of the respondents (92.3%) have at one point in time or another experience one or more forms of mob justice. This underscores the data in Table 3 which shows that the phenomenon is very rampant in the market, with 47% of respondents saying it is a daily occurrence. As said above, within the period of conducting this field survey, the researcher also witnessed up to nine incidents of mob justice in the market.

Table 5: Respondents' Participation in Mob Justice in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Zero time	37	12.9
One time	55	19.51
Two time	98	34.14
Three time	52	18.11
More than three time	44	15.33
Total	286	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 5 above shows that the majority of the respondents (87.1%) have, at least on one occasion, not only experienced but also participated in inflicting one form of punishment or another on a suspected criminal in the market. While 12.9% of the respondents said they have not at any point in time participated, 21 out of the 37 respondents in that category are those who said they have never experienced the incident in the market as revealed in Table 4. Therefore, it is clear that the traders are part and parcel of mob justice incidents in the market.

iii. Forms of Crime and Mob Justice in IBB Market Suleja

Table 6: Respondent's Perception on the Major Forms of Crime in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Armed Robbery	7	2.43
Burglary	36	12.54
Theft	203	70.73
Shop lifting	29	10.1
Drug dealing	6	2.1
Pick Pocketing	2	0.7
Other*	4	1.4
Total	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

* Indecent exposure, sexual harassment, unauthorised violence and conspiracy

Table 6 above shows that theft, burglary and shoplifting are the major forms of crime in the market. While just 6% of the respondents cited drug dealing as the major form of crime in the market, it is also the stance of the police. In fact, the police attributed the prevalence of other crimes in the market to drug dealings. As the officer interviewed said:
Large scale drug dealings occur in the periphery of this market especially in the 'yan gwan-gwani area' as you may observe. That is in fact what influences the occurrence of theft, robbery, burglary, assaults and many other crimes occurring here on daily basis. Hardly will you see a criminal we arrest not 'high' (i.e. highly intoxicated).

In the same vein, an official of the market referred to the "yan gwan-gwani" area as "a haven for thieves" and according to him, the local government authority has concluded arrangements to relocate the 'yan gwan-gwani' to an outskirt of the town.

What is clear from the foregoing revelations is that the authority (i.e the police and the market officials) and the traders viewed the phenomenon of crime from different prisms. The traders evidently see crime as those crimes that directly affect them hence their widespread stances on theft and other property crimes as the most common crimes in the market. The authority, on the other hand, clearly viewed crime from a holistic perspective.

Table 7: Respondent's Perception on the Major Forms of Mob Justice in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Setting ablaze	1	0.34
Brutal beating	273	95.12
Stripping naked	9	3.13
Other*	4	1.4
Total	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

* Tightening with rope, pouring of hot or cold water and incarceration

Table 7 above shows that brutal beating is the major form of punishment inflicted on suspected criminals by the mob in the market. In a similar vein, the police said "assault and battery" is the major form of punishment the people inflict upon a suspected criminal. He further asserted that:

Such has resulted to the death of about three suspected criminals from last year to date. Sometimes female suspects who allegedly shoplift are stripped naked while searching for what they might still be hiding. But in most cases, as I said earlier, the victims are rescued by our men or the vigilante before too severe harm is inflicted on them.

As only 3.13% of the respondents believe, it is clear that it is on a very rare occasion that a victim of mob justice in the market is stripped naked. And according to the police officer quoted above, most of the victims of such punishment are female. But based on the researcher's observation, this is not only because female suspects are always suspected to still be hiding other stolen items in under wears but also because it is believed to be the best way to humiliate a woman.

However, unlike in other places in Nigeria, setting a suspected criminal ablaze is not common in the market. While one of the respondents said it happens, all the security personnel and market officials interviewed denied ever knowing such. In the words of the police officer:

Based on the records we have, no victim of mob justice has at any point in time been set ablaze in this market. There was once an attempt to do so but we timely intervened. Even those few suspects that unfortunately lost their lives from other forms of punishment died in the hospital after we rescued them from the mob alive.

The "other" forms of punishment as revealed by the 1.4% of the respondents are pouring hot or cold water on the suspect, locking up the suspect and tightening the suspect against a pole (which the researchers witnessed twice).

Table 8: Respondent's Perception on the Crime that Mostly Results to Mob Justice in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Armed Robbery	6	2.1
Theft	241	84
Burglary	11	3.8
Pick Pocketing	9	3.1
Other*	20	7
Total	287	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

* Drug abuse, breaking, child stealing, fighting and trespass.

Table 8 above shows that theft is the crime that mostly results to mob justice in the market. This is in line with the data in Table 6 which shows that from the traders' point of view, theft is the commonest crime in the market. Despite having a contrary view on the major form of crime in the market, the police also confirmed that theft is the crime that mostly results to mob justice. He reiterated that:

Almost all the incidents of mob action here is against a suspected thief. The moment people hear the shouting of a thief, they look for the person at whom the shout is directed to arrest and brutalise whether or not the person is actually guilty.....A suspected thief hardly survives the wrath of the people even if what he allegedly stole is of little value.

While Table 6 showed that burglary is also common in the market, Table 8 above shows that it hardly results in mob justice. This is because, as the researcher observed, the market is always under lock and key at night. Therefore, the perpetrators were only being arrested by the security agents guarding the market while most others go free.

iv. Causes of Crime and Mob Justice in IBB Market Suleja

Table 9: Respondent's Perception on the Factors that Cause Crime in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Physical structure	43	15.03
Ineffective security	178	62.23
Other*	65	22.72
Total	286	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

* Ignorance, illiteracy, idleness, conspiracy and corruption.

Table 9 above shows that the major factor that causes crime in the market is ineffective security as 62.23% of the respondents respectively believed. While the police denied that the security personnel are not effective enough in discharging their duties of containing crime in the market, the officer interviewed still

acknowledged that the security personnel are "inadequate". In his words:

There is a difference between ineffectiveness and inadequacy. This market is fast expanding, so in terms of numbers, we now certainly need more personnel to be able to cope with its growing complexities. Notwithstanding that, we work hand in hand with the vigilante and together we have been providing effective security services. It is therefore wrong for anybody to say that the security service in this market is ineffective.

It is clear from the officer's words above that the ineffectiveness of the security in the market is not necessarily a result of the ineptitude of the security agents but a of shortage of personnel. In this vein, the researcher observed that fewer than 10 security personnel provide surveillance in the market as against the "15" or "at least 20" the police and the market official respectively recommended.

The physical structure of the market is another major cause of crime in the market, as believed by 15.03% of the respondents. The researcher observed that the market is too congested and deteriorated as most of the shops are not in the market's master plan. They are erected on spaces meant for the movement and parking of vehicles. This obviously makes it easy for criminals to burgle shops at night and to pickpocket and shoplift in the daytime. The police officer interviewed said the market is not just too congested but also that:

Most of the facilities that used to aid the security operatives are no longer functioning. Even the motor roads are no longer accessible. All these make it difficult for us to effectively patrol and prevent or control crime in the nook and crannies of the market.

The deterioration of electrical facilities in the market is a factor that causes fire disasters which is another factor that breeds crime in the market as cited by some of the respondents. The researcher observed that the security guards in the night are always so overwhelmed by the fire incidents that frequently occur in the market at night that they seek the intervention of the public since the official fire service cannot be of much help due to the lack of accessible roads in the market. This, according to the official of the market:

Provides an opportunity for bad elements to steal property while other good Samaritans help to quench the fire and safeguard people's properties. And in most cases, more properties are lost to thieves than the fire itself.

Table 10: Respondent's Perception on the Factors that Cause Mob Justice in the Market

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Prevalence of crime	96	33.6
Ineffective security	107	37.4
Other*	83	29
Total	286	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

* Ignorance, illiteracy, conspiracy and corruption.

Table 10 above shows that not just the prevalence of crime (33.6% responses) but also the ineffectiveness of security services (37.4% responses) breed mob justice in the market. The prevalence of crime in the market apparently overwhelms the security personnel resulting in people taking the laws into their hands. However, the security personnel interviewed attributed the prevalence of mob justice in the market to "ignorance". In his words: "The people are ignorant of the law and the consequences of their actions as those we arrested in connection to this thought they were doing the security or the society a favour by dealing with criminals." Among the 29% of respondents that chose "other" factors, 18 of them mentioned "ignorance".

Table 11: Respondent's Perception on the Effectiveness of Security Agents in Handling Crimes in the Market

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very effective	6	2.1
Effective	8	2.8
Ineffective	122	42.65
Very Ineffective	150	52.44

Total	286	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 11 above shows that the dominant belief among the traders on the security personnel in the market is that they are far from being effective in their efforts to contain crime with only 2.8% and 2.1% believing they are effective and very effective respectively. This further explains why the respondents perceive not just crime but also the ineffectiveness of the security organizations as the major factors that cause crime in the market as revealed in Table 10. They obviously lost confidence in the ability of the formal authority to protect their properties and consequently, they see mob violence as the solution to the rising incidents of crime in the market. But the security personnel interviewed negated the notion that their service is ineffective as revealed above. He added that:

We are working round the clock to ensure the security of lives and properties in and around this market. Our men together with the vigilantes patrol on daily basis to provide adequate security to the people's lives and properties and this explains why this market has not been run down by bandits and other criminals.

v. Discussion of Findings

This study found that IBB Market is a place where crime and mob justice simultaneously occur too often as it does in other places in Nigeria (Kpae & Adishi, 2017), South Africa (Baloyi, 2015), Malawi (Kasalika, 2016), Congo (Verweijen, 2016) and Tanzania (Chalya etal, 2015) among many other African countries.

The study also found that while drug dealings, theft, armed robbery, burglary, shop-lifting and pick pocketing are the most common forms of crime in the market, only theft, pick pocketing, shop lifting and armed robbery are the specific crimes that lead to mob justice. Brutal beating is found to be the major form of mob violence there with stripping the suspect naked, tying the suspect to a pole and pouring hot or cold water on the suspect also occurring occasionally. This corroborates the assertions of Verweijen (2016) and Gurumayum (2016). However, the brutal killing of a suspect by the mob is found not

to be as common as they as well as Kasalika (2016) and Krinninger (2016) portrayed.

Congestion (caused by caused by the physical structure of the market and deterioration of facilities) and ineffective security are found to be the major causes of crime in the market. In line with the findings of Ghoshel (2010), Baloyi (2015) and Kasalika (2016), the study found that mob justice is caused by not just rampant crime but also the ineffective security in the market. As crime occurs very often in the market and the formal security agents have not adequately risen to the occasion, mob justice becomes the order of the day.

Furthermore, the traders who are heterogeneous and neither starkly illiterate nor highly educated are found to usually be behind the mob justice incidents in the market because they are the direct victims of most of the property crimes there. In other words, as the traders consist of people from different ethnic groups and religions among other things, so always is the mob. This negates the tendency of any sort of social discrimination to influence mob action in the market as Ng'wali & Kitinya (2006) revealed in their study.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While Nigeria is a signatory to the UDHR and the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recognized and entrenched human rights as fundamental, mob justice is still common in the country as it is in other developing countries. This is because the government is increasingly becoming inadequate in performing its primary responsibilities of protecting human lives and properties as the rate of crime in the country keeps growing at alarming proportions despite the huge amount of money allocated to the security sector in every year's budget. As the findings of this study show, rampant crime and ineffective security are the immediate causes of the rising cases of mob violence in IBB Market and beyond. Therefore, much need to be done by the government to stem the unfortunate tide in the market and beyond. Below are some recommendations in that regard:

i. IBB Market. Should be rehabilitated to help reduce congestion and thus make the market very unsuitable for criminal occurrences.
ii. The market authority should partner with the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) to provide a central control system for the light in the market so as to eliminate the risk of having fire disasters at night due to electrical faults.
iii. Since the traders have personal feelings of vulnerability to crime, the government should strengthen the security in the market by first deploying more competent personnel to the market and then by equipping them with modern security gadgets.
iv. The whole criminal justice procedure should be overhauled by the Government to ensure that suspected criminals in the market are not only apprehended by the security agents but also tried in due course and punished in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Code.
v. The Niger state government should enact anti-jungle justice law to strengthen the legal institution in the course of trying and punishing culprits as a deterrent measure to others, and on the other hand.
vi. Massive re-orientation and enlightenment campaigns through the mass media, public lectures, seminars and symposia among others should be frequently carried out so as to enlighten the traders among other people on the negativity of both crime and mob justice.

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