

Transnational Drug Trafficking and Nigeria's Image in the Contemporary International System (2011-2019)

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ABSTRACT: This paper interrogates transnational drug trafficking and Nigeria's image in the contemporary international system. The paper appropriated Rational Choice Theory as proposed by Anderton and Carter (2005.). The theory sees the action of traffickers as linked to the highest expectation of satisfaction via the rational greed factor and premised its assumption on the fact that a drug trafficker acts based on rational, calculated and conscious decisions which represent an optimal strategy to fulfil financial hiatus between expectation and achievement. The paper argues that regardless of the penalty in being caught, transnational drug trafficking in Nigeria is occasioned by governance and development deficits which hinders employment, citizen financial expectation and fulfilment. The paper further questions the nature, effectiveness and resilience of the existing legal and institutional framework response to drug trafficking in view of the emerging drug trafficking and consumption levels which have impacts on national image. Data for the study was generated only through secondary sources like textbooks, journal articles and verified internet links. A qualitative descriptive method of data analysis reveals that transnational drug trafficking negatively impacts on Nigeria's interstate relations and her diaspora citizens. The study concludes that issues of drug trafficking are complicated by a spectrum of factors ranging from poverty, hunger, employment and complicity of security apparatus and recommends amongst other things, that Government should develop new partnerships with the relevant states to counter the drug problem while encouraging the absence of development deficit as a desideratum to deter trafficking and accentuate better national image.

KEYWORDS: Transnational, Drug trafficking, National image

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of globalization has occasioned a plethora of interconnected and interdependent relationships that shapes the activities of citizens and states in the contemporary international system.

In keeping these relationships to shape, a panoply of socio-political systems and structures are deployed by states to cover and protect their image. However, state's actions vis-à-vis citizens' activities in the diaspora forms how the state is viewed. From the political system, power relations, industrialization to human rights issues, the image of the state via citizens' behaviour underscore nation building, leadership capacity and political will that could be harnessed to help trigger socioeconomic changes consistent with the principles of international law. In this wise, the penology of international law regarding drug trafficking prohibits the cultivation, production, use and sales of conscripted/ banned substances except for medical purposes. In view of stiff consequences of trafficking in banned substances, the Nigerian populace through print and social media are inundated almost on daily basis with a barrage of news of young Nigerians who are arrested while attempting to traffic hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin both within and outside the country within the timeline of this review. The timeline is of peculiar interest as it included a period where president Buhari's daughter was arrested in Saudi Arabia for drug trafficking despite the regime's claim of war on corruption. The argument is that as the president's daughter is said to have been involved, then widespread drug trafficking is underscored. In the context of collaboration of actors across national boundaries, transnational drug trafficking mirrors some coordinated involvements in the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, packaging, consumption and sales of banned substances beyond national borders. Particularly, transnational drug trafficking presupposes involvement of multiple interstate actors in an organized manner. In view of the multiplicity of actors across several states boundaries, Bartlett (2014) says that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines drug trafficking in the context of its trans-nationality, as the illicit global trade that deals with the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. The most commonly trafficked drugs in Daniel (2000) assessment are; Cocaine, Heroin, Morphine, Cannabis Sativa (Indian hemp) and Crystal Methamphetamine.

The origin of transnational drug trafficking in Nigeria can be traced to the post Second World War planting of seeds of the Cannabis Sativa plant by Nigerian soldiers who returned from service in Burma, India. The experimental cultivation of the plant underscore intention to process, consume or produce the drugs. The success of cultivation, production, consumption and sale become pull factors to the widespread cultivation across the country. Ethelbert (2015) intimated that the success stories by cultivators and middlemen motivated others to deal in the trade. The sale and consumption of these banned drugs across multiple states by Nigerians remains one of the major issues tarnishing the image of Nigeria in the contemporary international system and has become a sign of dishonour, dishonesty, and disrespect, leading to outright humiliation of her citizens abroad. As a consequence, Nigeria has been noted as a major transnational drug trafficking nation and her citizens are never a lesser part of arrested or convicted suspects amongst diaspora Africans transporting drugs across international borders.

This is not helped by the presence of porous borders, high population, dwindling economy and a growing air transportation system occasioned my globalization matrix. In the light of this, Nigeria's ability in illicit drugs production underscored her emergence as a top listed country for major transit routes of heroines destined for Europe and a prominent participant among West African countries that produce and export cannabis to countries in Europe. The production of methamphetamine and cultivation of cannabis well established in various parts of the country has constituted a problem not only to users but the image of the country. This is metastasized by the serendipity of the growing interconnectedness due to globalization, the internet and social media.

Conversely, Nigeria has become a transnational trafficking point for category “A” drugs such as cocaine, heroin and other illicit substances intended for Europe, East Asia and North American markets (Chris, 2016). The Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) continuously reports that large amounts of cocaine smuggled from South America into Europe and North America passes through Nigeria. Helped by the ease of production, trafficking and high consumption index, cannabis remains the most widely abused and locally trafficked illicit drug in Nigeria and West Africa. Illicit drugs are usually smuggled across the nation’s land, air and sea ports and those smuggled by air are usually wrapped in protective film and swallowed, to be excreted at the destination of the trafficker or are tucked away in the smugglers luggage (Bartlett, 2014). The emergence of the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to assist in emasculating transnational drug trafficking is historically link to the incapacitation of the Board of Customs and Excise (now Nigeria Customs Service) and the Nigeria police force who were the major drug interdiction organs of government, while the Federal Welfare Department was charged with the counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons. Saar (2013:34) is of the opinion that the activities of the NDLEA over the years, is evident that the establishment of the agency was not only timely but indispensable.

In view of this, many scholars, analysts and the public have been awestruck by the seeming success of transnational drug trafficking involving Nigerians despite stiff penalties to offenders, and the attendant negative image of the country in the international community. Alabi, (2015) examined drug trafficking and its impact on Nigeria’s diplomatic and good relationship with other countries, Saar (2013) extrapolated the “War on drugs” in Nigeria and the effectiveness in dealing with the problem. While Abiola (2014) interrogated how anti money laundering laws could impede drug trafficking in Nigeria. However, they did not show how drug trafficking in the context of its transnational character could impaired Nigeria’s image. This review therefore explores historically the various factors that have encouraged drug trafficking in Nigeria and the implications on the country’s image in the contemporary international system.

Statement of The Problem.

If interrogated as a collocation with terrorism, the complexity and multidimensionality of transnational drug trafficking in the contemporary international system, would reveal a spectrum of involvements of states and none state actors. These involvements, however nebulous, when interpolated, are revealed in cultivation, processing, trafficking or consumption. These involvements are money dependent with strong economic undertone. Consumption therefore, could be through medical uses in prescribed acceptable doses or through abuses that are cultural in some communities in Nigeria. Transnational drug trafficking specifically, is socioeconomic problem with known capacity to negatively contribute in shaping interstate relations. Citizens of states known for drug trafficking undergo humiliating search at airports and are profiled by security agencies of the receiving country as potential traffickers leading to human rights challenges. As a result, states with trafficking history and high consumption index are known to have double efforts in checkmating proliferation of drug trafficking networks in their domains. State like the Philippines and Malaysia have increased the fight against traffickers and users.

However, in view of widespread patronage, huge profit, trafficking ease, corrigible law enforcement officials and the emergence of greater number of cartel networks, the focus of West African sub-region which includes Nigeria as transit routes for hard drugs has been altered to include a final destination. Currently, Nigeria has become a transit and trafficking point for category “A” drugs such as cocaine, heroin and other illicit substances for Europe, East Asia and North American markets.

Drug trafficking within the states of Nigeria and across the border has affected the country's diplomatic ties as it portrays a negative national image which does not foster good relationship (Alabi, 2015). With recent experiences, the problem has metastasized to include the involvement of high school students, employable youths and university graduates in drug consumption, abuse and sale, drawing a national concern. From medicinal prescription drugs like codeine and tramadol, adhesive compound chemicals like the local gum meant for production of leather products, dried pawpaw leaves to dried cow dung mixed with formaldehyde, drug users and trafficker have dented Nigeria's image locally and internationally. Between 2011 and 2019, there was exponential increase of Nigerians home and abroad who got involved in drug trafficking. And in 2012, the International Narcotic Control Board reported that Nigerians top the list with the highest trafficking and drug use in west Africa. The situation got despicable to the extent that in 2019, the daughter of the incumbent president, Mr Mohammed Buhari was accused of international drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia. This, added to myriads of cases in other countries has negatively affected Nigeria's image within the international community. In addition, the 2012 World Drug Report (WDR) highlights the association of drug users with acquisitive crime as well as behavioural challenges including aggression or violence. While the above revelations question the nature, effectiveness and resilience of the existing legal and institutional framework for responses to drug trafficking in Nigeria, the emerging increase in drug trafficking, abuse and consumption levels in the west African sub-region, suggests the potential negative impact of drugs on national image, human capacity development and national security in Nigeria.

Against this backdrop, many scholars have attempted to establish a relationship between drug trafficking and states image. Dorn, Levi and King (2009) examined upper level drug trafficking of criminal organizations to construct a typology, Henry (2007)) focused on curbing the menace of drug use among students in Nigeria. While Alfred, (2005) analysed image implications of Nigerian youths in hard drug trafficking and the public relations panacea for the problem. However, the mentioned researches have not done much to link implication of transnational drug trafficking to Nigeria's interstate relationship neither did they establish the various factors that have encouraged drug trafficking in Nigeria between 2009 and 2019 in view of the exponential increase in the numbers of Nigerians caught at international borders, tried, jailed or executed by foreign countries and a not too explainable increase in hate crimes against Nigerians in the diaspora. These are the arguments of this paper

Conceptual explication of drug trafficking

Transnational trafficking presupposes the use of routes linking several local and international actors in the drug trade. On the intercontinental level, the Balkan northern routes are the main heroin trafficking corridors linking Afghanistan to the huge markets of Russia and Western Europe. According to Abiola, (2014), the Balkan route traverses the Islamic Republic of Iran (often via Pakistan), Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria across South-East Europe to the Western European market, with an annual market value of some \$20 billion. The Northern route runs mainly through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (or Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) to Kazakhstan and the Russia. The size of that market is estimated to total \$13 billion per year (Alfred, 2005). Presently, traffickers from Nigeria prefers routes through northern Nigeria into Niger, Chad Somalia and Libya then to Spain Nearly all countries of the world are affected by transit factors of illicit drugs, these factors include destination, consumption, proliferation of arms and national image. In the contemporary international system, states image is a paramount index of foreign policy. In other words, no state in the global arena

consciously seeks to be embarrassed by the arrest, prosecution and execution of its citizens. In view of this, George (2001), and Henry (2007) aver that drug prohibition laws forms the basis for the United state office on drugs and crime (UNODC) continued monitoring and research on global illicit drug markets in order to gained a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics. The international current levels of consumption see world heroin consumption of (340 tons) and seizures as representing annual flow of 430-450 tons of heroin into the global heroin market. Of that total, opium from Myanmar and the Lao's People's Democratic Republic is said to yields 50 tons, while the rest 380 tons of heroin and morphine, is produced exclusively from Afghan opium. And approximately 5 tons are consumed and seized in Afghanistan, the remaining bulk of 375 tons is trafficked worldwide via routes flowing into and through the countries neighbouring Afghanistan. To dissuade trafficker in Nigeria, government institution has adopted citizen-victim structure where the use of social media, mass media, interpersonal communications, religious institutions, educational institutions, opinion leaders, town unions/associations as intermediaries for the dissemination of the impacts and penalties regarding drug use and trafficking.

Theoretical Frame Work.

The paper is anchored on the pleasure-pain principle of Rational choice theory as proposed by Anderton and Carter (2005.). In the context that crime should equal punishment, the theory argued that when rational choice theory is applied to the study of drug trafficking as crime, it is important that attention be paid to the derived principles of constrained utility maximization which sees the action of traffickers linked to the highest expectation of satisfaction. The theory equally explains the rational greed factor of traffickers. as premised on the assumption that a drug trafficker acts based on rational, calculated and, conscious decisions which represent optimal strategies to fulfil financial hiatus between expectation and achievement.

In other words, according to this theory, drug trafficking might not represent the pathology of greed or illogical behavior but could represent the best means to fulfil personal needs and reconcile individual economic contradictions in some instances. The theory further suggests that people who traffic drugs do so after risk assessment of punishment and rewards without the image of their country of origin in mind. On the other hand, persons who refuse to engaged in drug trafficking sees the act as too risky or not worth the benefits. The argument is that in some sense, the rational choice of drug trafficking represents a reaction against the assumption that the act might represents pathological greed. That is, in the popular media, traffickers are often assumed to be 'dimwitted', greedy and unable to evaluate the risk factor involved. Be that as it may, evidence of economic conditions of first time offenders prior to jail term or execution seems to indicates that traffickers seldom fulfill the criteria of pathology of greed alone. Granted, crimes are committed based on array of reasons which include: economic, psychological, physical, social and political motivations, but in the context of a failing state like Nigeria, traffickers would seldom remember national image as a factor not to push drugs. Conversely, family members of offenders places emphasis on traffickers as individuals who risk their lives to enhance the welfare of their family or community and should be seen putatively as pro-social rather than anti-social actors. This description is specifically applicable to offenders from very poor countries where governance and development deficits, poverty and unemployment are bases for increased crime rate. This, however, is not an argument in favour of drug trafficking, nevertheless, a country's image is affected my myriads of factors including GDP, employment rate, literacy rate, poverty and hunger indexes together with political culture and crime rate.

The relevance of the theory to the study is located in the rationality of freewill as it draws the attention of would be traffickers to the consequences of exercising their freewill regarding the use, consumption and sales of banned substances. Since the assumption of the theory mirrors the fact that drug traffickers are not mentally challenged, but psychologically balanced and rational, it dissuades any argument on the mental health of apprehended offenders as a pull factor to commit crime. The rational factor in the decision to traffic drugs, gives the state the prerogative of protecting its image through the use of harsh punishments. And since economic factors are at the front burner of drug trafficking, the notion of get rich quickly should be embellished with the idea of punishment thereto.

Drug Trafficking and Nigeria's Image in the Contemporary International System.

Drug trafficking is a global phenomenon. A 2012 report by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), submits that Nigeria tops the list with the highest trafficking and drug use in West Africa. The report further indicated that in the last 15 years, West Africa has been the new transit hub for cocaine from Latin America destined for Europe with Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos, emerging as the most active centre for air trafficking of cocaine. The report shows that close to 50% of Africa's drug couriers arrested in Europe in 2011 were citizens of Nigeria. In collaboration to the above, Benitez (2011) intimated that Nigeria equally topped the list of major transit routes of heroin destined for Europe and is reported to have featured prominently among West African states that produce and export cannabis to countries in Europe. Accordingly, the United States Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 'Threat Assessment of Transnational Organized Crime in West Africa' Reported in 2013 that Nigerian trafficking syndicates based in Brazil and other places in South America remain quite active in cocaine trafficking through containerized consignments, maritime shipping, air couriering and postal shipments. (Sarah et. al, 2009)

Conversely, the NDLEA Report of 2014 in Chris (2016) identifies that drug trafficking remains a thriving business and a serious issue in Nigeria. With evidence of 8, 843 arrested suspected drug offenders and 339, 968 kilograms of seized drugs with 205, 373 kilograms of cannabis topping the list followed by 133,920 kilograms of Psychotropic drugs, then methamphetamine at (340.8kg), cocaine (290.2kg), heroin (24.53kg), amphetamine (19.297kg.) and ephedrine (0.28kg), it appears the phenomenon is deep rooted and drastic measures are needed to curb the menace.

Further and still, the concept of national image explicates a mental picture in which a nation-state portrays or projects positive impression about herself in her relations with other nation-states in the international system. National image is a significant factor or an essential element for the perception and assessment of national character. Morgenthau (1999, pp.45) described national character as those "fundamental intellectual and moral traits which reveal themselves on all levels of thought and action and which give each nation its unmistakable distinctiveness". It is in recognition of the need to portray good national image among comity of nations that Nigeria established National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP) in 14th July, 2004 and as well collaborates with various organizations in the fight against the scourge of drug trafficking.

Technically, the international system is empowered by globalization which offers the easiest interconnectedness of states, people, culture, trade and relations giving a platform where a country's image is a major factor in interstate relations. National image can act as a spring board to help lift up a nation and it is exactly the reason many nations are particularly protective of their images in the international arena. This is due to the fact that once an image of a nation is tarnished it becomes an arduous if not an impossible task to reverse the trend. Alabi (2015), Allred (2005) and Abiola (2014).

Ojebuyi and Salawu (2007) argued that the use of illicit drugs has not only become a deadly plague unleashing social and health hazard on the human race, it has equally accentuated a mearing campaign on the image of countries whose citizens are involved. To them, Nigeria is one of the most affected African countries despite efforts by the Nigerian anti-drug agencies on the issue of battered image. This is made worst if terrorism is added on the menu of bad image cutleries. As such, international image is tangentially link to citizens' action in the diaspora and should thus be guided by both government agencies and the citizens themselves. National image in the context of historicism is inseparable from the history of citizens actions outside their countries that can cumulatively add to the country's image in the comity of nations. National image can equally be linked to international crime index that revealed that the more the citizens of a country are involved in a particular crime, the more the country is noted or black listed by other countries. It is also worthy to note that the increase in the numbers of convicted or jailed offenders does not only smear a state image, it could constitute serious security challenges as the number of lower level trafficking, drug dealing and petty criminal activity could combine with prison radicalization and spin terroristic threats.

Nigerians Involved in Drug Trafficking and Their Punishment Between 2011-2019

Table 1: lists of Nigerians on death sentence and jail term in Asia.

S/N	Country	No. of drug Trafficking Offenders	Grade of offence
1	Saudi Arabia	23	Death Roll
2	China	120	Death Roll
3	Indonesia	153	Death Roll
4	India	3	Jail Term (18yrs)
5	Malaysia	81	Death Roll
6	Thailand	128	Death Roll

Source: National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Annual Report 2009-2011

No	Number of traffickers	Country of operation	Year / Drug type	Penalty
1	4	Omikron (India)	2013/ Cocaine	18yrs Jailed
2	120	China	2015/ Heroin	Death Roll
3	14	Delhi (India)	2018/ Cocaine	18yrs Jailed
4	3	Indonesia	2018/Cocaine	Executed
5	153	Indonesia	2016/ cocaine & H	Death Roll

Source: Author's compilation ,2021

Impacts of drug trafficking on Nigeria's image.

Although drug trafficking portrays Nigeria in bad light, the phenomenon is additional evidence that underscore the country's incapacity to provide for her citizens especially in terms of employment and social welfare, hence, the exodus of her socioeconomically constrained youths to foreign countries. It dents the image of the country as many young Nigerian are being caught by antidrug or security forces in some European countries (Italy, Holland and Belgium etc). soliciting for clients. NAPTIP (2014) reported that there were more than 100,000 Nigerian youths who sold drugs in Europe leading

to a negative contrast and juxtaposition of drug dealers with legitimate Nigerians living abroad (Saar, 2013).

Drug trafficking involving greater number of Nigerians can be premised on governance morass as pull factor. Argument from false premise by government image-makers seems to place emphasis on individual greed tied to ethnic behaviour or bio cultural issues. From reductionist perspective, the complexity of Nigeria's image projection linked to her ethnic heterogeneity can be measured using the lenses of development deficits. In the factorization of determinants to drug problem: economic, social, environment, cultural and religious, the socioeconomic determinants form a major set as leading factors to the increase in the number of offenders. In an inverse relationship between Nigeria's image and drug trafficking, the number of traffickers arrested jumped from 293 persons in 2009, to 6,323 persons in 2011, showing an increase of 2,158% together with the increase in Nigeria female involvement in drug from 61 females in 2008 to 440 in 2014. This is reflective of socioeconomic contradictions in poor communities that portrays trafficking as means of production for families in abject poverty and Nigeria as a country in throes of political and economic crises. Drug trafficking therefore, shows the underbelly of socioeconomic conditions and creates damaging impression of the image of the country in the international system.

Implications on trade relations.

Interconnectedness of globalism has help the world citizens to fluidly access many countries thereby developing networks for negative or positive activities. With drug trafficking in mind, many citizens including Nigerians, developed bases in many other countries where imported narcotics could be stored and repackaged for onward trafficking to other parts of the world. Nigerian traders also established operational centres in Benin Republic, Niger, Chad, Kenya and Ivory Coast and Abidjan, to synergize with other nationals in the narcotics business. In March 1998, the US government described Nigeria as 'the hub of African narcotics trafficking', noting also that 'traffickers' have expanded into bulk shipments from Nigeria to her neighbours. On the international scene, Nigerian traffickers took over heroin retailing in Moscow and Central Asia with efficient and well-concealed networks. As a result, the US Department of Justice, in 1999 is said to have looked for two Nigerians who were running a network importing 'up to 80 percent of the white heroin entering the USA from southeast Asia. These negative imageries of the country and citizens forms the basis for biased trade negotiation first, on citizens' level and next, interstates on trade relation between Nigeria and the USA, Germany and Moscow (Daniel, 2000). This scenario came to the fore when Saudi Arabian governments executed Nigeria's Kudirat Adeshola Afolabi found guilty of drug trafficking that led to frosty economic relations between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. Conversely, drug trafficking could lead to paroxysm in bilateralism resulting sometimes in interstates citizens' xenophobic violence against citizens' business interests and trade relations in their domain. In Africa, Umoh et al, (2021) suggest that xenophobic violence most times, has always been premised on themes of drugs trafficking.

Implications on Human Rights

A damaged state's image in the contemporary international system underscores a position of weakness. Citizens whose country has been blacklisted as axis for drug trafficking are often treated with disdain by other citizens of other countries. This is less helped if the country in question is equally listed by international bodies like transparency international as corrupt. At entry points (Airports, Sea ports and Land borders), human rights violation as an implication of drug trafficking

is a recurring experience against Nigerians. Violations of Nigerians citizens and their fundamental human rights are often argued on issues bordering on drug trade.

Drug trafficking inadvertently gives a grotesque representation of a country's development goals and a picture of flawed domestic policies thereby giving room for human rights abuses of its citizens in the international arena. Esiomeme, (2017) reported that in achieving Millennium Goals of the United Nations, the Secretary General is said to have included integrity, accountability, transparency, recovering assets, resource management, combating drug abuse, corruption and organized crime, as crucial factors that are adversely affecting the poor and recognizes organized crime and illicit drugs trafficking as major impediments to their achievement of a goal.

Implications on Economic Development.

A nation's economic development could be threatened by transnational organized crime and illicit drugs as the prevalence of such crimes undermines robust interstate trade, foreign direct investments (FDI) and the development of information technology. Transnational crimes are phenomenally counterproductive in a country's socioeconomic engineering, the throes are located in the destruction of the economic sub structure leading to a drop in personal income, lower GDP, higher inflation rate, unemployment and low productive capacity. Drug trafficking is an organized crime that impacts every economy in every country, and are particularly devastating in weak and vulnerable countries like Nigeria. In view of Fulani persistent terrorism, banditry and killer herdsmen in Nigeria, transnational drug trafficking imposes additional constraints making an already complex security challenges seems insurmountable. As a result, democratic journey and development opportunities for social and economic advancement are reversed. For Ethelbert (2015), corruption, a facilitator of organized crime and drug trafficking, is a serious impediment to the rule of law and sustainable development and can be a dominant factor driving fragile countries like Nigeria towards failure. It is estimated that up to US\$40 billion annually is lost through corruption in developing countries.

In addition, transnational drug trafficking imbues weak and fragile countries like Nigeria with peculiar vulnerability that undermines development by eroding social and human capital. In the opinions of Henry (2007), this degrades quality of life as the problem forces skilled workers to leave the affected country, even as the direct impacts of victimization, as well as fear of human rights violation, may impede the development of those that remain. By limiting interstate movement, the implications of transnational drug trafficking impede access to possible employment and educational opportunities together with discouragement of assets accumulation.

Social Implications

Captured, imprisoned or executed victims of transnational drug trafficking often bring embarrassment to their countries, their ethnic nationality, community and families. The price of being captured is not only paid by the victim, but can equally be socially contextualized in the fragmented or failed citizens' obligation to the state, self and family. In Nigeria, families of drug victims are viewed as failed social orientation setting stimulating antisocial behaviour. In social contexts therefore, to launder crime image by both the state and the victims' family becomes more expensive and difficult particularly for the very poor in a poor country like Nigeria. This is worsened in economically disadvantaged households struggling to cope with the shock of victimization and social isolation. Drug crimes also undermine social cohesion in a multi-ethnic society like Nigeria by pitching the blame for national embarrassment on the victim's ethnic group. In the same vein, victim's nationality is viewed as drug demography and criminal minded group leading to poor inter

citizens or interstate relationship. David, Jeffrey, Paul and Christopher, (1998) sees social implications of transnational drug trafficking subsumed in the negative relationship between foreign direct investment(FDI) and social instability. They aver that drug trafficking impedes development by driving away business as both foreign and domestic investors see crime as a sign of social instability that could impact on the net cost of doing business.

Further and still, transnational drug trafficking impacts negatively on tourism. Drugs crimes, undermine the ability of the state to promote development by destroying the trust relationship between the international community. and the state. Conversely, the travails of negative social impact are further heightened by eroding confidence in the criminal justice system where corruption frees offenders. Finally, jailed traffickers or individuals who become dependent on or addicted to drug substances could suffer from social, psychological and psychiatric complications with resultant untoward effects on themselves, their families, work, communities and the nation at large.

The Marmorisation of Nigeria as a Failing State in the International Community.

A country's image is an important factor in international relations and can contribute a great deal to the realization of certain foreign policy goals (Udeala 2008). In any social formation, the failure of constituted authority vested with the constitutional powers to protect lives, property and national image either from external or internal aggression and the activities of drug traffickers, inadvertently reflect the incapacity or failure of such government to its citizens. In Nigeria, drug watch dogs having demonstrated their incapacity to challenge drug cartels due to complicity have added to a panoply of image constraints. The reflection thus mirrors the country as state bedevilled by economic throes so much that citizens are not only involved in drug, but security forces who are supposed to emasculate the proliferation of drug groups have been seen to compromised.

Specific possible implications on Nigeria due to drug trafficking.

Possible economic sanctions by leading Western nations like the USA, Canada, Britain, Germany, Italy, France and others, which are usually the major trading grounds or receiving markets for a greater percentage of hard drugs in the world.

- a. Possible sanctions by the United Nation, whom one of its agencies, the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is at the fore front of the war for the eradication of narcotic drugs in the world.
- b. Loss of vital foreign investments by the world leading economies, whose citizens and government actually have the funds for investment.
- c. Possible denial of aids, grants and other financial assistance both from the United Nation's agencies and foreign international organisations, most of which are from the leading European and North-American countries, that suffer most from the drug trade.
- d. The chances of being treated as a pariah nation by the international community.
- e. The continued isolation and treatment of Nigerians as crooks and without any atom of respect at most international airports in the world.
- f. A continued mistreatment and maltreatment of Nigerians living abroad or in other nations of the world.

- g. The continued execution of Nigerian youths involved in illicit narcotic trades in some strict Asian and Moslem countries of the world.
- h. A continued erosion of the nation's corporate international image and the image of its citizens. The consequent psychological depression of Nigerian's of high social, economic and political classes including other innocent citizens, who are mistreated, maltreated and dehumanized at other country's international airports, due to the 'sins' of a few of her citizens involved in drug trafficking.
- i. A slur on the nation's reputation/image, the rebranding Nigeria project and other diplomatic/international relations efforts of the country.
- j. A worsened economic growth rate arising from the aforementioned factors, with its consequent high unemployment and crime rates.

Factors accentuating drug trafficking in Nigeria.

Ethelbert (2015) agrees with the current review that the followings have encouraged the trafficking of drugs within Nigeria and outside its borders,

Financial Burdens

In most developing economies, poor households are constrained by economic contradictions occasioned by the state inability to operate production based economy leading to loss of jobs and unemployment. As a result, many young people face a dilemma in choosing between legitimate source of livelihood or crime. For drug business, the huge financial turnover and the possibility of reconciling economic contradictions and relieving financial burden on parents acts as pull factors to drug trafficking even across states borders, Technically, global drug trafficking being a multibillion-dollar business that can accommodate new actors, makes access to drug cartels inviting and a probable protective family setting for young people from broken homes. According to a March 2014 CNN world report, the Mexican drug cartels alone nets between \$19 and \$29 billion dollars in sales per year. This huge amount underscore peoples willing to take massive risks to perpetuate drug trade in order to overcome financial burden.

Youth Unemployment.

Revealed along the spectrum of determinants of drug trafficking in a country like Nigeria is the burden of widespread youth unemployment, corruption, poverty and hunger. Consequently, the need to survive and the huge expectation of financial rewards act as a huge inducement for engagement in drugs trafficking. Unemployment rate and governance morass are arguably enough factors to magnet poor and hungry youths to drug cartel families. The corruption and nepotism in the Buhari's regime have eventuated salads of socioeconomic challenges ranging from a drop in educational level, a spike in terrorism, banditry, kidnaping and general social disorder.

Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome.

Most traffickers in Nigeria are urban dwellers whose perception of getting rich is mirrored by movies and musical videos resulting in the quest to make big money fast. The drugs trade though with its attendant risks is adjudged a quick way to make money. This imagined life supports the gusto in the greed of victims to engaged in transnational drug trafficking from one nation to other.

Addiction.

Addiction sometimes comes as part of trade hazards in drugs. Addiction forms a psychological fear for the unknown result in delinking from drug intake especially as healing from drug addiction is time consuming. For an addict, delinking from using hard drug is a tremendous step that is not supported could lead to a conundrum or relapse.

Channels of Drug Trafficking in Nigeria.

Porous Borders

Transnational drug trafficking cannot prevaricate from boarder transit. In Nigeria, the boarders between Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroons are compromised demarcations due to ethnoreligious ties between the Fulani in Nigeria and other countries. In addition, transhumant routes for Herders have equally increase the porosity and compromise of the boarders leading to drug and arm trafficking. Aside helicopter droppings of logistics and food for terrorists and bandits in these countries, boarder porosity serves as a major channel for Drugs to be smuggled in and out of the country through the various borders. Pearce, (2011) is of the opinion that transnational illicit drugs movements are helped by smuggling across the nation's land, air and sea ports in heavy kilograms; cannabis, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine sealed in ceramics, woman hairs, bags, sewing threads, basket handles and even swallowed by the traffickers. Fulani herders from Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Cameroon who enter Nigeria for grazing have been captured in possession of banned substances leading analysts to drug trafficking to draw government attention to the possibility of herders becoming large scale couriers of drugs.

The Internet.

The internet serves as an instrument to aid drug distribution and sales. Drugs are easily advertised and traded online on the dark web or markets. The drugs are booked on internets and later transported in parcels to end-users through the traffickers. These hard drugs are also parcelled and shipped in and out of the country with complicity from security agents. The near zilch impediments to drug business in Nigeria underscore the depth of institutionalized corruption along a continuum from top to bottom. These Drugs are usually parcelled in cartons, bags, food flasks and others (Tanya, 2008).

Air Routes.

Illicit drugs are transported to and fro the country through air routes. those smuggled by air are usually wrapped in protective film and swallowed, to be excreted at the destination of the trafficker or are tucked away in the smugglers luggage. As a counter measure, a close monitoring of passengers and goods on the Nigeria-brazil route in the year 2015 resulted in the arrest of four (4) suspected drug traffickers at the Murtala Muhammed international airport, with 3.455kg of cocaine. the suspected drug traffickers were caught with the substance while returning from brazil (sarah et., al., (2009). Transnational drug trafficking involving Nigerians couriers generally interface with syndicates based in Brazil and other places in South America for the purpose of production, importation, exportation and sales of prohibited substances through the above listed routes leading to a damaging image for Nigeria.

Conclusion

One critical aspect of the threats to Nigeria's image in the contemporary international system is the alarming rate of transnational drug trafficking. This is a morass which threatens human lives, national

image and security. The porosity of Nigeria's borders especially in the northern zones of the country, could be trace to ethnoreligious ties between the demography near the border and others immediately the borders are crossed. This singular factor is often neglected by border security officials. The relationship between interstates border dwellers, therefore, gives room for easy influx, movement and exit of drug traffickers. This is not helped by socioeconomic determinants of drug trafficking like the failing economy, insecurity, high rate of graduates' unemployment, poverty, failure of government to provide basic necessities of life, high level of corruption and get-rich-quick syndrome among the youths. These determinants constitute the various pull factors behind the practice of drug trafficking in Nigeria. Transnational drug trafficking in Nigeria, is an additional security intimidation which has the potential of adapting itself into a more lethal opus by integrating with terrorism to kill Nigeria's national image. It poses a geometrically diachronic threat to Nigerian communities, home and abroad, by targeting its human resource especially the youths.

Collocating with the above, a damaged state image therefore, could paralyse the state and prevents it from realizing its actual potential by creating a negative national image that hinders interstate relations, development and security. The unfortunate emergence of Nigeria as a major drug trafficking hub, has given the country her a dose of negative image. This is due in part at least, to a greater number of Nigerians among Africans arrested for transporting drugs across international borders. In view of the nexus between transnational terrorism and drug trafficking with insipient tacit ethnoreligious support in northern Nigeria, the need to improve adequate intelligence gathering, emasculate insecurity, bribery and corruption, poverty, unemployment, and porous borders stand as indispensable imperatives link to appreciable efforts at arresting the menace in the country. Again and due to widespread insecurity and corruption, the need for rebranding of national domestic policies to synchronize with citizens needs and aspirations is task that has to be done. Otherwise, the insidious damage from drug trafficking and terrorism threats could metastasize to a zilch predictive implosion that will strike the Nigerian communities to undermine Nigeria's power as a nation, its public image and its cooperation with international bodies.

Recommendations

From the analysis, findings and conclusion of the study, the following are recommended

1. Nigerian Government should place more emphasis on the increasing drug consumption and trafficking providing dependable security forces that will be duty and honour bound to portray a better national image.
2. Internal crime rate should be perceived as indicator to governance and development morass. This will help trigger a better response to unemployment rate, poverty and hunger indexes and democratic failure impeding citizens' collective expectation of a better life. Otherwise, the drugs problem will exacerbate the volume of threat to an unprecedented level.
3. Government should develop new partnerships with the relevant states to counter the drug problem to eventuate a better national image and improve development and security.

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