

# **A Study of Crime Reporting in Nigeria**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

In the 21st century, the internet has become a quicker platform through which crimes are reported to the public. Through the new media, Trent Online and Nigeria Watch have consistently updated their database and pages with reports on criminality across the country. While some of such criminal acts were non-violent, others were lethal. Findings show that armed robberies have become the dominant crimes in Nigeria, contributing about 50% of an overall 8516 deaths in 3, 840 fatal incidents between June 2006 and September, 2015 nationwide. Lagos, Rivers, Ogun, Benue and Imo states were reported as the most affected crime states. Findings also show more crime fatalities in the Southern part of Nigeria than in the North. This article there maintains that the inability of government to address most of the sources of crime explains why it has become difficult to nip in the bud.

**Keywords: Crime, Fatalities, Media, Armed Robbery, Rape, Domestic Violence**

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## BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Crime is one of the human security problems confronting humanity across the world. Nations have grappled to contain the rising incidence of homicide, armed robbery, and kidnap, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, illegal gun running and host of others. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2011 reported that homicides globally were estimated at 468,000 and more than a third (36%) was estimated to have occurred in Africa, 31% in the Americas, 27% in Asia, 5% in Europe and 1% in the tropical Pacific region<sup>3</sup>. According to the report, economic crisis; food insecurity; inflation; and weak or limited rule of law are factors that drive crime. However, the drivers of crime are not restricted to the aforementioned causative factors. In the Americas, more than 25% of homicides are related to “organized crime and the activities of criminal gangs”; the same only true of approximately 5% of homicides in the Asian and European countries for which data are available<sup>4</sup>.

Africa has been on the forefront on global statistics on crime. South Africa and Nigeria have recorded high incidents of violent and non-violent crimes in recent times. According to Africa Check, that incidents of murder increased from 15 609 murders in 2011/12 to 16 259 murders in 2012/13 in South Africa, with increase of 650 murder cases or a 4,2% increase when comparing the total numbers of murders with the previous year<sup>5</sup>. According to the same report, murders and attempted murders that take place during aggravated robbery or inter-group conflict (such as gang or taxi violence), and vigilantism make up between 35% and 45% of all murders and attempted murders<sup>6</sup>.

Nigeria is currently caught in the web of crime dilemma, manifesting in the convulsive upsurge of both violent and non-violent crimes<sup>7</sup>. Notable in this regard are the rising incidents of armed robbery, assassination and ransom-driven kidnapping, which are now ravaging the polity like a tsunami and spreading a climate of fears and anxieties about public safety<sup>8</sup>. The upsurge of crime has been ongoing as Nigeria has been on the global crime map since 1980s<sup>9</sup>. These throes of crime for decades are traceable to poverty, poor parental upbringing, and greed amongst the youth; get rich quick mentality, inadequate crime control model of national security among others.

Events of past few years show that the spate of crime has assumed a debilitating proportion and requires the intervention of policy makers in this regard. According to Osawe, crime portrays the inability of government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of economic activities considering the alarming increase in criminal activities in Nigeria such as armed robbery, terrorism and other related crimes<sup>10</sup>. Olanrewaju avers that crime relates to drug use which has the social consequence on students manifesting in various forms including

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2011). “United Nations 2011 Global Study on Homicide”

<sup>4</sup> ibid

<sup>5</sup> Africa Check (2013). FACTSHEET South Africa: Official crime statistics for 2012/13

<sup>6</sup> ibid

<sup>7</sup> Okechukwu EMEH (2011). Analyzing Nigeria’s current crime surge in Vanguard Newspaper, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> ibid

<sup>9</sup> Dambazau AB (2007) Criminology and Criminal Justice 2nd Edition. Ibadan: University Press.

<sup>10</sup> Osawe, Cyril Onyepuemu. (2015). Increase Wave of Violent Crime and Insecurity: A Threat to Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria. IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) 20 Issue1, Ver. IV: 123-133.

assassination, kidnapping, kidnapping, lack of interest in education, armed robbery and other criminal offences<sup>11</sup>.

It has been observed that a factor which motivates criminality is that availability of arms in the hands of illegal users, particularly civilians. For instance, Hull *et al* posit that the proliferation of arms contributes to conflict in two main ways namely: 'increasingly lethal firepower is likely to cause higher levels of destruction; and that augmentation of sophisticated weaponry creates a vicious cycle whereby competing militias engage in an arms race to gain dominance in capability'<sup>12</sup>.

A Third Report on Violence in Nigeria (2006-2011) by Nigeria Watch Database noted that the second main cause of violence is crime. This is heavily concentrated in the South, especially in highly populated areas like Lagos and Port Harcourt. Yet the Middle Belt is not immune from armed robbery and banditry, especially in Plateau State, which records higher crime rates<sup>13</sup>. These statistics on the trend and patterns of violent and on-violent crimes are worrisome and needs urgent attention from a multi-dimensional approach by stakeholders involved anti- crime crusade.

## JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY

The availability of the old and new media makes it easier for organizations to report criminal cases in Nigeria and world over. Through these media platforms, social networking sites update their pages with reports on crime across the country. This study there seek to be more relevant to scholars and stakeholders in the fight against crime by answering questions regarding the nature of lethal and non-lethal crimes reported on the Trent Online<sup>14</sup> and Nigeria Watch<sup>15</sup> database.

## CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME

Scholars and social analysts have defined crime from different perspectives. As such, a general definition of the concept has eluded the academia for years. While Farmer Lindsay see crime as a category created by law<sup>16</sup>, Elizabeth A. Martin provided a more comprehensive definition when she noted that crime or offence (or criminal offence) is an act harmful not only to some individual or individuals but also to a community, society or the state ("a public wrong")<sup>17</sup>. It refers to actions that are forbidden by law; offence against the state, conducts such as committing murder, stealing property, resisting arrest, driving while under the influence of alcohol and possessing or selling illegal drugs<sup>18</sup> and seen as an act that violates a political or moral rule; an act of a single individual acting from personal motive, or maybe organized activity whereby

<sup>11</sup> Olanrewaju, Nike (1994). Drug Abuse Increases among Students. *National Concord*, January 5.

<sup>12</sup> Hull, R., Evans, J. and Davis, S. (2006). Money Laundering and Nigeria. In Niger Delta Peace and Security Strategy Working Papers. Port Harcourt: International Centre for Reconciliation.

<sup>13</sup> Nigeria Watch: Third Report on Violence (2006-2011), [http://www.nigeriawatch.org/media/html/NGA-Watch-Report11\(1\).pdf](http://www.nigeriawatch.org/media/html/NGA-Watch-Report11(1).pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Trent Online is a leading Internet Newspaper in Nigeria that covers news 24/7 from politics, to economy, to crime, world events, celebrity, fashion and style, events, red carpets, entertainment, and the city.

<sup>15</sup> Nigeria Watch is research project that monitors lethal violence, conflicts, and human security in Nigeria. It began in July 2006 and is now based on the campus of the University of Ibadan with the support of the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA-Nigeria) since July 2013.

<sup>16</sup> Farmer, Lindsay: "Crime, definitions of", in Cane and Conaghan (editors), *The New Oxford Companion to Law*, Oxford University Press, 2008 (ISBN 978-0-19-929054-3), page 263 (Google Books).

<sup>17</sup> Elizabeth A. Martin (2003). *Oxford Dictionary of Law* (7 ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0198607563.

<sup>18</sup> *The World Book Encyclopaedia*, 2006. Ci-Cz, Vol. 4. Chicago: World Book Inc.

gangs of mobsters seek to enrich themselves at the expense of the general public, and resort to violence and murder in order to achieve their goals<sup>19</sup>.

Crime is traceable to the formation of groups by individuals who have related interests with the aim of having a strong network. For example, Babalola<sup>20</sup> explains that “drug, cultism and terrorism have an inexorable nexus, one to the other. Once a person gets hooked to a particular brand of drug, he craves for it; he finds easy partnership in anyone that shares identical belief in that line of psychosomatic attitude. Together, they form groups with defined purposes. In the process of carrying out their concerted aspirations, they employ different kinds of weapons; broken bottles, knives and cudgels and recently guns and pistols. In addition, bombs have also become tools in the hands of armed robbers, militants and terrorists in most parts of the country who take advantage of the explosives to break into banks, Automated Teller Machines, and also to attack religious institutions, hotels/restaurants.

Theoretically, most discourses on the causes of crime are usually hinged on greed/grievance, relative deprivation, frustration and aggression theory of social conflict as well as the theory of reasoned action which sees criminal act as a well planned action by the perpetrators. The trouble with crime is that it is usually associated with greed and violence which greatly motivate the violation of inalienable rights.

Specifically, the nature of crime incidents in Nigeria makes it pertinent for this article to focus on the Nonkilling theory which explains the ‘framework for research and action involving conscious efforts that are made to comprehend the practices, policies, institutions, cultures, politics, and behaviours that promote killing of humans and non-humans in society and to assess what is needed to transition from a killing state to a nonkilling one. Ideally, understanding the actions and behaviours that motivate crime would promote the nonkilling attitude in the society, and this would make human rights to improve appreciably. The theory is expected to guide policy and the cultural, political, and socio-economic behaviour of individuals and institutions towards creating a non-killing society’<sup>21</sup>. Nonkilling can be achieved and sustained when drivers of armed banditry, physical and structural violence, struggle for power and resources, envy and socio-economic injustice are abated.. To curb crime related killings, it is crucial to identify the sources of violent deaths, with the aim of understanding why and how people are engulfed in acts of violence.

## METHODOLOGY

Qualitative data comprising lethal and non-lethal crimes are sourced from the Trent website at [www.thetrentonline.com](http://www.thetrentonline.com) through the CRIME section. It also presents the tabular classification of crimes that have been reported on the website in recent times by states, fatalities and number of incidents. At least, this classification gave the authors an insight into the patterns crime control that policymakers can adopt.

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<sup>19</sup> Abolurin, Ade. (2010). *Crime Control in Nigeria, 1999-2010*. Ibadan: John Archers Publishers Ltd.

<sup>20</sup> Babalola, Afe. 1998. Drugs and Cultism, Our Youths’ Enemies. *Nigeria Tribune*, December 30.

<sup>21</sup> Allen, Fidelis and Okeke-Uzodike, Ufo. (2010). “Oil, Politics, and Conflict in the Niger Delta: A Nonkilling Analysis.” *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* 3 (2): 32-42.



Quantitative data on crime-related fatalities is collated from Nigeria Watch database ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), an online database which sources information from daily Nigerian press corporations (Vanguard, Leadership, The Guardian, Sun, This Day, Daily Independence, Punch, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation and Daily Trust) as well as other human rights organizations. Data on crime incidents and fatalities covers the period between June 2006 and September, 2015. This restriction was placed due to the availability of data within the period under study. Trend analysis was based on the overall crime incidents and fatalities in Armed Robbery, Cultism, Kidnapping, Rape, Domestic Violence, Assassination, Thuggery and Hooliganism.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### The Classification of Crimes by the Trent Online

Available evidence from the Trent Online database reveals that the following violent and non-violent crimes exist in Nigeria with different scales of violent incidents since 2013 when it became operational.

**Table 1, Crimes committed in States by Number of Incidents and Fatalities**

State	Crime	Number Of Occurrence	No. of Fatalities
<b>2015</b>			
Lagos	Rape	2	2
	Drug trafficking	1	
	Cultism/murder	3	
Plateau	Drug trafficking	1	-
Ondo	Rape, kidnapping, murder	3	1
	Bank robbery	-	-
	Currency counterfeiting	-	-
Edo	Robbery	1	5
Bauchi	Robbery, Ritual murder, kidnapping	1	-
Kwara	Homicide	1	-
Taraba	Homicide	1	-
Abia	Homicide	2	1
Imo	Homicide	1	1
<b>2014</b>			
Lagos	Rape, murder, drug trafficking	7	7
Kaduna	Murder	1	1
Ogun	Rape, ritual	4	19
Bayelsa	Kidnapping	2	1
Oyo	Robbery	1	2
Imo	Assassination, Arms	1	2

Zamfara	Proliferation	1	1
Osun	Murder	1	1
Plateau	Assassination	2	9
Ekiti	Murder , rape	1	1
Bauchi	Rape	1	-
Kogi	Rape	1	-
<b>2013</b>			
Ebonyi	Child trafficking,	1	-
Lagos	Rape, car theft, ritual murder	4	-
Abuja	Fake UN recruitment	1	-
Akwa Ibom	Child trafficking	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>47 Events</b>	<b>54 Fatalities</b>

Data Source: Trent Online Dataset

Trent Online statistics in Table 1 reports 54 deaths in 47 criminal events across the cross between 2013 and 2015. Fatalities spread across many states of the federation with varied intensity due to some demography variable. In Lagos, the confrontation between security forces and drug traffickers led to four deaths involving the traffickers in 2014, while ritual murder produced 18 deaths the same year. Also in Lagos, rape occurred four times as reported by the Trent. In Ogun state one of the rape cases did not lead to any death, while the only incident of ‘gang rape’ led to the death of the victim. The alarming rate of ritual killings in Ogun also led to 18 deaths in 2014. While rituals and murder produced the highest number of fatalities, rape occurred more than other crimes between 2013 and 2015.

The Trent online database reveals that there are two classifications of crime, namely violent crime and non-violent crime in the country. For instance, while fake UN recruitment syndicate who was arrested by the police in Abuja in January 2014, and the arrest of four men at Lagos airport in December 2013 can be described as non-violent crimes, street beheading for ritual purposes and ritual murder of a virgin in Lagos are classified as violent crimes. However, there were cases where culprits robbed and gang raped their victims thereby inflicting pains on them. Such attack can be described as violent although not fatal. Fatal incidents are those that resulted in deaths. Where an incident involves robbery, victims usually lose their valuables after the attack like the 2014 incident in Ogun state where a businesswoman lost N1,803,000 cash, gold worth of N200,000 and wrist watch worth N5,000 and blackberry phone at a total of N2,187,500 to armed robbers<sup>22</sup>.

In addition, drug trafficking has also been a source of violent crime just like the 8 January, 2014 incident in Mushin area of Lagos where four traffickers were gunned down by security operatives when they opened fire on the men of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).<sup>23</sup> It shows that drug traffickers motivate arms proliferation. Most of the crimes reported in the country have in one way or another denied people their rights to freedom of

<sup>22</sup> The Trent (2014)., How Gang Of 5 Men Robbed And Raped Businesswoman In Ogun

January 30. <http://www.thetrentonline.com/gang-5-men-robbed-raped-businesswoman-ogun/>

<sup>23</sup> Sulaimon, Salisu. (2014). 4 Killed as NDLEA Raids Drug Haven In Mushin. <http://www.thetrentonline.com/four-akala-boys-killed-ndlea-invades-drugs-haven-mushin/>

movement, right to ownership of property and other socio-economic rights. Law enforcement agents have also been punished for crimes especially rape and complicity in arms proliferations that aided robberies.

The fact that rape and armed robberies have become the dominant crimes in the country cannot be disputed as they are more prevalent than others like unlawful possessions of firearms, cultism, car snatching and homicide.

## FATAL CRIMES IN NIGERIA BY NIGERIA WATCH

**Table 2, Crime Fatalities in Nigeria (June 2006-September, 2015)**

States	Armed Robbery	Cultism	Kidnapping	Rape	Domestic Violence	Assassination/ Thuggery/ Hooliganism
<u>Abia</u>	107	12	53	3	5	6
<u>Adamawa</u>	54	18	-	-	2	2
<u>Akwa Ibom</u>	66	64	15	9	11	9
<u>Anambra</u>	225	64	36	4	19	9
<u>Bauchi</u>	37	2	7	1	13	42
<u>Bayelsa</u>	16	104	14	6	7	5
<u>Benue</u>	144	67	3	9	16	28
<u>Borno</u>	46	-	20	-	9	9
<u>Cross River</u>	28	40	5	1	14	5
<u>Delta</u>	946	202	55	7	52	32
<u>Ebonyi</u>	35	16	5	4	24	16
<u>Edo</u>	109	306	15	10	32	12
<u>Ekiti State</u>	47	20	2	5	11	6
<u>Enugu</u>	72	58	6	5	13	10
<u>FCT</u>	78	5	3	3	13	4
<u>Gombe</u>	13	-	-	-	2	3
<u>Imo</u>	104	47	25	5	20	23
<u>Jigawa</u>	18	-	1	-	5	1
<u>Kaduna</u>	44	-	4	6	12	9
<u>Kano</u>	49	-	4	-	14	11
<u>Katsina</u>	24	1	3	-	7	5
<u>Kebbi</u>	18	-	-	-	-	10
<u>Kogi</u>	66	17	12	-	18	26
<u>Kwara</u>	63	57	3	-	14	19
<u>Lagos</u>	819	323	40	35	121	172
<u>Nasarawa</u>	71	35	2	2	8	-
<u>Niger</u>	22	7	1	1	14	2
<u>Ogun</u>	184	99	11	9	29	32
<u>Ondo</u>	98	20	11	6	20	10
<u>Osun</u>	50	7	9	4	13	17
<u>Oyo</u>	146	4	14	4	27	67

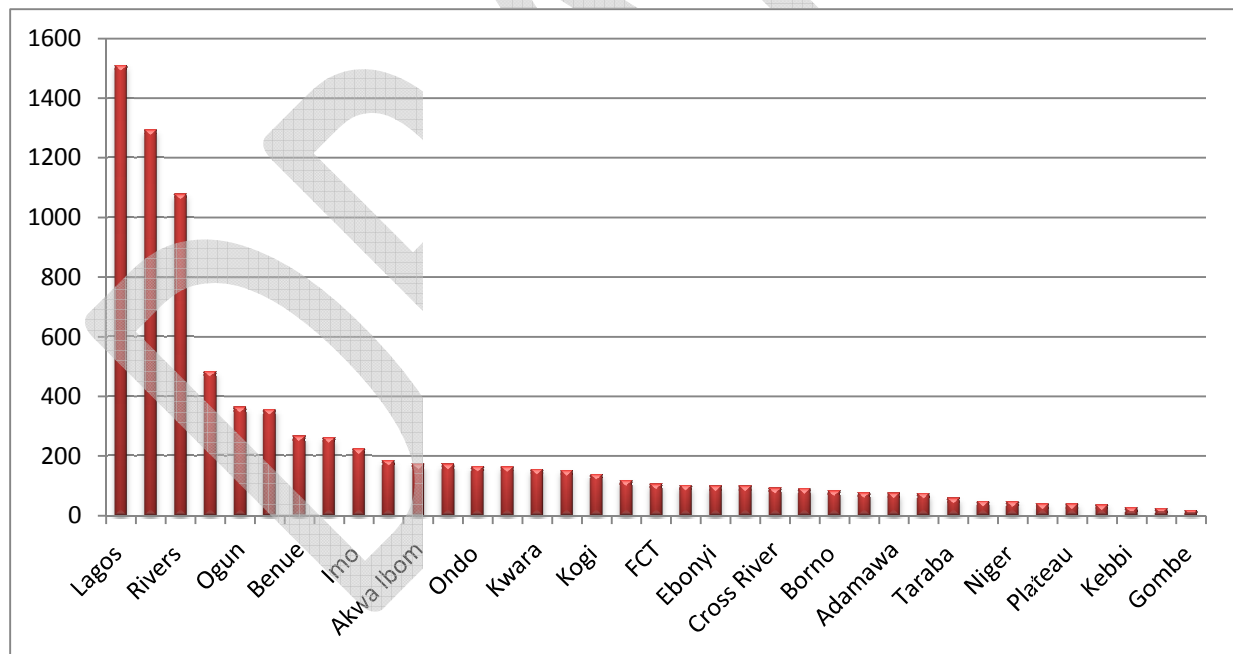
<u>Plateau</u>	21	2	-	3	9	5
<u>Rivers</u>	197	765	67	3	15	32
<u>Sokoto</u>	24	1	9	-	2	1
<u>Taraba</u>	30	-	2	-	4	23
<u>Yobe</u>	37	-	-	-	-	12
<u>Zamfara</u>	160	-	-	2	10	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4268</b>	<b>2363</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>676</b>

Source: Nigeria Watch Database

Table 2 shows fatalities from armed robbery, cultism, kidnapping, rape, domestic violence, assassination, thuggery and hooliganism. An overall 8516 deaths were recorded in 3,840 fatal incidents between June 2006 and September, 2015. Armed robbery contributed about 50% of the overall crime fatalities, seconded by cultism (28%), assassination, thuggery, hooliganism (8%), domestic violence (7%), kidnapping (5%) and rape (2%).

Lagos, Rivers, Ogun, Benue and Imo states were reported as the most affected states in relation to fatal crimes while Gombe, Kebbi, Plateau, Niger and Taraba states recorded the fewest fatalities. With this statistics, one can argue of more crime fatalities in the Southern part of Nigeria than in the North. See figure below for fatalities by state.

**Figure 1, Crime Fatalities in Nigeria by State, (June 2006-September, 2015)**



## ARMED ROBBERY

Armed robbery has remained a major cause of death in Nigeria. Victims cut across socio-economic status and occur mostly in major cities and states along transit points. Also, security personnel, civilians and robbers themselves have fallen to armed robbery. An overall 4,268 deaths occurred in 1682 armed robbery incidents nationwide. There were reported of fatal armed robbery incidents in all the states in Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

However, fatalities varied by states. An emerging trend in armed robbery is bank attacks. In March, 26, several people including a branch bank manager and his Assistant were killed during an armed robbery incident in Oyo state<sup>24</sup>. This attack came barely two months a bank was attacked in Ondo and 22 people including policemen and civilians were killed<sup>25</sup>. The most fatalities were reported in Delta (946 deaths), Lagos (819 deaths), Anambra (225 deaths), Ogun (184 deaths) and Zamfara (160 deaths). Gombe, Bayelsa, Jigawa, Kebbi and Plateau, on the other hand, enjoyed low fatalities from lethal armed robbery incidents. There were 13 deaths in Gombe, 16 in Bayelsa, 18 deaths in Jigawa and Kebbi respectively and 21 in Plateau. These statistics show that less fatal armed robbery incidents occur in Northern part of Nigeria than their Southern counterparts.

**Figure 2, Yearly Trend of Armed Robbery Fatalities and Incidents (June 2006 –September, 2015)**

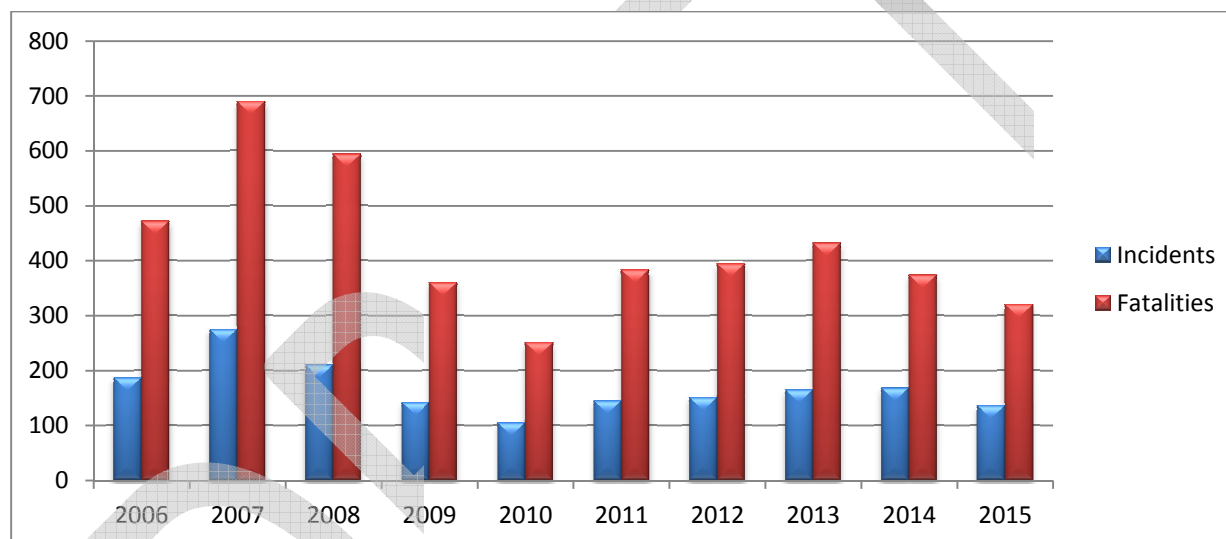


Figure 2 shows the trends of robbery fatalities in Nigeria between June 2006 and September, 2015. Results show that there were reported 275 robbery incidents that culminated into 690-deaths in 2007. This marked the most fatal year in relation to fatal robbery incidents within the period under review. The trend changed in the subsequent three years (2008-2010) with a downward trend. About 594 deaths occurred in 210 robbery incidents in 2008; another 360 deaths in 142 incidents in 2009 and 251 deaths in 145 incidents in 2010. However, fatality trend has fluctuated between 2011 and 2015. In 2011, about 383 deaths occurred in 145 robbery incidents, 394 deaths in 151 incidents in 2012 and 432 deaths in 165 in 2013. Year 2014 marked a drop in robbery fatalities (374) from the previous year but still maintained the upward trend in the number of incidents with 168 incidents. Year 2015 remains unpredictable when it comes to the number of robbery incidents and fatalities. However, with the 320 deaths in 136 deaths within ten (10) months of 2015, one may argue for high incidents of armed robbery cases as well as increase in the number of robbery fatalities.

<sup>24</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/N2015-05-13p29.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/N2015-05-13p29.pdf)

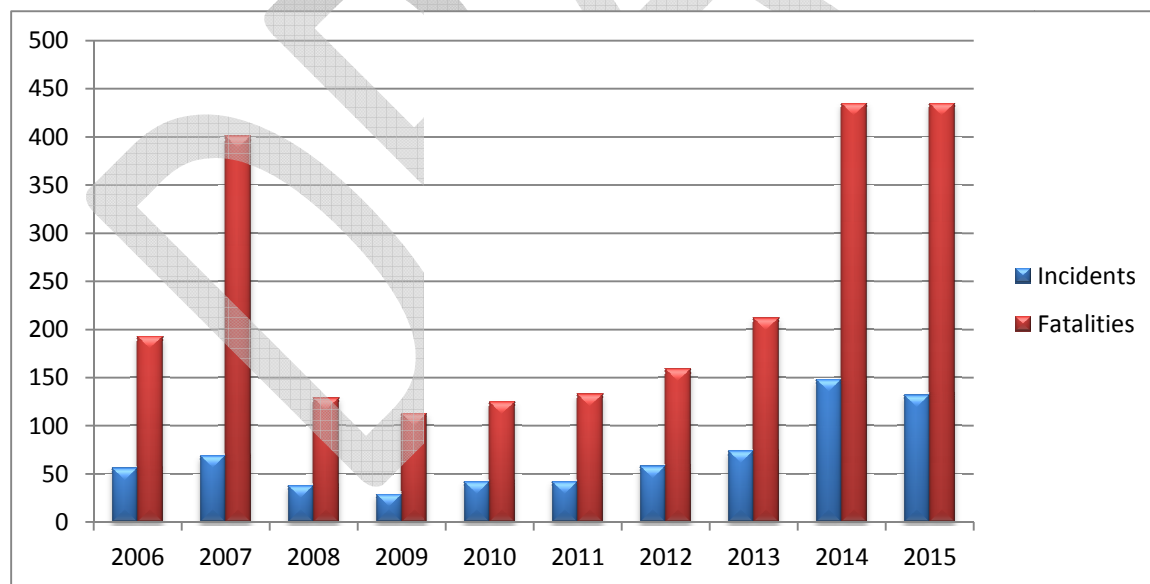
<sup>25</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/N2015-01-05p8.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/N2015-01-05p8.pdf)

## CULTISM

Cult related activities abound in the nooks and crannies of our society especially in institutions of higher learning. Worrisome it has become that such cult activities have been taken to secondary schools though not as pronounced as in the higher institutions. Cultism is rampant among teenagers and young adolescent youths. Casualties of cultism cut across innocent civilians, gang members and security personnel. Cult attacks in the month of September saw the killing of 61 people in three states. In Rivers states, 20 persons were brutally murdered during a clash between Degbam and Barbeach Group said to be the armed wing of Islander<sup>26</sup>. In Edo state, 25 people were killed in a cult clash between Manfight and Aiye (Neo Black Movement of Africa) over supremacy battle<sup>27</sup>. Cultists also saw the killing of 16 people during a clash between 'Aiye' and 'Eiye' cult confraternities<sup>28</sup>.

A breakdown of the figures shows that there were 2363 deaths from cult related activities in 28 states of the federation. Rivers state was most hit with cult killings with 765 deaths. There were 323 deaths in Lagos state, 306 in Edo, 202 in Delta, 104 in Bayelsa and 99 in Ogun. Most affected states are from the Southern part of the country. On the contrary, least affected states include Sokoto and Katsina with 1 death respectively, Plateau and Bauchi with 2 deaths respectively and Oyo with 4 deaths. Oyo state remains the only Southern state that has relatively been free from cult related killing. With the statistics, one can argue that there is less cult killings in the North than in the South of Nigeria.

**Figure 3, Yearly Trend of Cult Killings and Incidents (June 2006 –September, 2015)**



Yearly mapping of cult killings in Nigeria between June 2006 and September, 2015 show that fatality record between January to September, 2015 has already equaled the 2014 record of cult

<sup>26</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/S2015-09-27p5.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/S2015-09-27p5.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/S2015-09-26p9.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/S2015-09-26p9.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/N2015-08-18p4.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/N2015-08-18p4.pdf)

killings. There were 435 cult related deaths in 2014 and 2015 (January to September). While such deaths occurred in 148 incidents in 2014, there were 132 cult related fatal incidents in 2015. In 2007, about 401 people were killed in 69 cult incidents and another 212 people killed in 74 incidents in 2013. About 193 people died in 56 cult incidents between June and December, 2006; 159 people were killed in 58 incidents in 2012; 133 killed in 42 incidents in 2011; 129 killed in 38 incidents in 2008 and 113 killed in 29 incidents in 2009. Therefore, year 2009 recorded the least fatalities and number of cult incidents within the period under review.

## KIDNAPPING

Kidnapping has remained one of the major crimes in the nation. Abati noted that kidnapping has become a national phenomenon as the entire country is now a kidnappers' den. According to him, ransom kidnapping and hostage taking are no longer restricted to the Niger Delta area, or South-South of Nigeria with reported cases in Lagos, Abuja, Benin city, Owerri, and now Kaduna and Kano<sup>29</sup>. Statistics in Table 2 shows that kidnapping has spread to 22 states of the Federation, with a total 457 deaths in 166 events. Abia recorded the most cases of fatal kidnapping with 55 deaths, seconded by Lagos with 50 deaths, Delta with 44 deaths, Rivers with 25 deaths and Borno with 20 deaths. Four of these states are from the Southern Nigeria. Victims of kidnapping spans wide including security personnel as severally witnessed in Obingwa, Abia state, kidnapped foreign and national residents and the kidnappers themselves. Often times, ransom is paid to secure the release of the abductees. However, incidence of kidnapping in Borno was perpetrated by Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist group that busted in limelight in 2009. In February, 2013, scores of lives were reportedly lost in connection with the search of French hostages kidnapped by Boko Haram in Dikwa<sup>30</sup>. There were instances where some women were kidnapped, raped and killed afterwards. For instance, a businessman Shola Olaseinde was kidnapped and killed by 5-gang fraudsters impersonating as women on a dating site in Rivers state<sup>31</sup>. In 2010, another woman, Hyacinth Azu Nwangolo, Head of Economic Affairs, Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs was abducted in her car and killed after ransom was not paid to secure her release<sup>32</sup>. Another goring incident happened in Edo state in 2012 when two students of Federal Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State, Henry Edewo and Emmanuel Isikhuime, kidnapped, rape and murder a female student, one Mercy Peter also a student of the institution. They bury their victim in a forest. The victim, who was kidnapped on July 29, this year, was killed four days later after she was serially raped by the suspects. They were also alleged to have continued to demand for ransom from her parents after killing her<sup>33</sup>.

While kidnapping thrived in some states, others recorded fewer fatalities and incidence of kidnapping. Such states include Benue, Bayelsa and Bauchi with 1 death respectively, Taraba and Ebonyi with 2 deaths each. There was only one incident of kidnapping that resulted into 1 death in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

<sup>29</sup> Abati, R. (2009). 'Ransom Kidnapping, Hostage Taking and a Bewildered Nigeria'. An article pasted in [www.nigerianvillagesquare.com](http://www.nigerianvillagesquare.com). Retrieved on 7th January 2011.

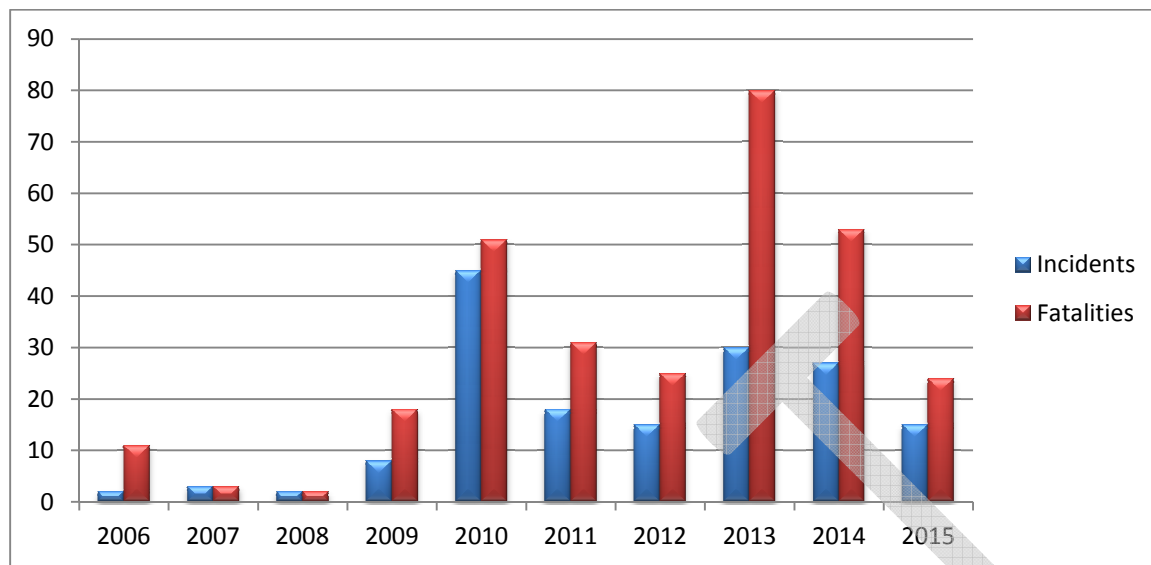
<sup>30</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/N2013-02-23p6.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/N2013-02-23p6.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/S2014-04-19p15b\\_2.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/S2014-04-19p15b_2.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/V2010-12-06p6.pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/V2010-12-06p6.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> [http://ngw-opsis/media/doc\\_acc/V2012-10-24..pdf](http://ngw-opsis/media/doc_acc/V2012-10-24..pdf)

**Figure 4, Yearly Trend of Kidnap Fatalities and Incidents (June 2006 –September, 2015)**



Year 2013 was reported the most fatal with 80 deaths from 30 kidnap incidents. There were fewer kidnap fatalities and incidents in 2014 as 53 deaths were recorded in 27 incidents. In 2010, 51 people were killed in 45 kidnap incidents and another 31 people killed in 18 incidents in 2011. About 25 people were killed in 11 incidents in 2012 and 18 killed in 8 incidents in 2009; 11 killed in 2 events in 2006; 3 killed in 3 events in 2007 and 2 killed in 2 incidents in 2008. Between January and September, 2015, 24 people have been killed in 15 kidnap incidents nationwide.

Security personnel were the most hit in the overall kidnap incidents in Nigeria. About 621 security personnel comprising of the police, soldiers, naval officers and secret service men were killed in the various kidnap incidents. This figure overshadowed the number of kidnappers and civilians killed. In Abia state, security personnel were severally targeted and killed by kidnappers and their rifles taken always for further attacks.

## **RAPE**

Rape has been identified to be on the rise in many parts of the country. World over, it is regarded as a major crime against the helpless and popularly frowned at. Some rapes have been fatal and such occurred in 25 states of the federation and FCT, Abuja. A total of 147 women were raped to death in 56 incidents in these states. Lagos state recorded the highest rape fatalities with 35 deaths, Edo with 10, Ogun, Benue and Akwa Ibom states recorded 9 deaths respectively. There were further 7 in Delta, 6 in Bayelsa, Kaduna and Ondo respectively and 5 in Ekiti, Enugu and Imo respectively. Anambra, Ebonyi, Osun and Oyo states reported 4 deaths respectively and there were 3 deaths in Abia, FCT, Abuja, Plateau and Rivers. Nasarawa and Zamfara reported 2 deaths while Cross Rivers and Niger reported one deaths. However, there no reported fatal rape in 12 states including Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Sokoto, Taraba and Yobe.



**Figure 5, Yearly Trend of Fatal Rape and Incidents (June 2006 –September, 2015)**

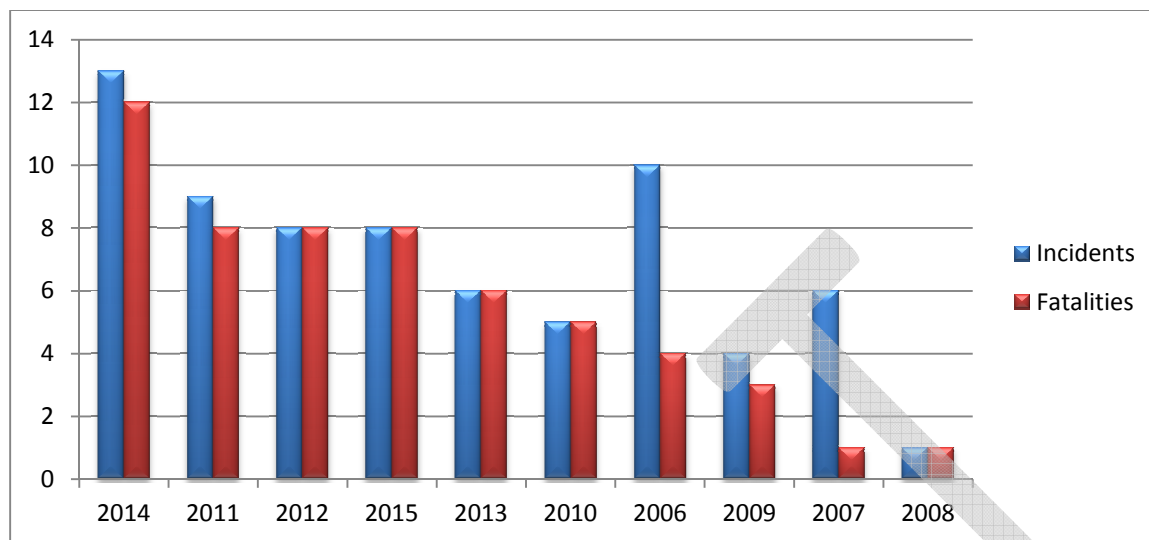


Figure 5 shows the trend of rape fatalities and incidence between June 2006 and September, 2015. About 27 females killed in 2010, 25 in 2014, 15 in 2015 (January –September), 14 in 2013 and 13 in 2011 and 2012. Another 11 people were killed in 2009 and 2006 respectively while 9 were killed in 2008 and 2007.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence had become a national calamity due to its national coverage. Domestic violence is widespread and shows no signs of lessening in Nigeria. The CLEEN Foundation reports 1 in every 3 respondents admitting to being a victim of domestic violence. The survey also found a nationwide increase in domestic violence in the past 3 years from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013<sup>34</sup>. Social commentators and analysts have narrowed down to the main causative factors of domestic violence to include drunkenness, financial issues, and the rejection of a partner's sexual advances<sup>35</sup>. An instance of drunken motivated domestic violence was captured in an incident where a young man, (Ibrahim Sanni Mai-Gunjo) murdered his father with a machete, after accusing him of being a drunkard<sup>36</sup>. Women often face physical violence at the hands of their family members. The most common forms of physical violence include rape, murder, slapping, and kicking<sup>37</sup>.

Statistics in Table 2 shows that there were 608 deaths in 546 domestic incidents in 34 states of the federation and FCT, Abuja. Lagos state had the most cases of fatalities from domestic violence as it recorded 121 deaths in 120 incidents. This may be argued from the perspective that it has one of the highest populations in the country. Other states with high fatalities from domestic violence include Delta (52 deaths), Edo (32 deaths), Ogun (29 deaths) and Oyo (27 deaths).

<sup>34</sup> CLEEN Foundation (2013). National Crime Victimization Surveys.

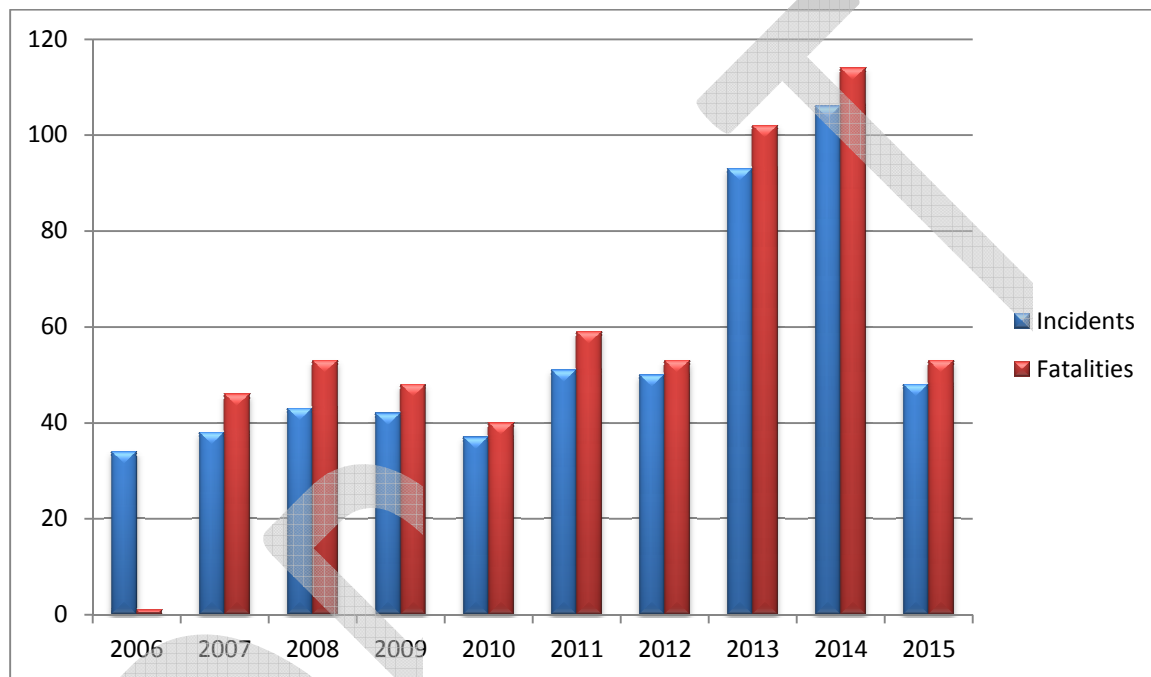
<sup>35</sup> Project Alert, (2001). Beyond Boundaries: Violence Against Women in Nigeria, Lagos.

<sup>36</sup> [http://nigeriawatch.org/index.php?urlaction=evtView&id\\_evt=11680&rang=1](http://nigeriawatch.org/index.php?urlaction=evtView&id_evt=11680&rang=1)

<sup>37</sup> No Safe Haven: An Annual Report of Attacks on Women in Nigeria". Project Alert on Violence Against Women.

On the contrary, some states recorded insignificant number of deaths from domestic violence. These states include Adamawa, Gombe and Sokoto (2 deaths respectively), Taraba (4 deaths) and Jigawa (5 deaths). These statistics shows that domestic violence is more rampant in the Southern than in the North and this assertion corresponds with the 2008 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) data on Women's Experience of Violence which reported that domestic violence cuts across all socio-economic and cultural background and 28 per cent of all women, almost a third of all women in Nigeria, have experienced physical violence, a significant number in a country of almost 160 million, where almost half are women<sup>38</sup>.

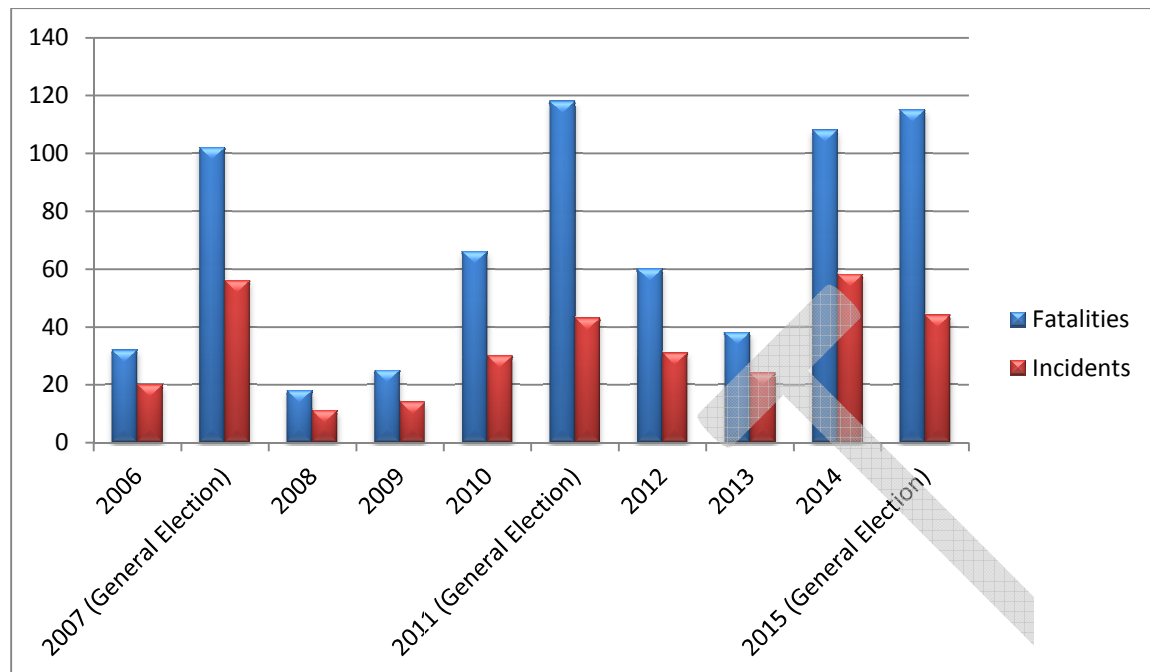
**Figure 6, Trending Fatal Domestic Violence by Year.**



Statistics in the table above shows that there were more domestic violence related deaths in 2014. About 114 people including children, teenagers, and adults, both male and female lost their live in 106 incidents. There were further 102 deaths in 93 incidents in 2013; 59 deaths in 51 incidents in 2011; 53 deaths in 2008, 2012 and 2015 (January to September) respectively. While 2009 recorded 48 deaths, 2007 and 2010 recorded 40 deaths respectively. The least deaths in domestic violence occurred between June and December, 2006.

<sup>38</sup> 2008 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/GF15/GF15.pdf>

## ASSASSINATION/ THUGGERY/ HOOLIGANISM



Assassination has been a major cause of fatal deaths in Nigeria. About 676 persons were assassinated in 35 states in Nigeria and FCT, Abuja. Assassinations are often targeted at prominent persons especially politicians and perpetuated by thugs and hooligans. Many people were assassinated during general elections. Lagos state witnessed the most reported cases of assassinations with 172 deaths between June 2006 and September, 2015. About 67 people were killed in Oyo state, 42 persons in Bauchi and 32 persons in Delta, Ogun and Rivers states respectively.

The assassinations mainly occurred at the different stages of the general election including the pre, during and post election periods. Figure 8 below shows a unique pattern of assassination during the 2007, 2011 and 2015 general elections in Nigeria. About 102 people were assassinated in 56 violent events in 2007, 118 persons in 43 events in 2011 and 115 persons in 44 events in 2015. See Figure 8 below.

## CONCLUSION

In every society, one of the implications of poor crime abatement measures is the flagrant abuse of human rights especially the scale of fatalities. This article has been able to establish the trends and patterns of crime incidents and fatalities by analyzing crime reports in Trent Online and Nigeria Watch. While some states like Abia, Lagos, Edo, Delta, Imo and Ogun, located in the Southern zone of Nigeria recorded high incidents and fatalities in criminal activities (armed robbers, cultism and domestic violence), there were few crime incidents and fatalities in the North. Furthermore, Abia state was the most hit by fatal kidnapping, Lagos and Rivers recorded huge fatalities in cultism and armed robbery. To curb crime in Nigeria, it remains imperative to

apply the principles of nonkilling theory by state and non-state actors into fight against crime from a concerted and multi-dimensional approach.

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