In this report, SOLOMON ODENIYI writes on the regional security outfits established bustate a overnors to safeguard the populace. Sadly, they have participated in the infringement of citizens' rights they were created to protect

The Essenaches, the deaths of lifeth and Emvisa still bring a let of emotions and lineating memories. The data stem graceconely mandered on the same day.

Their yangars beather. Cards, took if deep breath is be limited to measure the ambientame markets that let to bis brothers found in your compounders market that let to bis brothers found in your compounders that let to bis brothers found in the compounders of the property of the compounders of the property of the compounders of the property of the compounders of the co

my brothers but two days to the day, I had a engagement that took me out of our community. I was sinourely not happy that I did not make it. It was disheartening when we were informed about the incident. Maybe I would have been dead too, who knows, a distraught Chido

ired another shot at him.

serre almost done when this Hiller man

I was not in the ing int I managed to get close to where my motorcycle was and speed off. I thought I had excaped but looking back, I saw the Hillin at my back. I was shot again and fell off the bile. They let me for dead, I, however, managed to crawl inside the bash and found help.

ThankGod now buttles many problems. Eight months after the ill-fated incident, he still may be suffered to the still dead incident, he still may be still me to the second or suffered to the second or s

we now ray on N1,000 or at most N5,000 people give me as gifts. I stopped going to the hospital because I was unable to pay for the bills and that is the reason behind the pain I feel. I should still be in the hospital by now. The leg

state government would not be deterred by "propaganda" in its bid to curb insecurity in the state. But ThankGod insisted that Ebubeagu

Extrajudicial killings, rights

sad.

She noted that on getting to the scene of the incident, she saw her son on the floor howing in pain and made an attempt to get close to him, but was threatened by one of the operatives.

was threatened by one of the operatives. She said, "The man that shot him threatened to shoot me as well if I moved close to him. My one was bying lifeless three though he was still breathing and they didn't allow amone to carry him. They carried him inside their vehicle and took him away. They use one Amorlelam vehicle while the second was not

a red vehicle."

Aisha said rather than taking lbrahim to a hospital for treatment, the operatives headed straight for a morgue.

"Later, his brother took a bike and followed them

with the intention that they would take him to the general hospital but they did not.

"He died inside their vehicle; when they carried him and I was shouting, 'My son, my son', he looked

perpetrated the act, denying that they were bandles. He said, "They said we were bandles; it is als. We are well-known in the community. My life has been rained for what they call me which I am not. As you are talking to me, you are making me removed the incident the most annoying part is that I am suffering for what I know nothing about." Allegations of entrajudical illings and brutality by Bandengu aprets are not pendhar to limo State. They works were reportedy lightly when men of the unit stormed a community in Elouyi State on October 17, 2021.

4 me helder forms an commission also like the men of the unit stormed a community in Elouyi State on October 17, 2021.

were accused of assaulting a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party on November 9, 2021.

Many were injured as

remember the modent."

Chido would have been killed too and the tragedy would have been more for the family to bear had he not had another engagement that took him out of town two dans before the event.

The person having the event was very close to us. I had made preparations to attend alongside my brothers but two days to the day, I had an

Alive but incupacitated Unlike Chido who could not make it to the gathering, theulowanere ThamkGod did, but escaped death by a whasker. The assulants shot his leg while he tried

The assuments snor his sig white ne trued to hop on his motorcycle to escape from the men, who had invaded the gathering.

Not minding that he had been hit, he sped off but was given a hot chase by the operatives, who

fired another shot at him.

He said, "It was not a wedding per se, it was something more like an introduction. He went with his family and his friends followed him. We

crime.
"I was shot in the leg but I managed to get

grouns with pain and has stopped going to a hospital for treatment due to his mability to pay the backlog of medical bills he owed. He has also lost his source of livelihood and relies

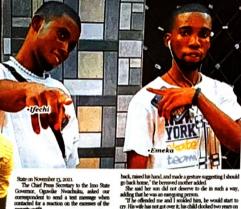
He has also had be source of heilhood and releas on gift from formed and well-wellsom to find for himself, his parents, and five shirings.

Thankindo said, "To date, anytime I remember the incident, I weep and hardly will a day pass that I wen't recall it am still in pair, 1 oil use crutifies. I need more treatment, the pain is too much for mal. have not been able to five dimension and my family. I depend on what people give ma, and my family, it depend on what people give ma, and leves being count rathly, because an other said leves being count rathly, because my parents, and five shiring, own responsible for their uplace pand achording.

"We now why on Nation or at most Ngooo people give me as gift. I stopped group to the

Government cover-up
The Inno State Governor, Hope Uzzdinna,
The Inno State Governor, Hope Uzzdinna,
The Movever, chaimed that the victims were
bandist killed after an operation of the
Department of State Services.
The Governor's Chief Press Secretary,
Ognowishe Novachulosu, in a statement
insued after the incident, noted that the
thing are serviced in the contract of the contract is responsible for the misconduct of operatives of the security outfits. All these formations need a proper legal framework that will restrain them from arbitrariness. Without a legal framework that will compel accountability, they will end worse

Colinvarotimi



back, raised his hand, and made a gesture suggesting I should go back home," the bersaved mother added. She said her son did not deserve to die in such a way,

She said her son did not deserve to die in such a voy, adding that he was an ensyming person, he would start to yell into which and a control in such a bound of the control in such as the s He had also yet to respond to a text message ent to him on the matter as of the time of filing

Shootelaan rights abuse

Shoo cummanly, in the Jeba-Ole area

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Annelston operatives.

28-year-old meaning agrain, who has gone to a mosque to observe sold, an evening prover.

After, proping, he ma into the hands of the operatives, who shot at him.

His mother, Asiast, told our correspondent that she asked his younger brother to wake him up for Ouce Station.

He added that he was told his son was not at the station.

He added that he was told his son was not at the station when he witted lighteds. He said. The incident lapsed not more than a month after I had an accident that almost claimed my life. Up oil now, his death brings me pain. He was supposed to go to work on that day because he was an appreciation in abstraing, salor, I went to his mann's place that day and I overheard some people lading. I asked them when two happening and they told me something happened to Ferni but they didn't disclose it.

the comer.

She said her son was shot while stepping
out of the mosque.

"It—happened—on Saturday during
Ramadan, around gran. He was sleeping at
my place. I asked his brother to wake him up for only told me to go to the police station to check on They only told me to p to the police station to check on him. They said that some people came to Sabo and took him to the station. That it has 't went to lighted Picker Station. I jets: Here and they said they dain! I detain anyone named Fermi. He said one of Fermi is breach latter opened up to him that he had been hilled and haten has morgue.

— Sanday said, While leaving the place, we saw Amotelant's whalk and we stopped them to said about the people they arrested. They shall us they doth arrest some poly they arrested. They shall us they doth arrest some of his friends that if showed us who doth?

my place. Lasked his bether to sake him up for persy (solat,) He told me to per him Nooo to at his har and I did. Later, he left for the mouse. I was home cooking. The animate happend-opposite the mouge at Lastmon Junction. I post of a gundred at the mosepe to I did his how it was him. Later, one of his friends alled me asking if I was aware of what happened and I said, yet, I fold him I was less concerned about it. I har west out, "Aisha was less concerned about it. I har west out," Aisha

we round nim on the floor.

"I asked what happened and I was told some people dropped him there and they were not aware of what led to his death. I asked how they would accept a corpse without

where the stand how they would accept a corpse without howing details about a."

When asked the offerce his son committed, he middle seat with Form and his friends were howing a debate on a football match they had just satched when Americana operatives accomed the area and asked them to nase their hands. He said Form and his friends took to their heest. They started pressing his till like the minto a woman's house. I was tall he had belief the close; they forcefully hold he did not to me them. The weath of the minton a woman's house it was to be a form to me the minton the course to me the his work of the standard of the standard to a contract behind the house where he was that it items. He full, and they draged his corpse till they get to their parts which. It was after they said he was not the core they were looking for, the fifther said.

Another than the contract has been and they did not not the parts which it has the death of his son caused him, Sunday said it also took at toll on his form. The lack of a legal framework that can compel accountability

finances.

He said, 'Tim a thrift collector, I spent all the

He said, Tm a thrift collector; I spent all the money in my care on the incident. Now, I have to stop the work and keep paying the debt I owed, which firm till of the more and the spent again.

His mother also didn't have anything again. I was the one that brained the boy! I lought the coffin and the land I buried him on. I spent all I had on it. I don't have anythod, but I have God. Because of that, I relocated to Benne to get over

abuse smear regional security outfits The two groups committed serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, torture and extraoidisal illings of criminal suspects, some of whom were humed alive or dismembered with machetes in public. The ICG report, titled, Managing Vigilantism in Nagrius. A Near-term Necessity added that the worst had yet to come and strong resources were not included to the continuous serious serio



1 wo or them were approached by this reporter but declined comment for less of victimisation. But Shaday PI/OST, in an interview with a wine store operator who gave her name only as Chila for security reasons, accused the operatives of brutalissing her despite being four-month preparat during a raid on her store on December 4, 2022.

ecember 14, 2021. She said, "I was sitting in my shop when I saw a group of

with Hisbah operatives.

Two of them were approached by this reporter but

She said, "I was sitting in my shop when I saw a group of people entering and packing my goods.

"As I lept asking them to lower me alone while trying to dain my handrand summer, one of them started dragging my phone from my bards and the started dragging my phone from my bards."

I would be sufficient to the started dragging my phone from my bards and the started dragging my bards and the started my bards and the started my bards and the people will be sufficient on the started my bards and the started my bards and

pregnant on the year of the control was sometime as some weeks pregnant. Chain and the safe present of the conveyed her to the hourd's headquarters in the Sharada industrial area of Sano, where the houring continued. But the Hababilis Deport (Operations), Shetha laking, demard the allegation, swing the gough operations were legizimate and well of human nights

TUSE.

There in his down not entroll heating of inquiting among except if the culprit engages or confronts our workers. Our workers will have to defend themselves and we don't allow our staff members to go out for operations in combat uniform, "he

·Late Femi

Rise of local outfits
Ebubeagu was formed in December 2021 by South-East
governors in the five states of the region to complement the

governos in the five states of the region to competences we effort of security agencies in the fight against crime. The couff was, however, disbunded by a court in Econy State after it was found gaily of engaging in human rights abuse, entrium, liegal arrests and use of frearms. The Western Nigeris Security Network, codesamed Operation Amortedom, was founded on January 9, 2020, in End-10, Oct. 93 to be wearverner in the South-Wort project.

Prequent rights violations
Security operatives have consistently violated human rights law in the country. A 2021 report by a pro-democracy group, Centre for Democracy and Development, stated that security operatives killed over 13,000 people extra-judicially

from 2011 to 2021.

While the atrocities by the security outfits have lingered

on, our correspondent observed that the operatives have been included by the inability of state governments, federal law enforcement agencies and human rights institutions to

This is evident in the case of Ferni and Ibrahim, whose

parents have been denied justice.

While the outfits may have brought pain to some citizens due to the excesses of their officials, they have also recorded some successes in the fight against crime. For instance, the security units made a number of arrests and interventions which helped quell criminal activities in their arrests of corrections.

oups. Unlike its counterpart in the South East, Amotekur has yet to be disbanded in

to that of virilance

police.
Hisbah has 13
major schedules of
duty outlined in the
2007 Kano Hisbah Law No. 4, Section 7, Subsection 4. No. 4, Section 7, Subsection 4, Section 7, Subsection 4, Section 7, Subsection 4, Section 8, Section 9, Section 8, Section 9, Sectio

human rights abuse.

To curb the excesses of the outfits, Adamu recommended.

organisation of security in the country.

He said. "There is the need to ensure the decentralisation

of security in Nigeria and to have this as an agenda for the incoming administration. The administration needs to snoorming administration. The administration needs to get the loop-in of atter governments. Already, there is an initiative in the Nigaria Covernors Forum called Peace and Indiase's Sensity initiative that can harness and moudi into a platform to support the functions of the Council of State, National Security Council, and Nigara Pelice Council. Owersal, an enhanced cooperation and coordination, as well as collaboration between the federal and state governments on security, will august well for the country and help improve both kneets and non-kinetic means of

utils to that we have the supervise passing vy outfits to the first."

Ugwu called for the dissolution of the outfits, adding that efforts should be geared towards building a strong police

the officers were carrying out their lawful duties, and I did not do anything incriminating that might warrant me to flee at the sight of Amotelam officers. Four of them alighted from at the signs of Armotesian onnees. Four or them augment the van, and to my surprise, they started beating me. Befor knew it, one of them shot at my leg."

"At the Amotelam's medical unit, the nurses only

he's our neighbour. He did not have a bad character, so we alswed him to his. When those people came, they entered through the backdoor and saked about him and we tald them notody entered them. They forced her door open with their legs and searched her room. They later found him and tool him out.

"I was punishing and tyrings to run. During this period, one of them nigared ne with the butt of his pun on my hand and [left. They dragged him and killed him basiske the house." Justice clusive
Sunday and Assha have yet to get justice for the murder of their children. here I was attended to briefly because of the ongoing strike action of doctors at the time. I their children. The duo said they were in the dark about the efforts made was driven roughly down to Owo, with my fractured thigh barely

hanging to the flesh."

He said be had no further care, which worsened his situation, adding that his leg became smelly as alprits.

Aisha recalled that some operatives of the corps were

Asia recialed that some operators of the corps were moted but were later freed.

The control of the control of the corps were the control of the control of the control of the control and the control of the control because we are nobody, "she added."

We've tried all we can to ensure those behind my son's death are apprehended but everything has been abortive. It plants us, Resisting a led from children but additioned in the liquid of the control of the control of the control of the control of the liquid of the control of the control of the control of the control of the liquid of the control of the control of the control of the control of the liquid of the control of the control of the control of the liquid of the control of the control of the control of the control of the liquid of the control of the control of the control of the control of the liquid of the control of the liquid of the control of the contro

easy, Sunday lamented.

The spokesperson for Amotekun in Ogun State, Dave Akinremi, said the duo of Ferni and Ibrahim were cultists, adding that they were killed during a gun battle with a joint team of security operatives in the state.

the shatton."

A tenant in the house Ferni ran into for cover, Kafilat Olamilelan, said she was brutalised by the Amotekun operatives when she demanded an explanation for the arrest. She said, "Ferni ran inside our landlady's noom because he's our neighbour. He did not have a bad character, so we

team of security operatives in the state.

He sid, "On the issue of the billing in John Ode in 2021, our operatives were not responsible. But there was a joint operation by the police, Ametekum, So-safe, VCN, OPC, batters, NSCDC SWAT, etc., on the day in question when oil billings were happening almost every day.

This process, two of the aspectations who engaged the just fram were domitised and two fit operatives moded (not Ametekam) were identified and taken to the SCD for investigation. So, if there's any inquiry on this, it should be addressed to the police.

He did not also respond to messages demanding an explanation on why the culprits were allegedly set free.

the situation."

a passenger to Araroni, Akure, and when the passenger alighted, he gave me Ngoo. I had to look for his change. It was around this time that an Amotekan corps van drove in and shot in the air, which caused feer and caused people to start running. I did not run because I presumed

sizes it, one of them shot at my teg.

He told our correspondent that he was afterwards dragged into the back of a van and taken to the Amotekan headquarters at Alaghaka, where he was abandoned. Otherwitimi said, "I was abandoned outside, uncared for and heleding until a senior officer came out and directed that I should be taken to the outfit's medical unit.

he dragged the corps to court and was awarded N30m as compensation. But as of April 26, 2023, he had yet to

paid.

He said. "Since the amputation of my leg, I can't do any work. My children have not been attending school, I am my medical bills. I plead with the

seven, and sanctioned many to instill discipline in the corps

He said, "For an outfit that has conducted thousands of

but when you consider the colossal loss of a life, it's equally understandable. As human beings, we are not above mistakes but as far as we are concerned, training and

retraining are going on.

The law setting up the corps is very clear on the punishment of any erring officer. In the last three years, we have dismissed two officers and demoted seven and a good number of them served lesser punishment. We are strwing to achieve perfection. We want to make a difference.

tions and recorded successes and has one accidental arge, I don't know why it is drawing so much attention

to pay me this money; the damage they have done

Shot and amputated Amotekun is the reason Oluwasegun Oluwarotimi had

as, when make Univarotimis colleagues and others at the some to run for over, but he stayed put. He said he didn't run because he believed Amotekun was a security outfit and he had no skeleton in his cupboard. The victim said, "On August 9, 2021, around gum when I was going about my daily hustle as am Okada rider, I took.

Femi's father

began to decay. His leg was later amputated. After abandoning him to his fate,

The Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, Ahimbola

Commander of Amotekun in Ondo State, Adetunji Adeleye, said outfit had dismissed two officials.

Amoissum is the reason (Unwasegum Unbasquam Issu one of this legs amputated.

As a commercial motorsycle operator in Akure, Ondo State, he was ging about his work when a trigger-happy officer of the security outfit shot at his left leg. The operatives had stormed the area and shot into the air, which made Obwartorium's colleagues and others at the area to the comment on the formation of the comment of the co

Hisbah not left out Also known as Sharia Police, the operations of the outfit have been heavily criticised by many Nigerians.

Many residents in Kano and other 12 northern states

The Western Nigeria Sexuary.

Operation American, was founded on January 9, 2020, in
Badan, Oyo Sane, by governers in the South-West region.

The outfit was created following
the uptue of criminal activities in
the region, particularly an invruese
in Exchapping by suspected
herdenen.

Members of the outfit were

These establishments would not have been necessary of conventional police dut not fails. But we must be careful not to affict conserves with greater evils than we set out to cure. For instance, section (2) of the Ondo State Annotekun Corps Law provides that in the course of currying out their dutes, they must safeguard the constitutions (1) of citizens as guaranteed in the constitution. If Annotekun that has this guiding provision could act arbitrarily, how much more those who do not have? Members of the outfit were drawn from local hunters, the more those who do not have?"

A security expert and Managing Director, Beacon
Consulting Limited, Kabir Adamu, attributed the abuse to
a lack of structure and the involvement of retired security

He said "First off there is no clear delineation of their role

A Near-term Necessity acased that the worst had yet to check the activities until strong measures were put in place to check the activities

ot security outfits.

Without stronger oversight from a combination of federal and state authorities, community leaders, and civil society, many worry this problem could get worse, with further and

potentially more egregious abuse deepening the prevailing culture of impunity and aggravating insecurity, "it added.

They see police as rivals – Force spokesman. The spokesperson for the Nigeria Police Force, Muyiwa Adejobi, said the police had received many petitions against the security outfits, adding that some of the allegations were

being investigated.

Adejob, said, "Ordinarily, we expect them to complement
us, but in most cases, many of them do not. We have talked
to them on several occasions. We have received complaints

to them on several occasions. We have received complaints against them, so we are aware many of them go out of their boundaries. Where cases are reported against them, we take them up, following the provisions of the law.

The state governments should harmonise these outfits and collapse them with the police structure in their states. They should be under the supervision of the police so that the state of the police so that the policy of the

they can be held accountable and guided. In some cases, these outfits see police as rivals. This will not help us."

A human rights lawyer, Tope Temolam, said the lack of a legal framework that could compel accountability was responsible for the misconduct of operatives of the security outfits.

outfix.

He said, "All these formations need a proper legal framework that will restrain them from arbitrariness. Without a legal framework that would compel accountability, they will end worse than the police.

These establishments would not have been necessary if

He said, First off, there is no clear destineation of their roses vis a vis that of the statutory federal security structures. This created extensive discourse, forcing an arrangement that left them harangued and forced into a box where their functions

ecame unclear.
The second point is the influence of state governm in particular the governors and officials around them, who sometimes attempt to use these state-level security structures

sometimes attempt to use times state-seed security structures to achieve other personal or political party interests.
That by is the concern around their training, Most of the state-level sournly arrangements are apprecised by returned military or police personnel who are now serving to groundisconters or special advisors on security to growing assommissioners or special advisors on security to growing a minimiser of the mon-respect for human rights and civil liberties in their former organisations and transferred these to state-level organisations.

state-level organisations." He lamented that no state had an ombudsman to check

and the same presents. The main Ugou, said the outfin-had further compounded the pairs of Nigorians. He said. The outfins were primed to fail ab intio. The understring factor that led to their formation was the fact that the police halled in their dayty to protect the people. Why did the police fail of the led to their formation was the fact that constraints to the people, they are under-resourced, and the police halled people, they are under-resourced, and the police halled the people of the protection of the control of the policy of the protection of the policy of the control of the policy of the protection of the policy of this is that we have not improved policing by adding these contribution to the policy of the policy of the policy of the policy of this is that we have not improved policing by adding these contribution to the policy of t

their areas of operations.

However, a report by the International Crisis Group expressed concern about human rights abuse and lack of accountability by these cutfits, adding that they were taking after earlier groups like the Balassis Boys in the lights speaking South East states and the Yan Sakais in the North-West.

