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Administration of Correctional Centres in Nigeria under Buhari Government: Issues and Prognoses

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Abstract
The Nigeria Correctional Services is saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring the development, maintenance and rehabilitation of the convicts using correctional facilities. Also, it has a responsibility to ensure security of the inmates and the entire facilities to avoid jail break. Incidentally, jailbreaks seem to have become a recurring incidence in Nigeria particularly under the Buhari administration. Such a worrisome trajectory appears to be linked to poor administration of the correctional services centres. Therefore, this paper examines the nexus between Nigeria state and administration of correctional centres under Buhari Government. The posits that the Nigerian correctional centres are poorly funded, understaffed, lack infrastructural facilities, overcrowded due to delay in justice system and also lack technology to effectively prevent jailbreak. It argues that under-utilization of intelligence and non-installation of surveillance gadgets seem to account for recurring jailbreaks in Nigeria. This has led to increase in insecurity manifest in insurgency, banditry, kidnapping and armed robbery that has continued to threaten the corporate existence of the Nigerian state. The paper is anchored on broken window theory as a framework of analysis. While relying on documentary approach by utilizing secondary sources of data and depended on content analysis. Paper revealed that under-utilization of intelligence and non-installation of surveillance gadgets in preventing crime by the Nigerian state increased incidences of jailbreak in Nigeria. Thus, it recommends among other things, the need for adequate and timely utilization of intelligence and installation of surveillance in the administration of correctional centres in Nigeria.
Keywords: Administration, Correctional centres, Intelligence, surveillance gadgets, and Jailbreaks.

Introduction

Globally, the overall essence of establishing the prison institution is to provide a rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of their society. In Nigeria, the Nigeria Prison Services (NPS) now known as Correctional Services Centre (CSC) is saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring the maintenance, development and rehabilitation of the convicts using correctional facilities. This led to the establishment of the first prison administration modeled after British tradition following the Broad Street Prison which was built in Lagos in 1872. The prison ordinance providing for the establishment of prison was passed along with the Supreme Court ordinance in 1876 (Ogundipe 2006). Therefore, the prisons administration in Nigerian started in 1876, when the prison ordinance came into force. Accordingly, the Nigerian Prison Act 1972, spells out the goals and orientation of the Nigerian Prisons Service, prisons are charged with taking custody of those legally detained, identifying causes of their behaviour and retraining them to become useful citizens in the society.

Additionally, the aim of imprisonment according to section 2(4) of the Nigerian Prison Act (1972) is to train, rehabilitate and reform them to be good and useful citizens. This requires that the

prisons must be secured and well guarded to prevent unlawful escape from the prison custody. To this end, the walls of the prison are often built in a sophisticated manner with all necessary security features. This is to ensure effective prison administration and to avoid jailbreak.

However, prison administration in Nigeria tends to have been marred by certain irregularities and negligence. In fact, the security of the prison inmates and facilities appear to be in jeopardy due to poor prison administration in Nigeria. This apparently has resulted to avoidable jail breaks witnessed in the country. To a large extent, the problem of recurring incidences of jailbreak across correctional centres in Nigeria has become such a worrisome feature of social and political life in the country, occupying a crucial facet of political space.

The Nigerian Correctional Centres are characterized by incessant jailbreak since the returned to democratic rule which started in May 1999 (Ripples Nigeria Report, 2017). However, the current administration of President Mohammadu Buhari which started on May 29, 2015 shows increasing incidences of jailbreak leading to escaped of over 6,611 inmates from various correctional centres across twelve (12) states of the federation including the Federal Capital Territory. It is clearly that this scenario has intensified insecurity in the country.

The recent invasion on the Kuje Medium Custodial Centre where about 879 inmates were freed, including 68 Boko Haram terrorists, was the most major occurrence and disturbing in Nigeria and Africa at large. This and other incidences of jailbreak in Nigeria has prompted scholars and security analysts such as Matazu (2022) to argue that the Nigerian state has not paid adequate attention to prison administration in the country. Arguable, the government seems not to be proactive in preventing crime and combating insecurity. This is predicated on the allegation that intelligence on imminent attack on correctional centre is often provided to the relevant authorities before the invasion with little or no action taken by the prison administrators to prevent such jailbreaks.

The foregoing suggests that poor prison administration is a trigger of jailbreak. This is evident in the under-utilization of intelligence and non-installation of surveillance gadgets by the administrators due to the nonchalant attitude of the Nigerian state towards security of lives and property. The seemingly total neglect of intelligence and lack of security monitoring devices such as surveillance tower, body scanner and closed circuit television (CCTV) by the prison administrators obviously account for the recurring incidences of jailbreak that has intensified insecurity in Nigeria.

Between September 2015 and July 2022, there have been over 18 incidents of jailbreak that have resulted in the outflow of about 7000 inmates from various correctional centres across the country (Abba, 2022 & Ezobi, 2022). The consequence manifests in increasing rate of crime and other social vices such as banditry, kidnapping and armed robbery that has constituted a gridlock and continued to threaten the corporate existence of the Nigerian state.

Correctional facilities in Nigeria have recently been attacked by criminal and terrorists such as armed bandits, kidnappers, Boko Haram terrorists and ISWAP leading to several jailbreaks which have continued to intensified insecurity across the country due to escaped of over 6,000 inmates including bandits, kidnappers and terrorists that are forcefully integrated into the society. Consequently, this has not only increase crime, but has also jeopardized the peace and tranquility of the country that resulted to overstretch of the Nation's security architecture (Matazu, 2022).

Obviously, poor internal security management in Nigeria particularly under Buhari government seems to have contributed to the increasingly jailbreaks in Nigeria (Ossai, 2022). For instance, unknown gunmen attacked the Abolongo Correctional facility in Oyo town freeing about 907 inmates on 22nd October, 2021 most of whom were awaiting trial. Similarly, ISWAP claimed responsibility for Kuje correction facility attack and thereby releasing 879 inmates. As a result, criminals are returning to the society and could cause more havoc in society like killing of security personnel, destruction of Independent National Electoral Commission offices, police stations, correctional facilities and other government facilities. The implication is that there will be more terrorists, unknown gunmen, kidnappers and bandits roaming the streets and engaging in more crimes undetected. Therefore, this is a troublesome situation as Nigerians are being killed daily in their father's land without safety.

Scholars, security experts and social commentators have advanced ideas to explain the factors leading to frequent jailbreak in the world and Nigeria in particular. Scholars such as Omale (2013); Falayi and Ajaja (2018); Imam and Langa (2019); Onah, Adenyi and Eneh (2019); Ojo (2021); Ajitogo (2021); Balsamo and Sisak (2021); Abiodun et al. (2021) and Oyedeji (2022) among others tend to explain the triggers of jailbreak based on the factors such as under-staffing of correctional centres, poor infrastructures, overcrowding in jails, bribery and corruption, prolong waiting for trial, abuse of basic rights of inmates, poor feeding, loose security and poor medical care.

Despite the above scholarly inputs and remarkable efforts to explain the nexus between the character of the state and administration of correctional centres in Nigeria are quite appreciated. However, these studies tend to have only identified poor infrastructures, delayed in criminal justice system, lack of technology, neglect of some basic rights of inmates, poor welfare of inmates as well as antiquated correctional structures as factors responsible for jailbreak.

The scholars did not explain how poor administration particularly how under-utilization of Intelligence and non-installation of surveillance gadgets accounts for recurring jailbreaks in Nigeria. This gap in literature, is what the paper intends to fill and by so doing contributes to knowledge. Therefore, this paper examines how poor administration of correctional centres account for recurring jailbreaks in Nigeria's fourth republic under the Mohammadu Buhari administration.

Conceptualizing of Prison, Prison Administration and Jail breaks

Prison

Prison is a place delimited and declared as such by the law of the state and created to ensure restrained and custody of individuals accused or convicted of violating the criminal laws of the state. There seems to be more consensus than divergence in the definition of prison by scholars. Prison has been defined by scholars in various ways but all seem to give same idea of what constitute prison. The Nigerian prison Act (2009) sees prison as any place or building in Nigeria declared by the minister of Internal Affairs through an order in the Federal Gazette to be a prison and on the same or subsequent order specify the area for which the prison is to be established. For Orakwe (2011) a prison is a place delimited and declared as such by the law of the state and created to ensure restraints and custody of individuals accused or convicted of violating the law or criminal code of the state. In this study, prison which also means Correctional Services Centre is to be seen as a place where those who are considered by law as social misfits are kept in custody with a view to keeping their behaviour within acceptable limits while at the same time modify and adjust their general life for good.

Prison Administration

Prison refers to the institutions which perform conflicting tasks of punishment to those offending laws of the country; and providing for inmates rehabilitation during their stay in prisons. Prison serves as both jail or remand center and a correctional facility under the authority of the state. Thus, Prison administration has to do with the range of legal activities connected with organizing and supervising the Prisons or Correctional Services Centres. Prison authorities have a responsibility to ensure that the supervision and treatment of prisoners is in line with the rule of law. In Nigeria, administrative structure of the Prisons Service has the Controller-General of the Nigerian Prisons Service at the apex of the NPS.

Jailbreaks

Jailbreak is the act of an inmate leaving prison through unofficial or illegal ways. Normally, when this occurs, an effort is made on the part of authorities to recapture them and return them to their original detainers.A prison break is an unlawful act under Nigerian law, of prisoners forcing their ways out of a prison. Several methods can be used to facilitate prison break. Physical method is the most common method adopted by the perpetrators of Nigeria prison break. Also, the Prisoners can deploy the use of arms and sometimes explosives such as dynamite to subdue the prison armed guard and other officials resulting in fatal casualties.

Theoretical Framework- Broken Windows Theory

This paper is anchored on Broken Windows theory propounded by Wilson James and George Kelling in 1982. Broken windows theory is mainly concerned with two forms of disorder; physical and social. Physical disorder means the level of maintenance for a locality's physical environment which includes the condition of buildings, property surrounding the building, and vacant lots. Social disorder on the other hand, is the pattern of social activities or interactions which is visible to the public and considered to be abnormal or unsuitable to many individuals (Wilson & Kelling, 1982).

The theory sees broken windows as a catch-all term for disorder and incivility within the society, arguing that serious crime is the final result of a lengthier chain of events leading to disorder. The theory assumes that further disorder increases criminal behaviour because crime emanated from disorder, and that if disorder was eliminated or checked, serious crimes would not occur. The theory also posited that the prevalence of disorder creates fear in the minds of citizens who are convinced that the area is unsafe. For this theory therefore, disorder causes crime, and crime causes further disorder and crime.

Proponents of this theory further argued that broken windows send a signal of nonchalant and lack of enforcement of order leading to increased fear of crime and weakening of social controls, thereby paving the way for bigger mischief. To prevent disorder which eventually leads to crime, Wilson and Kelling (1982) argued that it is critical for the police to prevent disorder and minor crimes such as purse snatching, assault, rape and burglary. For them, if broken window (crime) remains unrepaired or unchecked it becomes a 'norm', and breaking more windows (committing more crimes) becomes tolerable. To this theory, failure to prevent minor crimes encourages perpetration of more crime and vandalization of properties because disorder is indirectly connected to serious crime.

The theory submits that windows breaking (committing crime) will result to increase disorder in the society and the individuals will see that violent crime is increasing and become more fearful of their society. The increased levels of fear will in turn restrain individuals from intervening in the locality and preventing their use of public space, and that the turnover of household will arise with individuals who are able to emigrate being replaced by individuals who are not attached to the locality. This will inevitably increase crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry drug trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of social vices (Wilson & Kelling 1982).

The justification for the use of the broken windows theory in this paper hinges on the fact that social disorder increase criminal behavour which causes crime, and crime causes further disorder and crime. Therefore, the recurring incidence of jailbreak in Nigeria is caused by deteriorated insecurity which further causes crime such as attacks on correctional centres leading to escape of thousands of inmates that has increased fear on the citizens.

Poor Administration of Correctional Centres and Jailbreak: The Linkages

Prisons are established for the punishment, treatment, training, and social rehabilitation of offenders. However, a prison is neither expected to be exactly a bed of roses as the inmates are there for penal purposes nor supposed to be a bed of thorns and thistles meant to snuff life out of the occupants. As Eva (2015) noted, the Nigeria prison institutions, among others in Nigerian Justice System perform three basic functions of; keeping safe custody of convicted persons and suspects as well as execute sentences passed on individuals by the courts, ensuring the security on the inmates and facilities for correctional services. Administration of correctional centres also involves efforts at ensuring the welfare of inmates through the provision of good health care, feeding, clothing and recreational facilities in order to create the enabling environment for reformation and rehabilitation programmes.

This prompted Jack (2006) to aver that the Nigerian prison system was established not just to reduce crime in the society, but also to reform criminals to better persons. As Ojo (2007) opines, the prison community with its distinct culture and way of life epitomizes a complete design capable of changing the attitudes of individual members for good or bad depending on the personal experience and

the social network action. By implication, prisons are essentially correctional and reformatory; they are not institutions for the dehumanization of the incarcerated. Similarly, Oroleye (2018) asserted that the modern prison administration is mainly the protection of society, rehabilitation, deterrence, retribution and reformation of the convicted prisoners.

It is indicative from the above that there is an ever-increasing problem of prison administration, like poor funding, prison congestion and the failure of the extant prison laws to address the major objective for establishing prison and rehabilitation of the prison convicts trigger jail break. Equally, Ariyo (2023) notes that the problems of dilapidated prison structures, congestion, high number of awaiting trial inmates, poor care and treatment of inmates and related matters, have also remained issues of concern about prison administration in the country. The prison system, which ideally should have been solely for correction of prison inmates through counseling, rehabilitations and reform of inmates seem to have become a breeding ground for hardened criminals who become worse than they were when they got into prison. This could be attributed to the high premium placed on punishment and not rehabilitation by the act that established prison system. Moreover, the attack on Kuje correctional facility by ISWAP is an indication of the poor security management in Nigeria. Hence, poor security management in Nigeria appears to be a cankerworm that has declined to go away despite billions budgeted annually into the security sectors (Ossai, 2022). The above situations seem to have impacted negatively on the general prison service and the convicts; hence the prisons system has not been able to live up to its expected role in Nigeria due to poor administration. Evidently, the Nigeria prison system seems to suffer from lack of basic humanity as prison conditions are debilitating, dehumanizing and destructive. The Prisons have the statutory function of reforming the inmates and preparing them for a crime free life on completion of their terms of imprisonment. In fact, poor administration of correctional centres manifest in many years of infrastructural decay and neglect of prisons in all their ramifications including lack of funds have succeeded in converting the prisons into breeding grounds for criminals. The poor rehabilitation efforts in the prisons complicated by the problems of the already overcrowded prisons serve as catalyst for jailbreaks in Nigeria.

Poor Correctional Centres Administration in Nigeria

Poor prison administration in Nigeria have been evidenced in number of conditions, including: overcrowding of the prisons, bonding by inmates due to long stay, inadequate rehabilitation programmes, under-utilization of intelligence, lack of surveillance gadgets, corruption and compromise of the prison officials as well as poor funding of the prison services.

i. Overcrowding and congestion of the prisons: Available records from the federal ministry of interior indicate that Nigeria prisons are congested. The prisons are mostly congested as held in squalid and congested cells without adequate medical care, food supplies or water and often with some outbreak of diseases, environmental degradation, and an increased mortality rate among inmates. To this end, Omale (2013) enumerated overcrowded jails, deprivation of certain perceived rights and privileges of inmates, inadequate medical care, trafficking by staff and inmates and lack of cordial relationship among staffs as causes of jailbreak. Nevertheless, Omale (2013) did not make attempt to establish a nexus between lack of technology and jailbreak. When 100 people live in a room meant for four, the amount of oxygen is reduced considerably. The stuffy atmosphere breeds microscope organisms and these, in turn spread diseases. This in turn, endangers the lives of staff and convict alike, undue delay of justice by the court, locking up of insane people who would be prone to injuring themselves and others, while they stay without medical attention, and finally, improper ventilation of cells more especially the awaiting trails-cell.

Similarly, Ojo (2021) posits that poor living conditions of inmates due to lack of sanitation is a factor that triggers jailbreak. Nonetheless, Ojo (2021) to his tent did not make effort to analyze the link between delayed in criminal justice system and jailbreak. Scholars such as Imam and Langa (2019)

identified poor welfare of inmates including inadequate medical care, overcrowded correctional institutions and lack of electricity as causes of frequent jailbreak.

ii. Bonding by inmates due to long stay: Prison is primarily for the treatment of convicted prisoners and not for the management of remand inmates because the law sees them as innocent until proven guilty. Keeping these people in custody without trial for that length of time negates the overall objective of imprisonment. More importantly, locking people up for that length of time in congested and squalid condition have so many consequences which may be legal, physiological, economic, sociological, psychological and above all criminological**.** Since inmates spend extensive time together under the circumscribed environment of regimentation and confinement, they are drawn together on the basis of similar perceptions and interests. This bond results in the formation of inmate subculture. The rewards of such inmate subculture include protection from the actions of the prison officials and other inmates. The groups exert influence over its members as well as restraining non-members. The existence of the inmates' subculture explains the mistrust between the prison official and inmates, incessant jail break in the country and hardened criminals that come out of our prisons as well as the increase rate of recidivism.

iii. Inadequate rehabilitation programmes and poor welfare of the inmate: A prisoner without adequate rehabilitation opportunity through skills training and capacity building usually returns to the society which has incarcerated him or her as a hardened enemy of that society. Such an ex-convict is often full of desire for vengeance because he or she sees himself or herself as victimized rather than corrected. In addition, such an ex-convict is likely to do more harm than good to a society invariably perceived as an oppressive system. This condition explains to a very great extent why many Nigerian ex-prisoners end up as recidivists (Ugwuoke, 1994).

However, a prison is neither expected to be exactly a bed of roses as the inmates are there for penal purposes nor supposed to be a bed of thorns and thistles meant to snuff life out of the occupants. As Ogundipe (2006) noted, the Nigeria prison institutions, makes efforts at ensuring the welfare of inmates through the provision of good health care, feeding, clothing and recreational facilities in order to create the enabling environment for reformation and rehabilitation programmes. It is important to state that welfare is a practical factor that helps every organism to live. In circumstances whereby ones welfare is denied, it tends to affect his/her overall wellbeing. Like other humans, prisoners' welfare is essential for their survival. Their welfare provider (government) has failed to make available the needed welfare packages for them. Unfortunately, the Nigeria Correctional Services Centres have been described as "human cages with no facilities for correction, reformation, and vocational training" (Ahire, 1990). There is lack of balance between the declared objectives of reformation and rehabilitation and the prisons practical operational realities. It has been argued, considering that the punitive, depriving, and dehumanizing state of Nigerian prisons that the declared objectives of reformation and rehabilitation can hardly be realized. This scenario tends to fertilize the desire to break out prisons by inmates.

iv. Under-utilization of intelligence: The role of intelligence and surveillance in preventing crime and controlling insecurity in the 21st Century cannot be over-emphasized. This is because intelligence and surveillance guarantee forward-looking and proactive approach to controlling insecurity and curbing crime such as terrorism, armed banditry, insurgency and other organized transnational threats that have pushed intelligence and surveillance from being concepts to strategies to addressing a plethora issues of national security. Information that is deemed to be a threat to a country, its facilities, its citizens, interests, or the use of mass destruction is gathered as intelligence. The basic objective of intelligence is to identify risks before they materialize and to communicate such threats to the proper authority, which then takes preventative action to stop such occurrences from happening. In Nigeria, it appears that the authorities are frequently informed in advance about a number of possible jailbreaks, yet they take little action to stop them. According to research by Ripples Nigeria (2017), such schemes are typically reported by the service's intelligence personnel to the office of the Controller General at least a week or two before they take place. These intelligence reports are however, typically ignored or under-utilized.

Successful attacks and jailbreaks are the result of the underuse of intelligence reports. Security specialists contend that it looks to be intentional for intelligence reports to be underused. This appears to be a strategy of covering their representative, the prison officer in charge, while they continue to make money. Additionally, this is to make sure that the government perceives justification for allocating more resources such as money for the prison (Ripples Nigeria, 2017).

v. Lack of surveillance gadgets: Lack of effective monitoring devices such as surveillance towers, body scanners, Close-Circuit Television (CCTV), double perimeter walls and other tools of restriction to protect, control and safeguard correctional facilities. One could contend that the absence of surveillance gadgets or non-installation of surveillance is done to hide unlawful activity and corrupt behaviour throughout Nigeria's correctional facilities. The installation of monitoring equipment will reveal all illegal activity and unscrupulous behaviour by Nigeria Prison Services staff. Devices for surveillance would give you information about what was happening and how it all happened. Based on the data from the surveillance, an examination and an arrest maybe made. The absence of surveillance equipment foreshadows trouble because there would be no records of occurrences other than storytelling. The Senate President, Ahmad Lawan's remark made it clear that the Kuje medium security centre does not have a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) system that can provide you with analyses and records events. He claimed that the absence of CCTV in a facility of this size in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (FCT) indicates that CCTV is not present in all other medium security detention facilities nationwide (Ripples Nigeria, 2022).

vi. Corruption and compromise of the prison officials: The organized corruption by the cabal and their lieutenants trickles down to the prisoners. Many inmates jailed for serious offences like armed robbery, kidnapping, murder, drug abuse, human trafficking are found right inside the prison yards smoking and trading in Indian Hemps. Many of them have also been convicted a second time for organizing high-profile internet scams from the prison yards. Again, posting of senior officers of the prisons to man sensitive positions across the country is also influenced by\ how much money the prospective officer will pay and not by merit. A practice that have corrupted most of staff who man prison yards and has resulted in the poor quality of food being served to inmates, reckless extortion of money from prisoners, poor maintenance of facilities and gross abuse of prison rules. All these have contributed to weaken the Nigerian prison service operations and administration, and have contributed to jail breaks**.**

It is evident that degraded or absence of security dynamic, corruption, connivance between inmates and correctional staffs are drivers of jailbreak. Also, Oyedeji (2022) highlighted corruption, worsened by overcrowded jails and prolonged detention of suspects awaiting trial as reasons of frequent incidences of jailbreak. This view is supported by Onah et al (2019) that corruption is one important factor responsible for jailbreak. But they pay no attention to explain how poor medical care of inmates could induce jailbreak. Corroborating this line of argument, Falayi and Ajaja (2018) also noted that corruption and antiquated correctional facilities are reasons for jailbreak. It should be noted however, Oyedeji (2022) pay no attention to explain how the collusion between inmates and staffs of correctional facilities could trigger jailbreak.

Ajitogo (2021) attributed the repeated incidence of jailbreak to lack of infrastructural facilities, overcrowded jails, prolonged detention of suspects without trial, inadequate staff to manage correctional centres, poor instrumentality and staff compensation, outdated technology as well as bribery and corruption. All the same, Ajitogo (2021) does not see low or degraded dynamic of security as a factor responsible for jailbreak. Balsamo and Sisak (2021) submits that poor administration of correctional centres, friable security arrangement, undermanned correctional facilities, misconduct and poor infrastructures induce jailbreak. Yet, Balsamo and Sisak (2021) failed to establish a connection between poor staff motivation and compensation which is capable of inducing corruption leading to jailbreak.

vii. **Poor Funding of the Prison Services and decaying infrastructure:** Inadequate funding of prisons by federal government constitutes an impediment to effective administration of prison in Nigeria and by extension leads to jail break. The structures in many prisons across Nigeria remain dilapidated. Prison cells are overcrowded and there is a shortage of prison vans to convey inmates to court for trial. Staff and prison officials are also poorly paid. Most prison structures across many parts of the country are old and dilapidated as most of them were built in the 19th Century by the British colonial masters. For instance, Azare, Bauchi, Ningi and Misau prisons, all in Bauchi State, built in 1816, 1820, 1827 and 1831 respectively. Yet, little or nothing has been done to rebuild the infrastructural deficit and institutional challenges. Such lack of infrastructural facilities, understaffed correctional centres and poor staff emolument tend to foster jailbreaks in Nigeria. More worrisome is the condition of prisons staff which is worst than any other government agency as at that time. The prison staffs seem to be looked at as prisoners also. Most of the prison branches or sections around the country did not have a single official moving vehicle while the very few that had vehicles, found it difficult to maintain them due to poor funding.

Recurring Jailbreaks under Buhari's Administration 2015-2023

The prevailing incidences of jailbreaks in some Nigerian correctional centres have inflated anxiety and fear among the populace because of the security implication for the citizens and the nation at large. Between September 2015 and July 2022, Nigeria has experience twenty-one (21) incidences of attacks on correctional centres in several states such as Abia, Kogi, Ekiti, Ondo, Niger, Bauchi, Yobe, Delta, Ebonyi, Plateau, Akwa Ibom, Oyo, Edo, Imo,Enugu and FCT leading to the escaped of about 6,711 inmates. Out of the twenty-one (21) incidences of jailbreak across Nigerian correctional centres, thirteen (13) were successful while eight (8) were unsuccessful.

Similarly, states like Edo which attack on the Benin and Oko custodial facility occurred on the 19 October, 2020 recorded the highest number of escaped inmates totaling 1,993, followed by attack on Owerri custodial centre in Imo state on 4th April, 2021 with a total of 1,844 escapees. Invasion of Abolongo correctional centre in Oyo state took place on 22nd October 2021 with 907 escapees, and attack on Kuje correctional centre which took place on 6th July, 2022 has a total of 879 escapees. While incursion on Jos correctional centre in Plateau state happened twice on different occasion, 19th July, 2021 and 28th November, 2021 respectively, with a total of 524 escapees. These and other incidences of jailbreak across Nigerian correctional centres have intensified insecurity and increased other forms of social vices due to forceful released of inmates. This scenario is inimical to national security. Below is the tabular representation of incidences of jailbreak across Nigerian correctional centres.

Table 1. SHOWING INCIDENCES OF JAILBREAK IN NIGERIA BETWEEN 2015 AND 2022

S/N	Correctional Centre Location	State	No. of Escaped Inmates	Date
1	Afokon	Calabar	0	2n September, 2015
2	Kuje	FCT Abuja	2	24th June, 2016
3	Koto-Karfe	Kogi	13	29th July, 2016
4	Nsukka	Enugu	15	8th August, 2016
5	Abakaliki	Ebonyi	0	18th August, 2016
6	Ikot-Ekpene	Akwa Ibom	36	27th December, 2017
7	Minna	Niger	200	3rd June, 2018
8	Benin & Oko	Edo	1,993	19th October, 2020
9	Okitipupa	Ondo	58	22nd October, 2020
10	Warri	Delta	0	22nd October, 2020
11	Ajara Umudu	Abia	0	22nd October, 2020
12	Ikoyi	Lagos	0	22nd October, 2020
13	Owerri	Imo	1,844	4th April, 2021
14	Bauchi	Bauchi	0	9th April, 2021
15	Ubiaja	Edo	0	15th April, 2021
16	Kurmawa	Kano	0	22nd April, 2021
17	Jos	Plateau	262	19th July, 2021

18	Kabba	Kogi	240	12th September, 2021
19	Abolongo	Oyo	907	22nd October, 2021
20	Jos	Plateau	262	28thNovember, 2021
21	Kuje	FCT Abuja	879	6th July, 2022

Source: *Authors' Compilation with data from Chioma (2022)*

From the above table, of the twenty-one (21) incidences of jailbreak in Nigeria between September 2015 and July 2022, thirteen (13) representing 80% were successful; while eight (8) representing 20% were unsuccessful. Similarly, a total of six thousand seven hundred and eleven (**6, 711**) inmates successfully escaped from various correctional centres across twelve (12) states of the federation including the Federal Capital Territory which is the Nigerian seat of power. This has not only increased insecurity in the country, but has also threatened the existence of the Nigerian state.

However, it is indicative that there is a problem across the nation as correctional facilities where convicts and suspects were dully sent for custody have unexpectedly becoming sources of internal security threat. Hence, more worrisome is the fact that we now have prisoners that are more sophisticated and daring than those hired to keep and retrain them. Moreover, those outside prison walls that are determined to free some inmates have acquired greater capacity than the protection system around the prison walls (Jailbreaks and National Security, 2022). Therefore, the decline in the level of national security in Nigeria coincided however, with the wave of recurring jailbreaks and as such has resulted in the rise of extremists' violence, kidnappings, and unknown killings by gunmen and among others.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Nigerian correctional centres have recently experienced incessant incursion leading to several jailbreaks that have resulted in the escaped of thousands inmates which has eventually intensified insecurity and increased other forms of social vices. The paper found out from the works of other scholars and social commentators that the derivers of jailbreak may include corruption, poor welfare of inmates, overcrowding of jails, poor infrastructural correctional facilities, shortage of personnel in correctional facilities, delayed in criminal justice system, abuse of basic rights of inmates, and poor staff emolument, among others. However, this paper found that the trigger of recurring incidence of jailbreak in Nigeria is the under-utilization of intelligence and non-installation of surveillance by the Nigerian state in preventing crime and combating insecurity. From the foregoing conclusion, this paper recommended that:

(i). There should be timely and adequate utilization of intelligence as well provision of effective monitoring devices such as surveillance towers, body scanners, Close-Circuit Television (CCTV), double perimeter walls and other tools of restriction to protect, control and safeguard correctional facilities.

(ii). There should be a fully armed squads, intelligence and investigation unit to enhance surveillance, monitoring, intelligence-gathering, security and protection of correctional centres.

(iii). Improved staffs salaries and emolument could curb corruption in the administration of correctional centres leading to recurrent incidences of jailbreak due to collusion between inmates and staffs.

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