

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS BY GOVERNMENT AND NON-STATE ACTORS AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PORT HARCOURT METROPOLIS

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Abstract

This study examines extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors, as well as abuse and violation of human rights, which have been a major challenge in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Both state and non-state actors have been implicated in the perpetration of these violations, resulting in a climate of fear, insecurity, and mistrust among the population. The Nigerian government has a legal obligation to protect the rights of its citizens, including the rights to life, education, and health, which are enshrined in the Nigerian constitution and international human rights law. However, the failure to hold perpetrators accountable has perpetuated a culture of impunity, leading to more abuses. Urgent action is needed by the Nigerian government and law enforcement agencies to investigate and hold perpetrators accountable, provide adequate compensation and redress to victims, and implement comprehensive reforms to strengthen the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Keywords: *Extrajudicial killings, Government, Non-state actors, human rights violation.*

Introduction

Over the years, Rivers State and Nigeria as a whole have experienced human rights abuse, violations, and extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors, which have impinged on citizens' human rights and freedom. Extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors have been a long-standing issue in the Port Harcourt metropolis. Extrajudicial killings by the government refer to the deliberate killing of individuals by state officials without due process of law (International Commission of Jurists, 1980).

Non-state actors, on the other hand, are people or organizations that engage in violence, commit crimes, and violate citizens' human rights. These gangs have been linked to land disputes, livestock rustling, and other sorts of criminal activities that have resulted in conflicts and violence with local people. Non-state actors, such as criminal gangs, cult groups, and herders, have been implicated in incidents of extrajudicial executions and other types of violence against civilians (Enukora & Umenwa, 2019) in the Port Harcourt metropolis.

This violation of human rights has alarmed many governments throughout the world (Amnesty International, 2019; US Department of State, 2021), and Nigeria is no exception, particularly in Port Harcourt. Citizens are continually living in fear of violence and abuse, including the killing of innocent people, in situations of assault by these gangs of offenders. As a result, farmers are not in a good mood when it comes to farming. Students are terrified of any cult-related attacks. Security agencies are continuously abusing and threatening motorists

(Human Rights Watch, 2010). Mysterious gangs were regularly dressed in security uniforms to commit crimes on highways and other public places.

Furthermore, citizens can no longer exercise their franchise during elections in their respective polling units. Travelers are afraid of kidnapping and killings by arm robbery and rituals. Citizens are in constant fear of rappers as they go about their daily business activities. All these affect the right of citizens to freedom, economic development, and growth in the Port Harcourt metropolis and beyond.

The Nigerian government has a legal commitment to defend its people's rights, especially the right to life, and to hold violators responsible. Failure to adequately apply these rules, on the other hand, has created a culture of impunity, resulting in further abuses and executions. These episodes highlight the prevalence of extrajudicial executions by government employees, mainly the police and military, in Port Harcourt. Human rights organizations have demanded responsibility and justice for extrajudicial death victims. The Nigerian government has taken some measures to address the issue of extrajudicial murders in the nation, including the formation of the Presidential Panel on SARS Reform, entrusted with reviewing complaints of human rights breaches by the police force. The Nigerian government has pledged to solve these concerns and preserve citizens' rights (Daily Trust, 2019). Nonetheless, implementation has been delayed, and concerns have been expressed regarding the lack of accountability for those who commit these offenses.

Viewing this as an emergency problem needing prompt response and solution has demanded the need for the present study to examine how extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors and violations of human rights in Port Harcourt metropolis construe the rights of citizens and the impact they exert on them. Therefore, it is crucial for governments and societies to respect and uphold human rights, and for individuals to be aware of their rights and to advocate for their protection.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to examine the extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors and violations of human rights in Port Harcourt. In line with the above, this study examined and discussed extrajudicial killings in Port Harcourt metropolis, particularly by government security forces and non-state actors, as they violate and abuse the human rights of citizens, and the extent to which the Nigerian government seeks ways to reduce the level of violence and abuse of human rights in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Significance of the Study

The significance of studying extrajudicial killings by both government and non-state actors and human rights violations in Port Harcourt cannot be overstated. Some of the reasons why this study is significant include:

Protection of Human Rights: The study can help bring to light the extent of human rights violations in the Port Harcourt Metropolis and draw attention to the need to protect the fundamental rights of all individuals. By shedding light on these abuses, it can help prompt action by the government, civil society organizations, and the international community to address the problem.

Accountability: The study can also help hold those responsible for extrajudicial killings and human rights violations accountable. By documenting these abuses, it can provide evidence for legal proceedings and help ensure that those who perpetrate these acts are brought to justice.

Improved Governance: By highlighting the extent of extrajudicial killings and human rights violations, the study can also help promote better governance and more transparent institutions. This can help improve the overall quality of life for residents of Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Prevention of Future Human Rights Abuses: Finally, the study can help prevent future human rights abuses by providing insight into the root causes of these abuses and identifying measures that can be taken to prevent them from occurring in the future.

Literature Review

Extrajudicial killings and abuses of human rights are serious concerns in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Government and non-state actors have been linked to these breaches. This review of the literature gives an overview of research and reports on the subject. According to a Human Rights Watch investigation, Nigerian security forces, including the police and military, have conducted extrajudicial murders in Port Harcourt and other regions of the nation. The report documents cases of torture, arbitrary detention, and other forms of human rights abuses by security forces in Nigeria (Human Rights Watch, 2010). Similarly, Amnesty International has documented several cases of extrajudicial killings in Port Harcourt, including the killing of 14 people in the Abonnema community in 2019. The organization has also reported on the use of excessive force by security forces in the city (Amnesty International, 2019).

According to the US Department of State's 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, security personnel in Nigeria, especially those in Port Harcourt, conducted extrajudicial murders and other human rights abuses during the year. According to the study, security personnel used excessive force, made arbitrary arrests and detentions, and tortured people (U.S. Department of State, 2021).

Studies have also been conducted on the issue of extrajudicial killings and human rights violations in Port Harcourt. For instance, a study by Akpan (2015) examined the impact of police brutality on human rights in the city. The study found that police brutality was a common occurrence in Port Harcourt and had a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights by the residents of the city.

Enukora and Umenwa (2019) conducted another study on the impact of extrajudicial executions on the right to life in Port Harcourt. The report concluded that extrajudicial executions posed a substantial threat to the right to life in the city and suggested solutions.

Human Rights

Every individual is worthy of respect. Humans created the principles of human rights as a means of ensuring that everyone's dignity is properly and equally respected, that is, to ensure that a human being will be able to fully develop and use human qualities like intelligence, talent, and conscience, as well as satisfy his or her spiritual and other needs. A sense of worth and value is provided by dignity. Humans are aware of one another's value since there are human rights. Human dignity is not a unique, exclusive, or solitary idea. It is a component of our shared humanity.

Human rights enable us to appreciate and coexist with one another. In other words, they are not just rights that should be claimed or asked for but also rights that should be respected and for which someone should be held accountable. They have the same rights as you do. Denying fundamental freedoms and human rights leads to social and political instability, which in turn sows the seeds of violence and war both within and between communities and nations. This tragedy affects both individuals and their personal lives. Human rights are expected to be safeguarded by legislation and are crucial for the dignity and well-being of people and society.

Since 1948, the United Nations has been involved in creating worldwide human rights norms, particularly with respect to specific concerns. The following are some examples of human rights, freedoms, rights, and restrictions connected to human rights: freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in the realm of civil and political rights.

Right to liberty and security of person; right of detained persons to be treated with humanity; freedom of movement; right to a fair trial Prohibition of retroactive criminal laws; right to recognition as a person before the law; right to privacy; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; and freedom of opinion and expression; prohibition of war propaganda and incitement to national, racial, or religious hatred; freedom of assembly; freedom of association; right to marry and establish a family; right to participate in public affairs, vote, be elected, and hold public office; and right to equality before the law and non-discrimination. Economic, social, and cultural rights include the right to work and the right to equitable and favorable working conditions.

Furthermore, the right to create and join labor unions; the right to social security; family protection; and the right to a sufficient quality of life, including appropriate food, clothes, and shelter, these examples and others demonstrate the breadth and diversity of human rights and the importance of protecting and promoting these rights for the well-being of individuals and societies. Human rights violations, such as extrajudicial killings, censorship, and denial of access to education and healthcare, not only violate individual rights but also have far-reaching social and economic consequences.

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Extrajudicial Killings

Extrajudicial killings by the government refer to the use of lethal force by state entities, especially security personnel, outside the legal framework. These executions are usually carried out without due process of law and outside of the context of an armed conflict or war. The following are definitions of extrajudicial murders by the government from various sources: The United Nations defines extrajudicial executions as the arbitrary deprivation of life by state officials or their agents, without the sanction of legal processes (United Nations, 2021). According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, extrajudicial killings are "unlawful and intentional killings carried out by state officials or with their complicity or tolerance, and the failure of states to prevent, investigate, and punish these acts" (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d.).

Human Rights Watch describes extrajudicial executions as "illegal or arbitrary executions carried out by state personnel, frequently in conjunction with law enforcement operations" (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Extrajudicial murders by the government in Nigeria and Port Harcourt explicitly relate to the use of disproportionate force by security personnel, such as the police and military, which results in the deaths of people without a legal procedure or judicial review. These killings frequently take place under the pretense of upholding law and order, yet they violate citizens' human rights and threaten the rule of law.

Extrajudicial Killings by Government

During the 2011 general elections in Port Harcourt, there were multiple reports of extrajudicial executions by security agents and political thugs. At least 22 people were murdered in election-related violence, and many more were injured or forced to flee their homes, according to Human Rights Watch. The organization demanded an impartial inquiry and accused the government of neglecting to safeguard residents (Human Rights Watch, 2012).

The security forces of Nigeria, mainly the police and military, have accused the administration of carrying out extrajudicial murders. According to Amnesty International, between January 2017 and January 2021, Nigerian security services were involved for at least 1,126 extrajudicial murders and forced disappearances, and these abuses were conducted with impunity (Amnesty International, 2021). These killings have frequently been committed during security operations against terrorists or criminal groups, as well as in reaction to rallies and demonstrations.

The police death of eight members of a cult in August 2017 is one of the most well-known instances of extrajudicial homicide in the state. Human rights organizations and eyewitnesses assert that the victims were murdered in cold blood, despite the police claiming that the victims were slain in a shootout. After an investigation into the incident, Amnesty International came to the conclusion that the deaths were the result of extrajudicial executions.

At least 50 people were killed in political violence before to the 2015 federal elections in Port Harcourt, which were characterized by violence and extrajudicial murders. Human rights organizations demanded an inquiry into the violence and accused security officials of collaborating with political thugs to carry out the killings (The Guardian Nigeria, 2015). A Port Harcourt citizen was reportedly shot and killed by a police officer in 2019 while participating in a demonstration over the killing of a young guy in the neighborhood. Eyewitnesses said that the police officer shot at the peaceful protestors, killing one and wounding many more. Human

rights groups strongly denounced the act, and the police officer was later detained and accused of murder.

Four males were detained by Port Harcourt police in December 2019 on suspicion of auto theft. The four were allegedly assaulted and tortured by the police, and one of them passed away while in their custody. The event caused significant indignation and protests against police violence and extrajudicial executions throughout the state. Extrajudicial executions by Nigerian government troops Extrajudicial executions carried out by government agents, such as the police and military, have been a significant problem in Nigeria. These murders are frequently committed with little accountability and with little to no repercussions for the killers.

The Nigerian police and other security forces have been accused of deploying disproportionate force to cope with cult-related violence, which led to the deaths of innocent youngsters. For instance, in the Port Harcourt metropolitan area in January 2020, the police were charged with the murder of five young men during a raid on a rumored cult hideaway. Eyewitnesses indicate that the young guys were innocent people who were swiftly killed by the police, despite the authorities claims that they belonged to a known cult organization.

On April 11, 2016, University of Port Harcourt students protested the school's ongoing closure. The university had been closed for three months as a result of a disagreement between the institution and its non-academic personnel. As police officers arrived to disperse the throng, the demonstration turned violent. Eyewitnesses said that the police opened fire on the demonstrators, killing at least one person and wounding a number more. The victim was the president of the Uniport students' union (The Guardian Nigeria, 2016). Although there are other instances of alleged assault, abuse, or murder committed by government agents against human rights that were not examined in this research as extrajudicial murders.

Extrajudicial Killings by Non-State Actors

Extrajudicial killings in Nigeria, notably in Port Harcourt, have also been carried out by non-state actors, including individuals, criminal gangs, armed organizations, and vigilante groups. These killings are frequently committed by the organizations during fights with other groups or against those who are thought to have committed crimes. Non-state actors have occasionally taken matters into their own hands, enacting vigilante retribution against alleged offenders.

In Port Harcourt, there have been instances of extrajudicial executions by non-state actors in recent years. There were multiple claims of political thugs carrying out extrajudicial killings in Port Harcourt during the 2011 general elections.

At least 22 people were murdered in election-related violence, and many more were injured or forced to flee their homes, according to Human Rights Watch. The organization demanded an impartial inquiry and accused the government of neglecting to safeguard residents (Human Rights Watch, 2012). These and other cases show how vital it is for the Nigerian government to act decisively to stop extrajudicial executions and election violence. This entails holding political and security figures accountable for their deeds, guaranteeing free and fair elections, and offering assistance to victims and their families.

Four university students were killed in 2012; this was a common occurrence of extrajudicial executions carried out by government security personnel in Port Harcourt. The

youngsters were charged with robbing a member of the Aluu community of his or her laptop and phone. The pupils refuted the charges, saying they were based on hearsay. A crowd of locals attacked them, stripped them naked, and lit them on fire. The event was caught on camera and went viral on social media, eliciting national and worldwide anger (BBC, 2012). The extrajudicial executions were carried out by mobs and vigilante organizations. These murders, along with several more that are not discussed in this research, are frequently committed during conflicts between opposing groups or against those who are thought to have committed crimes. Non-state actors have occasionally taken matters into their own hands, enacting vigilante retribution against alleged offenders.

Impact of Extrajudicial killings on Human Rights

Extrajudicial executions by government authorities have a severe impact on human rights in Port Harcourt and Nigeria as a whole. Extrajudicial killings have a chilling effect on free speech and peaceful assembly because people may be reluctant to voice their opinions or participate in peaceful protests out of concern that they might be targeted by non-state actors. The human right to life, one of the most fundamental human rights, as recognized in international law, is also significantly impacted by extrajudicial executions. Extrajudicial executions violate this right and threaten the rule of law, which erodes faith in the government among the populace.

Extrajudicial executions by the government throughout election cycles in the Port Harcourt metropolitan area have been a serious issue in recent years, with multiple cases documented during election cycles. These assassinations, which frequently involve security personnel and political thugs working with the government, undermine the legitimacy of elections and violate citizens' human rights.

There were several claims of arbitrary executions by security forces and political thugs during the Port Harcourt general elections in 2019. At least 40 people died during the elections, and many more were injured or forced to flee, according to the International Association for Civil Rights and Rule of Law (Intersociety). The organization demanded an impartial inquiry and charged the government with involvement in the deaths (Vanguard News, 2019). Human rights abuse and violations in Port Harcourt, as well as the extrajudicial executions of women by both state and non-state actors, are grave problems that have been recorded by several human rights groups and activists. According to a study by Amnesty International in 2020, there were at least 115 instances of extrajudicial executions, torture, and other abuses committed by security agents in Port Harcourt's metropolitan area between 2017 and 2020.

These abuses, which included instances of sexual assault and harassment, mostly targeted women. Moreover, the Women's Aid Collective (WACOL), a non-governmental group in Nigeria, has recorded instances of violence against women in the Port Harcourt metropolitan area, including rape, domestic abuse, and forced marriage. Moreover, WACOL has documented instances of women being murdered extrajudicially by non-state actors, such as vigilante groups. The Nigerian government has pledged to address these problems and defend women's rights.

In response to these worries, campaigners and civil society organizations have advocated for more action to combat violence against women and secure accountability for those responsible. They have also stressed the need to take steps to stop these abuses from

happening in the first place, such as launching education and awareness-raising initiatives on gender-based violence and supporting women's rights.

A study detailing several instances of arbitrary executions by police in Port Harcourt was published by Amnesty International in May 2019. The research explained how police officers frequently committed these homicides without being held accountable and how victims' families encountered considerable obstacles when trying to obtain justice. Amnesty International urged the Nigerian government to act right away to stop these deaths and bring those guilty to justice (Amnesty International, 2019). These and other examples show how crucial it is for the Nigerian government to act swiftly to stop police brutality and extrajudicial murders. This involves enforcing police officers' accountability for their conduct, updating police instruction and practices, and helping victims and their families. Nigeria can only expect to advance the rule of law and respect for human rights by implementing these actions.

At least 22 incidences of extrajudicial murders of motorists by security agents in Port Harcourt city were documented by the Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN) in 2019. These murders, which occasionally featured the disproportionate use of force and torture, were frequently committed during regular traffic stops or during security operations.

Amnesty International reported at least 115 instances of extrajudicial executions, torture, and other violations carried out by the state's security services in 2020. Women, children, and vulnerable groups were all impacted by these abuses. Activists and groups from civil society have urged more action to stop extrajudicial executions and secure accountability for those responsible. They have also stressed the necessity of taking action to address the underlying causes of the state's security issues as well as reforming law enforcement and security operations in order to prevent these kinds of abuses from happening in the first place.

The Role of Law in Extrajudicial Killings

The role of law in extrajudicial killings is critical, as it provides a framework for holding perpetrators accountable and ensuring justice for victims. Laws and legal frameworks, such as international human rights law and national criminal law, provide a basis for prosecuting those responsible for extrajudicial killings and providing remedies to victims. Under international human rights law, extrajudicial killings are a violation of the right to life, which is protected by various international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. States have a duty to ensure that all individuals are protected from extrajudicial killings, and those responsible for such killings must be held accountable. In addition, international law provides for the right to an effective remedy for victims of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings.

National laws also provide for the prosecution of individuals responsible for extrajudicial killings. In many countries, including Nigeria, extrajudicial killings are considered criminal offenses under the law. The Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code provide for the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of individuals responsible for extrajudicial killings. However, the effectiveness of legal frameworks in addressing extrajudicial killings depends on a number of factors, including the political will of the government, the capacity of law enforcement agencies, and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. In many cases, these factors may be lacking, which can impede efforts to hold perpetrators accountable and provide justice to victims.

Civil society organizations and human rights groups play an important role in advocating for legal frameworks that promote accountability and justice for victims of extrajudicial killings. They also play a key role in monitoring and documenting cases of extrajudicial killings, providing support and assistance to victims, and advocating for reforms to prevent future abuses.

Theoretical Review for Causes of Extrajudicial Killings and Human Rights Violations

The issue of extrajudicial killings and human rights violations is a complex one, and there are several theories that attempt to explain the phenomenon. Here are some of the most prominent theories:

Structural Violence Theory: This theory posits that extrajudicial killings and other forms of human rights violations are the result of structural inequalities and injustices in society. According to this theory, marginalized groups are more likely to be victims of extrajudicial killings because they lack access to power and resources and are therefore more vulnerable to violence. This theory is supported by scholars like Galtung (1969), who argue that structural violence is the root cause of many forms of violence in society.

Cultural Theory: This theory argues that extrajudicial killings are the result of cultural norms and values that condone violence and aggression. According to this theory, certain cultures may place a higher value on toughness and aggression and may therefore be more likely to engage in extrajudicial killings. This theory is supported by scholars like Richard A. Shweder (1990), who argues that cultural values and beliefs shape our understanding of violence and aggression.

Rational Choice Theory: This theory suggests that extrajudicial killings are the result of rational choices made by individuals or groups. According to this theory, individuals may engage in extrajudicial killings because they believe that it is the most effective way to achieve their goals. This theory is supported by scholars like James Q. Wilson (1983), who argue that individuals engage in crime and violence because they believe that the benefits outweigh the costs.

Social Learning Theory: This theory posits that extrajudicial killings are the result of learned behavior. According to this theory, individuals may learn violent behavior through their interactions with others, particularly in the context of socialization and peer groups. This theory is supported by scholars like Albert Bandura (1977), who argues that behavior is learned through observation and modelling.

A Theoretical Review for Solving the Problem of Extrajudicial Killings by Government and Non-State Actors and Violations of Human Rights in Port Harcourt Metropolis

There is no one theory that can solve the complex issue of extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors and violations of human rights. Instead, a multi-faceted approach is necessary that considers the political, economic, social, and cultural factors that contribute to these violations. However, here are some theories and approaches that can be used as a framework to address this issue:

Human Rights Theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of protecting human rights and promoting accountability for those who violate them. It provides a normative framework for addressing extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations and emphasizes the role of international human rights law in holding governments and non-state actors accountable.

Conflict Theory: This theory highlights the role of power and social inequality in conflict and violence. It suggests that addressing the root causes of violence, such as poverty,

discrimination, and political marginalization, can help reduce extrajudicial killings and human rights violations.

Transitional Justice Theory: This theory focuses on the processes by which societies can transition from conflict or authoritarianism to democracy and the rule of law. It emphasizes the importance of addressing past human rights violations, such as extrajudicial killings, through truth-telling, reparations, and judicial processes.

Structural Violence Theory: This theory highlights the ways in which systemic inequalities and injustices contribute to violence, including extrajudicial killings. It suggests that addressing structural factors, such as poverty, discrimination, and political exclusion, can help reduce violence and promote human rights.

Summary

Extrajudicial killings by both government and non-state actors, as well as human rights violations, have been a longstanding issue in Port Harcourt Metropolis. A review of the literature shows that this problem has persisted for decades and has been linked to a range of factors. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, security forces in Nigeria have been responsible for numerous extrajudicial killings, torture, and other forms of abuse. The report highlights the lack of accountability for these abuses and the need for reform within the security sector. Additionally, scholars have identified a number of other factors that contribute to human rights violations in the Port Harcourt Metropolis, including poverty, corruption, and weak governance. Scholars have found that poverty is a significant factor in the occurrence of extrajudicial killings in Nigeria, as people are more likely to engage in criminal activities when they are unable to meet their basic needs.

Conclusion

Extrajudicial killings by government and non-state actors, as well as abuse and violation of human rights, are serious issues in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The Nigerian government has a legal obligation to protect the rights of its citizens, including the right to life, and to hold perpetrators accountable for any violations. However, failure to do so has perpetuated a culture of impunity, leading to more abuses. These incidents demonstrate the prevalence of extrajudicial killings by government officials, particularly the police and the military, in Port Harcourt's metropolis. Human rights organizations have called for accountability and justice for victims of extrajudicial killings, and the Nigerian government has pledged to investigate such incidents and bring those responsible to justice. The Nigerian government has made some efforts to address the issue of extrajudicial killings in the country, including the establishment of the Presidential Panel on SARS Reform, which was tasked with investigating allegations of human rights violations by the police unit. However, human rights groups have criticized the government for not doing enough to hold perpetrators accountable and prevent future human rights abuses. Therefore, more needs to be done to prevent these violations of human rights from occurring in the first place. Urgent action is needed by the Nigerian government and law enforcement agencies to investigate and hold perpetrators accountable, provide adequate compensation and redress to victims, and implement comprehensive reforms to strengthen the rule of law and respect for human rights. Only through sustained efforts to address these issues

can the human right to citizenship in the Port Harcourt metropolis become safer, and Port Harcourt will become a more just society for all its citizens.

Recommendations

Based on the issues highlighted, the following recommendations were suggested:

1. The Nigerian government should prioritize the protection of human rights and work to ensure that perpetrators of extrajudicial killings are held accountable.
2. Law enforcement agencies should undergo training on human rights and the proper use of force to prevent further extrajudicial killings.
3. There should be adequate provision of compensation and redress for victims and their families who have been affected by extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses.
4. Comprehensive reforms should be implemented to strengthen the rule of law and ensure that human rights are respected and protected by all state and non-state actors.
5. Civil society organizations and the media should continue to raise awareness about extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in the Port Harcourt metropolis, as well as hold the government accountable for its responsibilities to its citizens.
6. The Nigerian government should work with international human rights organizations to provide technical support and assistance in addressing these issues.
7. The Nigerian government should adopt best practices for preventing extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses, including the use of early warning systems and community policing.

Limitations of the Study

Some limitations of the study include the following:

Limited Access to Data: Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, it may be difficult to obtain the names of victims and accurate data on the prevalence of extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in Port Harcourt. This could limit the scope and reliability of the study's findings.

Bias in Data Collection: Data on extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses may be collected by government or non-governmental organizations, each with their own agenda or biases. This could affect the accuracy and reliability of the data.

Ethical Considerations: Researching extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses raises ethical concerns about the potential harm to participants and the need for informed consent. It may also be difficult to ensure the safety and anonymity of participants.

Generalizability: While the study may provide valuable insights into the situation in Port Harcourt metropolis, it may be difficult to generalize the findings to other regions or countries with different political and cultural contexts.

The Potential for Political Interference: The government may seek to suppress or discredit research on extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses to avoid public scrutiny and criticism. These limitations may impact the validity and reliability of any research conducted on the topic of extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in Port Harcourt.

Areas for Further Studies

There are several areas for further research that could help deepen our understanding of the issue of extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Some potential areas for further research include:

- Examining the socio-political and economic factors that contribute to the prevalence of extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in the Port Harcourt metropolis, including corruption, poverty, and political instability.
- Investigating the role of law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system in perpetuating extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses, including the prevalence of torture and forced confessions.
- Analyzing the impact of extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses on the physical and mental health of victims and their families.
- Assessing the effectiveness of international human rights instruments in promoting accountability for extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in the Port Harcourt metropolis.
- Examining the role of civil society organizations and the media in promoting human rights and holding the government accountable for its responsibilities to its citizens.
- Research in these areas could help inform policy decisions and interventions aimed at addressing extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses in the Port Harcourt metropolis and other parts of Nigeria.

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