SOCIOLOGY AND CRIME CONTROL: THAT WE MAY LIVE IN PEACE

By
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SOCIOLOGY AND CRIME CONTROL: THAT WE MAY LIVE IN PEACE

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PREAMBLE

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics and Research), the Registrar, other Principal Officers of the University, the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, other Deans here present, the Head, Department of Sociology, members of the University Council, members of the University Senate, my colleagues, great Sociology students, other students and friends of Sociology, my mum and family members, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour to be given the opportunity to give the 9th Inaugural Lecture in the 2008/2009 academic session.

OBJECTIVE OF LECTURE

The title of this Inaugural Lecture is: Sociology and Crime Control: That We May Live in Peace. In the course of this lecture, I will discuss the relevance of Sociology to the understanding of the causes and control of crime and delinquency. In this regard, I will also highlight some of my contributions to crime control and the enhancement of quality of life, with particular reference to issues of peace and security through several researches, publications, conference presentations and consultancy services.

INTRODUCTION

Sociology - The Discipline

Ordinarily, perhaps I would have borrowed the idea of the legendary Pele's book which he titled: My Life and the Beautiful Game and captioned this Lecture: "My Life and the Beautiful Discipline", because, indeed, that is what Sociology is. Just as some scholars have asserted, I consider Sociology to be the queen of all disciplines. It is the Master discipline – an all-important discipline. Given that most of what we do in our various callings/endeavours have something to do with social (human) beings (i.e. affect or are affected by human beings), I believe Sociology is a discipline that should be studied in all academic disciplines!

As was noted by Soyombo and Nwabueze (2008), most of the problems of contemporary Nigerian society are human problems...
that require human, rather than technical, solutions. Why do so many things which have been tested in other countries not work in Nigeria? The parliamentary system is working well in the United Kingdom, the Presidential System is working well in the United States of America, but we had problems with the Parliamentary System, and are wobbling with the Presidential System in Nigeria. Why? The problem is really not with the systems, but with the practitioners! It is believed that we have all the laws that are necessary to make things work in Nigeria. What is required is not so much new laws, but the enforcement of existing laws. Why is it so difficult to enforce the laws? With regard to the problem of transportation, while there is an obvious need for improvement of the road network, the more fundamental problem is human, rather than engineering or economic. The engineering solution would emphasize the need for wider, smoother roads, over-head bridges to relieve traffic at junctions, etc. However, unless the human element is taken into consideration, there will always be problems. The unruly and discourteous danfo and molue drivers, the impatient okada riders, the okada riders who take up street corners, traders who make incursion into the road, the “big people” who indiscriminately drive with siren, lawless leaders who drive against traffic, etc. are illustrations of human problems which impede smooth flow of traffic. In the medical field, the production of drugs will not necessarily translate into usage of the drugs by people. The provision of condoms will not necessarily make people abstain from risky, unprotected sex. Cultural and religious barriers to acceptance of family planning, immunization, anti-retroviral therapy, and self-medication are issues which require sociological intervention to ensure appropriate behavioural/attitudinal change. Contemporary Nigerian society is replete with a myriad of social problems to which sociology has high potentials of contributing solution. The relatively high level of crime, unresolved murders/assassinations, examination malpractice, cultism in institutions of learning, political violence, election rigging, child trafficking, women trafficking, drug abuse, drug trafficking, problems of the Niger-Delta area, destitution, prostitution, sexual abuse/harassment, divorce, usury and profiteering, ethnic and religious violence, domestic violence, etc. are illustrations of social problems in contemporary Nigeria. The Nigerian society can benefit more from the social engineering potentials of sociology and sociologists if we make more use of sociologists in Nigeria.

Now, What is Sociology?
Simply put, sociology is the scientific study of the society—the study of social structures/systems, and social relationships; the study of cultures, social values, social systems and human behaviour. Soyombo and Nwabueze (2008) noted that Sociology is a versatile discipline which covers virtually all aspects of human life. Universities in Nigeria now have courses in various areas of Sociology, such that one can literally say there is sociology of everything, including: Sociological Theory; Methods of Social Research; Sociology of Education; Political Sociology; Social Change; Sociology of Crime and Delinquency; Sociology of Deviance; Criminology; Social Problems; Social Work; Sociology of the Family; Sociology of Religion; Sociology of Race and Ethnic Relations; Sociology of Ageing/Gerontology; Sociology of Development; Sociology of Literature; Sociology of Work and Leisure; Social Stratification; Military Sociology; Rural Sociology; Urban Sociology; Sociology of Mass Communication; Sociology of Industry; Complex Organizations; Sociology of Science and Technology; Sociology of Law; Sociology of Economic Life; Demography and Population Studies; Nigerian Society and Culture; Sociology of War; Sociology of the Professions; Sociology of Knowledge; Sociology of Health and Illness; Sociology of Medicine/Medical Sociology; Sociology of the Environment; Sociology of Death and Dieing, Sociology of Gender Relations, Women Studies; etc. There is something in Sociology for everyone! Sociology programmes are getting increasingly popular in Nigerian Universities. Most universities now offer sociology programmes and graduate turnout has been rising. I am also happy to note that increasingly employers are awakening to the relevance of sociology and making specific demands for graduates of sociology.
The Uses of Sociology

Generally, sociologists are in demand in government establishments, industries, universities, research institutes, NGOs, consultancy units, etc. They are also needed in Social Work, law enforcement, the prisons and in medicine. There are several other areas in which a sociologist can work, including: Research; Management Consultancy; Academics/Teaching; Administration; Population Studies; Health; Marketing/Retail; Personnel Management; Training and Development; Public Relations and Customer Services; Uniformed Services; Social Welfare/Care Services; Advertising; and Insurance. So, in a sense, we can say “the sky is the limit” for sociology graduates!

SOCIOLOGY AND CRIME CONTROL

The Problem of Crime

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, a major socio-economic problem in contemporary Nigerian society is crime. Understandably, it has, over the years, attracted considerable attention from all members of the society and stakeholders, including individual citizens, groups, corporate organizations, the government at various levels, as well as the international community (Soyombo, 1992a, Soyombo, 1992b).

Various efforts have also been made to solve the problem. However, the efforts have not yielded the desired results. The crime problem has persisted and people continue to suffer the consequences. While it may be said that peace and security is desired by all, crime has denied people in Nigeria this cherished peace and security, as people can hardly sleep with both eyes closed. There is virtually no day that there is no crime report in the media. Illustrations of headlines in the media include: "Armed robbers take over Lagos" (Sunday Sun, August 19, 2007:30); and "Armed Robbery: Adamawa under siege" (Thisday; November 13, 2007:23). Oftentimes, the stories are gruesome. For instance, on February 18, 2009, armed militants were reported to have attacked a bus conveying footballers and their supporters to a match venue, killing 13 and injuring several others. The incidence of missing persons seems to be on the increase, with recent reports indicating that about three persons go missing in Lagos every two days (Sunday Punch; March 22, 2009:8). Car snatching is also reported to be on the increase (Sunday Punch; April 19, 2009; p. 6). Kidnapping for ransom, which hitherto was associated with the Niger Delta, was reported recently in Lagos, with the kidnapping of a Lebanese and the demand for N30m ransom (Sunday Punch; March 29, 2009, p.10). Even the houses of God (religious houses/ sacred places) are no longer safe as criminals target harvest collection and tithes and offering!

In response to the problem of crime, the residents of Benin City (Edo State) were reported to have staged a public protest recently against the growing spate of kidnappings and killings in Edo State (Daily Trust; April 8, 2009; p.10). Furthermore, the House of Representatives recently summoned the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General of the State Security Service to appear before its Joint Committee on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence to answer questions about the problem of crime in the country (The Punch, March 4, 2009; p. 6).

Gloomy as this picture seems, I believe with the global economic recession, we should brace up for more challenges, as the need and desperation for money will increase. Many workers are likely to be retrenched, the level of unemployment is likely to increase, family dissolution is likely to increase and the level of frustration is likely to increase. Consequently, economic crimes are also likely to increase, leading to increasing challenges for the police and the citizens.

WHY THE CONCERN WITH CRIME? - THE EFFECTS OF CRIME

All societies desire law and order. This is essential for stability and sustainable development. The absence of law and order represents a direct challenge to the legitimacy of the government. From the analysis of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke (even though they

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1 Happily, the police successfully rescued the victim, killing 6 suspected kidnappers.
operated from different standpoints), a basic duty of the government is to ensure the security of lives and property. In other words, the government exists to prevent descent into anarchy (i.e. prevention of a return to the state of nature, in which Hobbes remarked that life was “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short). Thus, the state has a responsibility to the citizens to guarantee the security of their lives and property. It may be said in this regard that a state that fails in the discharge of this responsibility loses the moral right to stay in power and should be voted out of power in a democratic setting. The importance of security to good governance is well recognized by the President Umaru Yar’Adua administration and is one of the President’s Seven-Point Agenda. President Yar’Adua reassured Nigerians about his administration’s commitment to ensuring the security of lives and property in all parts of the country in his address to the nation on the occasion of 10 years of democracy and his administration’s second anniversary, and used the occasion to inform the nation about his administration’s plan “to reduce the crime rate by about 40 per cent in six major commercial cities by the end of this year” (The Nation; Friday, May 29, 2009: 9). This is a promise we should hold him to!

Concern about crime is attributable to the undesirable consequences on the direct victims and the entire society (Soyombo, 1992a, Soyombo, 1992b). Indeed, no individual or group is immune from the effects of crime, as it affects victims and non-victims, the rich and the poor, the young and the old, men and women, etc. The undesirable effects of crime are diverse, and include: economic, physical, medical, political, international, psychological/emotional, moral and social effects.

Economic Effects
The economic effects of crime include direct and indirect costs. At the individual level, the direct costs include the economic value of money and property that may be lost to crime (e.g. to armed robbers), while the indirect economic costs of crime include expenditures on preventive measures, such as the erection of high fences, installation of burglary proof iron barriers and gates, employment of private security personnel, etc. At the governmental level, the costs of crime can be conceptualized in terms of the expenditure on security and the security agencies. The Federal Government Budget for 2009 for Police Formations and Command is N195 billion. The Lagos State Government was also reported to have spent about N3b in two years on security (“Lagos spends N3bn on security in two years”; The Punch; Friday, May 29, 2009; p. 7).

We may also consider the Opportunity Cost of crime control in terms of the alternative uses to which some of the expenditure on security could have been put. The principle of Opportunity Cost is also applicable to individuals in terms of the alternative uses to which the money they spend on security and to replace property lost to crime could have been put. In contemporary Nigerian environment, houses are not considered ready for habitation without burglary-proofs, high fences and other security provisions, oftentimes destroying the aesthetics of beautiful architectural designs.

Further on economic costs, it was estimated that Nigeria lost about N13b to petroleum line vandalization in 2003 (Ariweriokuma). The Daily Independent of 18th May, 2009 also reported that Nigeria was losing about 250,000 barrels of oil per day to the crisis in the Niger-Delta region. This, obviously would have serious implications for a country that virtually relies on one single product.

Physical Effects
These relate to the physical injury (e.g. gun-shot wounds, bruises, cuts, etc.) that victims may sustain as a result of criminal victimization.

Medical Effects
The medical effects of crime relate to the medical care people receive (for physical injury and psychological injury/emotional trauma. The medical effects also include the risks of unwanted pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and STIs infection for rape victims, morbidity and mortality from fake/adulterated drugs. Usually, some economic costs (medical expenses) are also attached to the medical effects.
Political Effects
If uncontrolled, crime could constitute a direct threat to the legitimacy of a government, casting aspersions on the capacity of the people in government to govern. Relatively high crime rate and general insecurity have been cited as reasons for the overthrow of some governments in the past.

International Effects
Crime is one issue that has given Nigeria a very bad international image, with many foreigners associating the country and her citizens with fraud, including advance fee fraud (a.k.a. 419). Crime can repel international tourists, and there have been occasions in which some foreign governments (especially the United States of America and the United Kingdom) have issued travel warnings to their citizens about the security risks of visiting and working/living in Nigeria. It may be noted in this regard that effective crime control measures are crucial for the success of the current re-branding crusade. Unfortunately, the negative international image also rubs off on other innocent, law-abiding citizens, as often witnessed in embarrassing physical checks that are conducted on their persons, as well as the denial of certain privileges. Crime also inhibits foreign investment by scaring away potential investors.

Psychological/Emotional Effects
Apart from the physical and economic effects, many victims and non-victims suffer psychological/ emotional disturbances as a result of criminal victimization, with many reporting difficulty in sleeping, emotional stress, crying, etc. This may last for a long period after the victimization experience. Beyond this is the fear of crime itself by the entire citizenry. This affects virtually everybody in the society. In this regard, there is more concern for the violent crimes (such as armed robbery, murder, grievous harm, etc.).

Moral Effects
The moral effects of crime can be conceptualized in terms of the general moral damage/degeneration that the entire society suffers. If uncontrolled, crime could have adverse effects on the moral sentiments and psyche of the people, especially if the offenders are allowed to go without any punishment. Many people may accept crime as a way of life, seeing nothing wrong in engaging in some criminal acts (e.g. bribery and corruption). We can relate this to the effects of unbridled corruption on the moral values of people. To some extent, the moral standards and values have been whittled down and increasingly people have the effrontery to assault the moral feelings of other people by whipping up ethnic, religious and gender sentiments to oppose anti-corruption efforts.

Social Effects
Crime affects the social life and social relations in many ways. We may readily point at the destruction of social life as a result of crime. Many people are held hostage in their homes from dusk to dawn, not venturing to go out after dark, for the fear of crime. As a result of crime, night life and social activities have been virtually paralysed. Night travel is a high-risk venture — even for convoys of luxurious buses accompanied by armed escorts!

Furthermore, many people cannot enjoy their hard-earned wealth — many people have been forced out of their newly completed houses by armed robbers. People are also compelled to present an outward look of poverty by not painting the external walls of their houses. Many people are afraid to buy or use new motor vehicles for the fear of armed robbers. It was recently reported that rich people in Rivers State have resorted to riding in taxi cabs and commercial motorcycles (popularly called okada) to market, school and social outings as a decoy to beat hostage takers (Sunday Vanguard, May 18, 2008:7).

In terms of inter-personal relationship, crime has also led to a relatively high level of distrust among people. Very few people still extend the traditional African hospitality to strangers. Some do not even acknowledge or return simple greeting by strangers or the offer of a handshake, nor do they oblige strangers asking for street
direction or time. People are increasingly unwilling to render help to other people in distress, for the fear of crime. Thus, few people would venture to stop to assist people calling for help on the express way. Increasingly, many people barricade themselves in their homes, sometimes with disastrous consequences in the event of fire accidents.

A major socio-psychological effect of crime is the fear of crime. Few people have actually experienced victimization, but we all suffer from the fear of crime. It may be noted that it is the fear of crime that contributed to the high demand for police escort by various public officials in the country, thereby further depleting the inadequate police personnel that can be deployed to street crime control.

A question I often like to ask is whether situations can ever get back to the fabled “good old days” when people could walk around freely or travel at any time of the day or night unmolested, when people could leave their doors open even at night without any fear of burglary or armed robbery attacks. In the developed countries, many people prefer to embark on long distance travels at night. This would be a suicidal venture in Nigeria.

WHAT IS “CRIME”? What is this “crime” that we have been discussing? There are several diverse definitions of “crime”, including the popular definition, and the legal definition. Since the legal definition is the one that is used by the criminal justice system, this is the preferred definition that is used in this Inaugural Lecture. Thus, we may define a crime as:

“an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law (statutory and case law) committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor” (Reid, 2000:6, quoting Tappan, 1960:10).

Key elements of this definition are:
- The exhibition of an act or the omission of an act that is required
- Intention
- Violation of criminal law
- Defense or justification
- Sanction by the state.

SOCIETY AND CRIME CONTROL: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CRIME? Sociology contributes to crime control through systematic study and analysis of the pattern of crime, the motivation for crime, the location of crime, and the characteristics of offenders and victims. Materials for crime analysis are usually obtained from crime statistics (including police records of crime, court records and prison records, as well as victim surveys and self-report studies).

THE PATTERN AND TREND OF CRIME IN NIGERIA Official Crime Statistics (OCS) will be used for the analysis of the pattern and trend of crime in this Inaugural Lecture. However, it should be noted that Official Crime Statistics have obvious limitations (Soyombo, 1992a). Generally, they have been noted to be under-estimations of the incidence of crime, rather than true reflection of the actual incidence of crime. The statistics are also usually years behind schedule. Despite their limitations, official crime statistics are usually preferred for the analysis of crime because they emanate from official sources – largely from the official agency that is charged with crime control – the Police. So, for whatever they are worth, the OCS will be used in this analysis.

The Pattern of Crime Table 1 presents information about crimes reported to the Police in Nigeria. The inference from Table 1 is that generally, property crimes constitute the larger proportion of crimes committed, accounting for 53.6% of crimes reported to the police in 2001, rising to 67.9% in 2002, before dropping slightly below half to 49.4% in 2003. A possible
explanation for the drop in the proportion of property crimes, in 2003, vis-à-vis crimes against persons is that 2003 was an election year. Many of the people who could have been involved in crime were engaged in political campaign and other electioneering activities. This would have provided alternative incomes for the people. However, their involvement in political campaigns and electioneering would also have meant their participation in election violence and thuggery. This explains the relatively higher proportion of crimes against persons in 2003 (Soyombo, 2007).

Table 1: Crimes Reported to the Police in Nigeria (2001 – 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Crime</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>1,912</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>2,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manslaughter</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felonious wounding</td>
<td>15,232</td>
<td>16,758</td>
<td>17,666</td>
<td>18,733</td>
<td>22,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>37,513</td>
<td>28,925</td>
<td>29,126</td>
<td>29,863</td>
<td>33,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crimes against persons</td>
<td>21,070</td>
<td>16,493</td>
<td>18,525</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>9,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total: Crimes against persons</td>
<td>75,849</td>
<td>64,101</td>
<td>67,459</td>
<td>60,990</td>
<td>32,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(46.4%)</td>
<td>(32.1%)</td>
<td>(50.6%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed robbery</td>
<td>2,909</td>
<td>2,711</td>
<td>3,497</td>
<td>3,142</td>
<td>2,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary, house and store breaking</td>
<td>13,602</td>
<td>10,602</td>
<td>10,265</td>
<td>10,598</td>
<td>11,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>40,796</td>
<td>33,109</td>
<td>33,324</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgeroy of currency</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crimes against property</td>
<td>30,348</td>
<td>28,925</td>
<td>29,126</td>
<td>29,863</td>
<td>33,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bribery and corruption</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total: Crimes against property</td>
<td>87,813</td>
<td>64,101</td>
<td>67,459</td>
<td>60,990</td>
<td>32,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(53.6%)</td>
<td>(32.1%)</td>
<td>(50.6%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>163,762</td>
<td>135,420</td>
<td>133,287</td>
<td>85,632</td>
<td>93,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(100.0%)</td>
<td>(100.0%)</td>
<td>(100.0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 2: Crime Cases Reported to the Police in Lagos State (2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of Crime</th>
<th>No. of Cases Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offences against Persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted murder</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievous harm and wounding</td>
<td>13,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>16,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape and indecent assault</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Property Crimes</td>
<td>30,818 (37.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offences against Property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Robbery</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thefts and other stealing</td>
<td>11,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>1,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House breaking</td>
<td>12,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store breaking</td>
<td>14,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False pretences, cheating</td>
<td>2,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgery</td>
<td>4,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving stolen property</td>
<td>2,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful possession</td>
<td>1,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Property Crimes</td>
<td>52,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total (All crimes)</td>
<td>83,291 (63.00%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Lagos State Police Command.

Analysis of the Lagos State Crime Statistics (Table 2) clearly indicates the primacy of property crimes (which accounted for 63 per cent of the cases reported to the police in 2006, while Crimes Against Persons accounted for 37 per cent.
The Trend of Crime

Table 3: Crimes Reported to the Police (1996 to 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidence (Public Order Crimes/Offences Reported to the Police)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>258,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>234,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>217,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>185,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>180,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>179,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>152,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>157,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>152,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>180,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>172,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>93,817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis of the trend of crime (Table 3 and Fig. 1) suggests that the incidence of crime was on a general decline, until 2004, after which it assumed an upward trend in 2005 and nose-dived in 2007. Despite this remarkable decline in the incidence of crime, the concern about crime has not abated.

A concern about the trend of crime in contemporary Nigeria is that crime is getting more sophisticated and more deadly, with the criminals getting more daring. Armed robbers were recently reported to be using dynamite and hand grenades to blow up the doors of bullion vans to access the money in them, when they realized that bullets could not open the doors (The Punch; January 22, 2009; p. 7). They are also taking crime to the air, as there was a reported attack on a helicopter with a rocket-propelled grenade in February 2009.

Furthermore, criminals recently had the effrontery to attack the convoy of the Delta State Commissioner of Police in Edo State, killing eight of his aides (The Guardian; Thursday, March 26, 2009: 1). Gunmen suspected to be armed robbers earlier attacked the convoy of the sitting-Governor of Delta State Emmanuel Uduaghan on June 26, 2008, killing the driver of his Aide-de-Camp (ADC) in broad daylight (about 2.30 p.m.) while travelling from Benin to Warri (This Day; June 27, 2008; p. 1 and 4).

The increasing sophistication can be attributed to the view that more educated and intelligent people (under-graduates, graduates, etc.) are getting involved in crime. Their level of education and intelligence sometimes puts them a step ahead of the crime control agencies. The increasing daringness can be attributed to the realization that the law enforcement agencies are generally ill-equipped and poorly motivated to swiftly and effectively respond to crime. On the other hand, the increasing deadly trend of crime can be attributed to easier access to guns and other deadly weapons. There have been concerns recently about the increasing proliferation of small arms in the country. A recent Small Arms Survey 2007 (survey of the number of guns in civilian hands) reported that Nigeria had 1 gun per 100 people (The Punch; Thursday August 30, 2007:5). Though relatively small, the influx of small arms into Nigeria is disturbing and
has disturbing implications for the security of the country. Perhaps another contributory factor is the increasing involvement of serving and discharged police and military officers in crime. There have also been various reports of suspected criminals running into barracks for shelter.

The problem of crime requires more pragmatic control measures. In recent times, some people have called for the declaration of an emergency on crime control. Indications are that the problem of crime in the Niger Delta region has gotten out of hand, with terrorism assuming disturbing dimensions, especially with the clashes between the Joint Task Force and the militants which has resulted in the death of an unspecified number of people and the displacement of several thousands of people. The problem has moved from initial acts of pipe-line vandalization to the abduction of foreign oil workers. The militants are now more daring and less discriminating, with the kidnapping of oil and non-oil workers, foreigners and Nigerians alike, young and old (as well as infants and the aged), with increasing demand for ransom. Children of the rich have also been reported to be victims of kidnapping. Gradually, the “war” is being taken to the neighbourhood and homes of the rich. If appropriate steps are not taken, the problem may spread to other parts of the country, including Lagos and Abuja. It may no longer be a matter of avoiding the Niger Delta region — our economic and political leaders may no longer be safe in their abodes! This indicates that the rich are not immune to crime. Residents of the upper class residential areas such as Ikoyi and Victoria Island in Lagos have been reported to live under the fear of crime, with armed robbery attacks both by land and by sea! Recently, the home of the former Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani was burgled (The Punch; Wednesday, March 25, 2009: 13).

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, while crime occurs all over the world, a disturbing feature of crime in Nigeria is the group action (mass invasion) — a situation in which a group of offenders (e.g. armed robbers, sometimes as many as 30 to 50) embark on a joint operation to raid several houses and streets simultaneously with reckless abandon. Armed robbers sometimes operate for hours before any succour comes to the victims from the law enforcement agencies. A typical illustration in this regard is an armed robbery attack on two new generation banks in Adamawa State. The over 25-man gang of armed robbers were reported to have operated in five jeeps and a Peugeot salon car, using sophisticated weapons, carting away about N500 million (Thisday, November 13, 2007: 23). Oftentimes, the security agencies merely succeed in dispersing the offenders, without making any arrests!

A dangerous step, which must be vigorously resisted, is the effort by the criminals to weaken resistance to crime through increasing assault on the men of the agency that is charged with the responsibility for the protection of lives and property. Recently, several policemen were reportedly killed by criminals in Kano State and Delta State (see Daily Trust; March 20, 2009; p. 1), prompting the Inspector-General of Police to make a wake-up call on senior police officers who were indicted for the increasing police casualties (The Guardian; April 8, 2009: 3).
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS OF CRIME

One of the major areas of sociological contribution to crime control is about the characteristics of offenders and victims of crime. With this knowledge, people can assess their proneness to criminal victimization and, to some extent, be able to take reasonable preventive measures. With the knowledge of the location of crime (where crimes occur most), people can also take preventive measures/avoidance behaviours.

Who are the Offenders
Sociology has also contributed to our understanding of the characteristics of offenders. From this knowledge, we can, to some extent, assess the propensity of different people to commit crime. Although crime is not the exclusive preserve of any particular group or class, and it has been observed that different groups/categories of people commit different types of crime, statistics have, however, shown that generally, the poorer people (lower/working class) commit more crimes than the richer people. Studies have also found that a significant proportion of offenders and prison inmates were unemployed prior to their arrest. There are also more youth and young adults involved in crime (especially violent crimes) than other age categories (e.g. children and the elderly). It is also the young people who are largely involved in Advance Fee Fraud (419) and cyber-crime (yahoo-yahoo). Furthermore, it has been shown that males are more likely than females to commit crime. This points at an association between poverty, unemployment, age, and sex on the one hand, and crime on the other hand.

In terms of relationship between offenders and victims, analyses have shown that it is not only strangers that we should be afraid of, as certain crimes (such as murder, physical assault, sexual assault, etc.) are more likely to be committed by known persons and acquaintances than by strangers (Soyombo, 1992a).

Who are the Victims?
Sociological/criminological and victimological studies have shown that there are differentials in vulnerability to crime, i.e. crime is not evenly distributed among the population, and some people are more prone to being victims of crime than some other people. For instance, Soyombo (1992a and 1992b) showed that males are more prone to criminal victimization than females, the younger people more than the older people, the poorer people more than richer people, and people living in lower class areas more than people living in more affluent areas. Despite this, it may still be noted that different people are vulnerable to different crimes. For instance, young people are more vulnerable to violent crimes (such as physical assault, sexual assault, etc.) than older people, while on the other hand, older people are more vulnerable to property offences such as theft.

Location of Crime
Criminological studies have also shown that crime is not evenly distributed in terms of geographical space, i.e. crimes are more likely to occur at certain periods of the day (more at night than during the day) (Soyombo, 1992a) and in certain places (such as poorly-lit/dark, isolated places) than others. It is in this regard that the police sometimes provides information about crime “black spots” (crime-prone areas) – these are areas which have a higher than average incidence of crime. For individuals, this information can be useful in guiding people on places to avoid in order to reduce the risks of victimization or to be adequately prepared to prevent/ward off attacks when in such areas. This information can also be useful for assisting the crime control agencies in the deployment of their personnel and resources. The “black spots” in Lagos as recently listed by the police include: Tin-Can Port (Second Gate) up to Coconut Bus Stop on Wharf – Oshodi Expressway; Agege Motor Road (from Mushin to Oshodi); Osolo Way in Isolo; Agege Motor Road (near Airport Road, Ikeja); Oshodi Oke; Mile 2 Oke; Mile 2 Isale; Cele Bus Stop; Badagry Expressway (especially from Barracks to Okokomaiko); Obalende Bus Stop; Osborne Road up to IBB Boulevard; CMS Bus Stop; Marina; and Iyana Iba Road.

THEORIES OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
There are several theories of crime, but three that are considered very germane to this Inaugural Lecture are the Theory of Anomie;
the Economic Theory; and the Marxist theory. These theories can be identified with the positivist school of thought about crime which attributes crime to circumstances beyond the control of the offenders, contrary to the notion of “free will” by the Classical school of thought.

Theory of Anomie
The Theory of Anomie has its origin in the works of the French sociologist, Emile Durkheim, but was elaborated upon and made popular by the American sociologist, Robert K. Merton. Anomie refers to a situation in which individuals act without regard for law and order. Robert Merton attributes deviance to the social structure—a result of disjuncture between culturally defined goals and culturally prescribed means of achieving them. According to Merton, the society usually sets certain goals for people (e.g. achievement or success goal), and at the same time, the society prescribes means of achieving the goals (e.g. honesty, hard work, education, etc.). “Balanced” societies place equal emphasis on the goals and the means of achieving them, but “unbalanced” societies place more emphasis on the goal and less on the means. Nigeria can be said to belong to the unbalanced society group where more emphasis is placed on people’s wealth and less emphasis is placed on the means of their wealth. However, legitimate opportunities of achieving the goals are not equally available to all. In other words, the social structure denies some people legitimate opportunities for realizing the societal goal. When this happens, the individuals affected may respond to the frustration in one of five ways, which were identified by Merton as follows:

- Conformity
- Ritualism
- Innovation
- Rebellion
- Retreatism

Criminal behaviour can be associated with the innovative response—people devising other (usually illegitimate/illegal) means of achieving the societal goal of achievement/success. An inference that can be reached from this theory is that the poor/working class people are more disadvantaged in and by the social structure, denying them legitimate opportunities for achieving the societal goal, thereby suggesting that the working class people are more likely to commit crime than the rich. An implication of this theory for crime control is the need to remove the structural obstacle to legitimate opportunities for achieving the societal goals, although the theory does not explain why some people would choose the innovative option rather than the conformist option.

Economic Theory
Many scholars are associated with this theory, the most notable being William Bonger. The theory attributes crime to unfavourable economic conditions such as unemployment, poverty, and economic recession. It is believed that these factors increase the motivation to go into crime, implying that the poor and the unemployed are more susceptible to crime than the rich and the employed. In terms of crime control, it is believed that poverty reduction and the creation of employment opportunities would help to reduce the motivation for people to go into crime, and consequently reduce the incidence of crime.

Marxist Analysis
The Marxist analysis of crime is also relevant here. Although Karl Marx himself did not address the problem of crime, his ideas have been stretched to the analysis of crime, attributing crime to the class structure and social inequality. It is contended that the bourgeoisie (upper class/rich people), because of their relationship to the factors of production impoverish the proletariat (the poor/masses), driving them (proletariat) more and more into privation, destitution, and desperation. In this circumstance, crime can be said to be a response of the proletariat to the oppression by the bourgeoisie—perhaps a survival strategy. The system of social inequality is further highlighted with the contention that the social system criminalizes the greed of the poor, while legitimizing the greed of the rich. In a sense, this theory suggests that the poor people are more likely to commit crime than the rich, attributing this higher propensity of the
poor to commit crime to social inequality, as well as the greed and neglect of the poor by the rich. This theory recommends a redistribution of wealth in order to control crime.

CAUSAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRIME PROBLEM IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA

Based on the theoretical analysis and literature reviews, core causal factors that are associated with the crime problem in Nigeria are unemployment, poverty and the get-rich-quick syndrome. The relevance of each of these causal factors will now be discussed in some detail.

Unemployment

The national unemployment rate in 2005 was put at 11.9% (National Bureau of Statistics (2006c:35). Although the public perception about the problem of unemployment suggests that the rate is higher than this, indicating that the official rate reported is an under-estimation of the gravity of the problem. It is also believed that there is a relatively high level of marginal employment and under-employment.

Table 4: Unemployment Rates in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Schooling</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher than</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 - 24</td>
<td>52.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 44</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 - 59</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 shows that young people constitute the bulk of the unemployed. For instance, persons aged 15 – 24 years constituted 52.9% of the unemployed, while those aged 25 – 44 years constituted 41.1% (these two groups combined accounted for 94% of the unemployed in Nigeria (FOS, 2006: Table 209.2); males constituted 58.3% of the unemployed in 2004, while females constituted 41.7% (FOS, 2006: Table 209.2). Analysis of educational background shows that persons with secondary education or higher education accounted for 69.3% of the unemployed in 2004 (FOS, 2006: Table 209.2). The implications of these for our crime problem should be noted, especially in the light of the popular adage that: "an idle mind is the workshop of the devil". This analysis is a pointer to the pressure for the various categories of people discussed. The analysis shows that majority of the unemployed people are male, young and educated. Statistics have shown that most of the criminals are males, and that the young people are more involved in crime than the older people. It has also been shown that increasingly, well educated young persons (including graduates) are going into crime.

Poverty

Analysis of statistics on poverty (Table 5) shows that the rate of poverty has been fluctuating, however, going down from 65.6% in 1996 to 54.4% in 2004. Some people and agencies contend that the poverty rate is higher than the rate reported in official statistics. For instance, the Human Development Report, 2007/2008 reported that 70.8% of the Nigerian population were living below the poverty line of $1 per day, and 92.4% living below $2 per day in year 2005.

Table 5: Poverty Rate (Relative Measurement) for various years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poverty Rate (%)</th>
<th>Poor (million)</th>
<th>Population (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>18.26</td>
<td>34.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>34.73</td>
<td>42.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>42.75</td>
<td>39.07</td>
<td>42.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>67.11</td>
<td>67.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>68.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Poverty Profile, 2004; p. 21
Given the controversy that often goes with the measurement of poverty, the Poverty Profile report showed that whichever measurement we may decide to use, the incidence of poverty remains relatively high. For instance, using the Food Energy Intake measurement, poverty rate was put at 54.7%, while the dollar per day measurement put the incidence of poverty at 51.6% (The Poverty Profile, 2004 Report, pp. 15 and 16).

Furthermore, the cost of living in the country as indicated in the Composite Consumer Price Index has been increasing. For instance, using May 2003 as the Base (= 100), the CPI increased to 139.9 in May 2005, 154.7 in May 2006, 161.9 in May 2007, 177.6 in May 2008 and 197.4 in April 2009 (http://www.nigeriastat.gov.ng/CPI/2009/Apr09.pdf).

Table 7: Consumer Price Index for various years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Consumer Price Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2003 (Base Year)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2005</td>
<td>139.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2006</td>
<td>154.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>161.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>177.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>197.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


RECENT EFFORTS AT CRIME CONTROL IN NIGERIA

Various efforts have been made in recent times to control crime. The efforts are listed below:

- At the federal level, the recruitment of more police personnel led to the increase in police personnel from about 110,000 to about 312,000 (Abdulkadir, 2004:113) (although more police personnel are still needed).
- There has also been more funding support in the form of budgetary allocation for capital and recurrent expenditure for the police.
The Federal Government also set up a Committee recently on Crime Control, comprising of former Inspectors-General of Police and other people (although the impact of this is not yet known).

There is also an on-going effort on Police Reform.

Similarly, the Lagos State Government recently set up a Committee on Security, headed by a former Inspector-General of Police.

The Lagos State Government also established a Security Trust Fund (Vanguard, Tuesday 4th September, 2007:7).

At the wider societal level, there has also been more institutional and public support for the police through financial and material donations, in realization of the need for support for the police. Though desirable, this is just one aspect of crime control efforts. There is still need for more support for crime preventions.

In response to the problem of crime, strong calls were recently made for the imposition of the death penalty for kidnapping — a call that is favoured by many state governments in the Niger Delta area.

It is noteworthy that following relentless assault on criminals and massive financial commitment, it seems there is a respite for Lagosians as attested to by the Governor of Lagos State in July 2008 (This Day, 15th July, 2008).

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RELATIVE INEFFECTIVENESS OF CRIME CONTROL EFFORTS

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, the question we may ask at this point is: despite all these efforts at crime control, why has crime at this point remained a major problem in Nigeria? Various factors can be said to be responsible for the limited success of crime control efforts. They include lack of political will to tackle crime, lack of moral will, inconsistent application of the law, ineffective policing, and failure to control the ever-increasing pool of potential offenders.

Lack of Political Will

The allusion to the lack of political will is a reference to the seeming or apparent lack of seriousness or commitment on the part of the government to prosecute certain criminal cases. A pertinent illustration in this regard is corruption. This lack of political will has often cast aspersions on the commitment of the government to the anti-corruption crusade. In this regard, we may ask: how many high-profile corruption cases have been successfully prosecuted by the pertinent agencies (the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)? Matters in this regard have not been helped by the now common claim of lack of evidence and challenge to concerned persons to bring evidence of corruption against political leaders and public officials. This sounds ludicrous, given the nature of corruption as a crime of stealth and guile that usually takes place outside the public realm, with no directly-identifiable victim or complainant or evidence. The people who are aware of the crime are usually collaborators in the crime, and are thus not likely to make a report. In any case, if people come up with information, the next question is likely to be how they got the information! Yet there has been an apparent reluctance to pass the Freedom of Information Bill which may facilitate access to useful information for the successful prosecution of cases! Why has it been so difficult to tackle the problem of illegal oil theft and bunkering? We may also cite the rigmarole about recent allegation by the German engineering company, Siemens, that some former top government officials and ministers were given bribes by the company, as well as the Halliburton case.

In this regard, the "negotiation of justice" with offenders (a situation in which corrupt officials are allowed to go with part of their illegally
acquired wealth if they are willing to return part of the wealth to the state) is also antithetical to the anti-corruption crusade. People should not be allowed to benefit from crime.

Lack of Moral Will
At the societal level, we may also talk of the lack of moral will to effectively tackle crime. As the popular police slogan says, criminals are not spirits – they are human beings and they live among people. However, many people are often unwilling to provide information that may lead to the arrest of criminals unless they are negatively affected. Furthermore, the ready willingness to fraternize with accused (even convicted) persons and to accept them with open arms (sometimes with the organization of elaborate welcome reception parties) does not show any seriousness in the campaign against crime. In this regard, rather than condemning the behaviours of offenders, people line up in solidarity behind their kinsmen and friends! Many people who were indicted of various offences/misdemeanours have been rehabilitated and given other appointments.

Inconsistent Application of the Law
Crime control efforts have also been hampered by inconsistent application of the law. To a large extent, the impression that has been created is that there are different laws for different categories of people – different laws for the rich and for the poor. This is in line with what Reiman (1998) described as “the rich get richer and the poor get prison”. Sometime ago in Zamfara State, one poor man who was alleged to have stolen a cow had his hand amputated, but in the same society people who embezzled millions of naira of public fund have been persuaded to return a fraction of their loot in order to keep the remaining. The anti-drug war has not been successful because the drug barons have always had a way of evading the criminal justice system. For instance in 2007, the Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Alhaji Ahmadu Giade told the House Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes that 202 convicted drug barons did not serve their jail terms (The Punch, December 11, 2007:12). A cartel that was assisting drug barons to evade serving their jail terms was also recently exposed. Revelations have also shown that the government has been unable to curtail oil theft and illegal bunkering because of the involvement of "highly placed and powerful individuals in and out of government ... with the active connivance of staff of operating oil firms and security agencies" (The Punch, December 11, 2007:14).

Ineffective Policing
It may also be said that ineffective policing has contributed to the relatively limited success of crime control efforts in Nigeria. The effectiveness of the police has been limited by various factors, including: inadequate manpower, inadequate training, inadequate materials, poor logistics, poor remuneration, poor motivation and corruption within the police system. This much was acknowledged in various sections of The Annual Report of the Nigeria Police Force, 2007. This points to the need to strengthen the Nigeria Police Force and to enhance their capacity to effectively tackle the crime problem in Nigeria.

Uncontrolled Pool of Potential Offenders
A crucial factor in the control of crime is the control of the pool of potential offenders, which has been increasing over the years as a result of poor/ineffective poverty alleviation programmes, unemployment programmes and the on-going global economic recession. As earlier noted, the number of poor people in the country has been increasing; while at the same time, the number of unemployed persons has been increasing. The war against crime would remain an uphill task unless the number of potential offenders can be curtailed. Current crime control efforts can be equated with a case of treating the symptom without treating cause. A simple analogy is the act of mopping up water from a burst pipe, without fixing the burst pipe. Unless the burst pipe is fixed, the water leakage would continue ceaselessly!
SUGGESTIONS FOR CRIME CONTROL IN NIGERIA
Preamble: The Will, Opportunity and Exit Principle
For successful crimes to occur, three conditions must be present: (i) Will, (ii) Opportunity and (iii) Exit (Ovuakporie, 1994), often described as the WOE principle, or as Felson (1998:53) put it, there has to be: (i) a likely offender; (ii) a suitable target; and (iii) the absence of a capable guardian against the offence. The inference from this is that in order to reduce the crime rate, we must ensure that all three conditions are not present at the same time. “With” refers to the motivation for people to commit crime as often indicated in poverty, unemployment, excessive pressure to succeed, greed, etc. “Opportunity” refers to the existence of conditions or situations which make it possible for people to commit crime or which are conducive to crime commission. “Exit” refers to the escape avenues or routes through which offenders can get away with their crimes. In order to control crime in the society, we need to reduce the will or motivation for people to commit crime, reduce the opportunities for people to commit crime and reduce the escape routes so that criminals cannot go without being apprehended and punished. A cursory observation of situations and events in our society today points to a gross neglect/festering of these three conditions.

Over the years, I have argued for improved social welfare as a strategy for crime control (Soyombo, 2005a, Soyombo, 2007). This would help to reduce the pool of potential offenders. Social welfare and social responsibility have the promise of offering viable (more effective and probably cheaper) options for crime control. It is gladdening to note the recent pronouncement by the Federal Government about the proposed Social Security Scheme (The Guardian; April 17, 2009:64). It is hoped that adequate commitment would be shown for its implementation.

What is “Social Welfare”?
For our purposes here, “social welfare” is conceptualized in the broad sense to cover the range of social services that are provided (usually by the government) to solve social problems or to improve individual, group or societal well-being. This definition also includes the social services such as the provision of potable water, quality education and health care, motorable roads, decent accommodation, electricity, etc. Although most of these services are usually not offered free, they are usually subsidised by the state in order to make them affordable and accessible to the people. Access to basic social services is a fundamental human right that is enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which governments are obliged to observe (HDI, 2007:111). The major reason for social welfare is to provide a “safety net” to ensure the access of needy people to certain essential services and facilities. It is believed that when social welfare is assured, the will/motivation to go into crime would reduce. Credence is lent to this view by the observation that what many people need is just a little support – a little push to lift them out of poverty.

Arguments in Support of Social Welfare
There are various arguments in support of social welfare provision. One of these is that social welfare provision is a form of social/moral obligation by the government, in line with the “contract” that exists between the state (governors) and the people (governed). It behoves the state to ensure the well-being of the people.

Closely related to this is the argument that social welfare is a human right. In line with the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, basic needs include food, clothing, shelter and health care. These should be provided to all people. Social welfare for needy people is, therefore, a moral obligation. It is also believed that provision of social welfare will enhance the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Furthermore, social welfare provision has several indirect benefits which cannot be quantified in economic terms, including engendering the spirit of nationalism and national identification.
Arguments Against Social Welfare
On the other hand, arguments against the provision of social welfare include the argument that social welfare is very expensive - neither affordable nor sustainable. Opponents of social welfare contend that the nation cannot bear the burden. There is also the argument that social welfare is a disincentive to work both for the current workers who have to bear the burden of social welfare, and to the beneficiaries who may receive something for doing nothing. Furthermore, it is argued that social welfare provision is liable to a lot of abuse, with many people seeing it as a form of government largesse and wanting to take their own share of the “national cake”. This is made worse by our poor identification system. It is believed that the proposed National Identity Management System would go a long way in reducing the problem of individual identification.

However, it is believed that on a balance, the benefits of social welfare outweigh the costs. We should balance the economic costs with the social benefits. Although social welfare provision is largely a government responsibility, corporate organizations and individuals can also support the scheme in various ways as part of their social responsibility/community support programmes.

Arguments Against Social Responsibility
Arguments against social responsibility include the view that since organizations and individuals pay taxes, social responsibility as envisaged will be an additional burden. Some critics also contend that financial and material donations for this purpose may not be put to good/justifiable use. Some also argue that the level of need is enormous and that small donations by organizations and individuals would make no difference. The final argument against social responsibility relates to the difficulty in identifying people in need.

The Notion of “Social Responsibility”
Various definitions of the concept of social responsibility have been given. One definition simply described it as “the principle that companies should contribute to the welfare of society and not be solely devoted to maximizing profits” (http://www.answers.com/topic/social-responsibility?cat=biz-fin). In a simple sense, social responsibility refers to the need to benefit the society. It is a way of giving back to the society; a token expression of appreciation to the society and the community where organizations (and individuals) thrive. The principle of social responsibility can be analyzed at three levels, viz: state/government level; organizational level; and individual level. The inference from this is that all entities (whether governments, organizations, or individuals) have responsibilities to the society.

Arguments in Support of Social Responsibility
On the other hand, arguments in support of social responsibility include the view that it can help to improve the living conditions/quality of life of many people, and at the same time help to reduce the motivation of many people to go into crime, thus making the society safer for everybody. It is also believed that it could have positive impact on the life chances of some people. Moreover, it is believed to be in line with cultural and religious values and injunctions, as it can help to make donors to be more at peace with themselves and their God, and giving them a sense of satisfaction. Finally, it is contended that it would help to reduce the burden that is borne by the government, thus freeing state resources for other uses.

As the proponents of globalization have noted, we now live in a global village, where everything is connected to every other thing. In the context of this paper, we may go beyond this to aver that the global village has now been reduced to a global family where...
everyone is connected to everyone else. We all have a social responsibility - a collective responsibility for everybody else. In line with the old saying, we should each be our brother's (and sister's) keeper. We cannot afford to ignore the suffering of people as some traditional drummers would sing in mockery of the rich:

Bamu bamu l'ayo
Bamu bamu l'ayo
Awa o mo p'ebi n'a omo enikan
Bamu bamu l'ayo

This means: We are well-fed and full. We are not aware that some people are hungry.

However, it should be noted that the rich are not immune from crime. Their wealth cannot guarantee them security. This is because a society that does not take care of the poor can hardly protect the rich. A philosophical thinking is that: the rich cannot afford to sleep when the poor, hungry people are awake! The concept of social responsibility requires that we change our mentality and orientation, and to be more willing to share.

At the individual level, the notion of social responsibility can be analyzed and implemented in two ways. One is the requirement for people to support the needy through donations. Another is the need to live responsibly by moderating our lifestyles and consumption patterns in order not to increase the temptation for the less privileged to commit crime. Illustrations in this regard would include ostentatious living, morally offensive display of wealth (maintaining a fleet of cars far in excess of what is reasonably necessary (what Thorstein Veblen referred to as Conspicuous Consumption).

Social responsibility can also be operationalized at the community/neighborhood level, with people taking more interest in what is happening around them and be willing to report to the police and to assist the police as may be necessary in solving crime cases.

Social responsibility will not bring crime to an end, but it can help to significantly reduce the incidence of crime. The role of religious organizations, NGOs, in the area of social responsibility is commendable in this regard. Increasingly, many religious organizations and non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations cater for the needs of the people by providing food, clothing and shelter, medical care and educational support.

2. Starting from the Beginning
The first major step in crime control is to re-examine our family life and child upbringing practices. There is need for more family responsibility and supervision. In a sense, the lapse in this regard can be attributed to the western influence of independence and individuality. In the traditional societies, any responsible elder around could discipline an erring child. This is attested to in the popular Yoruba adage that: Agba ki i wa loja ki ori omo tuntun wo; which means any responsible elder around would not allow problems to occur without intervention.

3. Social Institutions and Crime Control
The religious institutions and the educational institutions also have major responsibility for crime control in contemporary society, especially in terms of moral rejuvenation. With particular reference to the educational system, there is need to restore the teaching of civic studies in the schools.

4. Need for Higher Security Awareness
There is a need for higher security consciousness by all citizens. Security consciousness would require us all to be more aware about our environment and be able to take crime prevention/reduction measures (e.g. installation of security gadgets, lights, alarms, etc.) (Soyombo, 2004b, Soyombo, 2004c).

5. Community Participation in Crime Control
Crime control is a collective responsibility. The police cannot effectively control crime without public support. There is, therefore,
the need for all peace-loving citizens to support various crime control measures (Soyombo, 2003a). It is significant to note that communities are already playing major and commendable roles in crime control efforts. In Lagos for instance, most residential communities are actively involved in crime control efforts through the activities of such groups as Community Development Associations (CDAs), Residents' Associations, Landlords/Tenants Associations, etc. Many such communities employ formal (e.g. private security companies) and informal security (e.g. maiguard, local vigilante groups, etc.). In this regard, there is need for more collaboration between the local/community crime control initiatives and the police. There is also need to train and monitor the activities of the informal policing systems in order to ensure that they operate in line with the provisions of the law.

6. The Society and Crime
There is need for moral rejuvenation/revival in the society. There is need to emphasize the positive moral values and to condemn the negative values including the get-rich-quick syndrome, greed, and indolence. As much emphasis that is placed on wealth should also be placed on the source of wealth. The society should also make people more accountable for the sources of their wealth.

7. The Police and Crime
There is need for the recruitment of more police officers in order to enhance the crime control efforts. With about 312,000 police personnel to about 140 million population, this gives a ratio of 1:448. This is lower than the United Nations Standard of 1:400. Even in this regard, it should be noted that the UN standard is applicable in ideal situations – where there are all necessary logistic and communication supports to the police. With the general inadequacy of resources, a much lower police-citizens ratio is required for Nigeria to effectively be in a position to police the crime problem. Further in this regard is the need for more support to the police for equipment and facilities, as well as training of police officers. The suggestion by the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, for the adoption of police stations by corporate organizations and individuals, making them, comfortable for the policemen and women who work in them is an innovative suggestion that deserves serious consideration (Vanguard September 4, 2007:7). To complement this is the need to improve the working (and remuneration) and living conditions of the police and other law-enforcement officers.

8. The Law and Crime Control
There is need for a review of our laws in order to remove all the legal impediments to successful prosecution of suspects/criminals and legal loopholes which make it possible for suspects to escape conviction. The plea-bargaining process has been severely abused under the Nigerian Criminal Justice System. At present, the impression that is given is that there are different laws for the rich and the poor. There is need for a clear demonstration of the principle that nobody is above the law and that all people, regardless of their status, can be brought to justice. There should be a punishment/penalty for every offence. It is only when people are not allowed to benefit from crime that we can send a clear signal that crime does not pay. This was the underlying idea behind what Soyombo (2006) referred to as "The Trivialization of Corruption in Nigeria". In this regard, I would like to tell a short story about a rat which squeezed itself into a barn full of grains through a small hole. Over a period of time, the rat ate to its satisfaction and got fat. It then thought it was time to go, but realized it had grown too fat to exit through the small hole by which it entered. It became lonely and was desperate to go out. It then dawned on the rat that the only way it could go out was to shed all the extra weight it put on while inside the barn. This the rat did over an equally long period of time it had spent in the barn. It was only then that it was able to squeeze itself out. The rat realized that it did not gain anything by going into the barn. After that, the rat avoided the barn. The lesson from this is that if people realize that they would not gain anything from crime, they would desist from it. People who embezzle public funds should be made to forfeit all they have, in excess of the amount of money that was embezzled. The accounts of all who collaborate with them to steal or hide stolen money should
also be confiscated. It is only then that people would know that crime does not pay.

A primary responsibility of the government is to ensure the security of lives and property of the citizens (Soyombo, 2005a, Soyombo, 2007). In addition to suggestions for enhancing the capacity of the police to tackle crime, the government needs to step up its social welfare programmes. In this regard, the Poverty Alleviation Programmes of various governments should be strengthened for greater effectiveness. The government should also provide an enabling environment for employment generation. The National Directorate of Employment should also be re-focused and strengthened to enhance the capacity of the people for self-employment. Furthermore, corporate organizations should be encouraged to create employment opportunities for more people. In this regard, the recent call by the Governor of Lagos State for corporate organizations to create vacation jobs for youths “in order to take their minds away from crime and other anti-social activities is commendable (Vanguard Tuesday September 4, 2007:7). The Lagos State government also showed example by setting up the “Enterprise Registration and Identification Agents (ENTRIDA) Programme by which the state government hopes to achieve dual objectives of registration of business enterprises and at the same time create employment opportunities for youths (The Punch; Thursday August 31, 2007:12). There should also be enhanced opportunities for skills acquisition for prison in-mates in order to facilitate their rehabilitation and re-integration upon release. More opportunities should also be provided for youths to engage in positive recreational activities which can take their minds off crime.

Moreover, corporate organizations, religious organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals should be encouraged to give more support to the needy. In this regard, concrete, quantifiable and verifiable donations that are made for charitable purposes should be tax deductible.

10. Leadership and Crime Control
There is need for exemplary leadership for a successful crusade against crime. Our leaders must live above board (for instance by abhorring corruption) for them to have any moral justification to condemn crime. A situation in which the leaders engage in large-scale corruption and embezzle/mismanage public funds does not augur well for crime control. In many situations the amount of money that is stolen/embezzled by one public officer (‘pen robber’) surpasses all the amount that is stolen by armed robbers in a year.

11. Need for More Funding for Research
There is need to commit more funds for research into social problems such as the area boys phenomenon, cultism, sexual harassment, crime, unemployment, examination malpractice, “419”, cyber crime, internet fraud, “yahoo-yahoo”, drug addiction, drug trafficking, alcoholism, family break up/dissolution, etc.

12. Putting God in Charge
Finally, in all that we do, I believe we need to put God in charge. We may draw an inference from the motto of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital which says: “We Care, God Heals”. We can then say that the police and other agencies keep watch, but it is only God who can secure our lives and property. “Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

Conclusion
Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, in delivering this lecture, I have identified crime as a major socio-economic problem of contemporary Nigerian society, which has various negative effects on individuals, groups, and the society. I also noted that various efforts to control the problem have not been very effective and that the problem has persisted. Major contributory factors to the crime problem were identified, including: unemployment and poverty. I also identified the factors that have limited the effectiveness of recent crime control efforts to include: the lack of political will, lack of moral will, inconsistent application of the law, ineffective policing and uncontrolled pool of
potential offenders. I also made various suggestions for controlling the problem of crime in Nigeria, including: social welfare and social responsibility, family responsibility, higher security awareness, community participation in crime control, enhancement of police capacity, exemplary leadership, and putting God in charge. I strongly believe that if these suggestions are implemented, the problem of crime in Nigeria can be significantly curtailed and we may then live in peace.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, in ending this Inaugural Lecture, please permit me to acknowledge the contribution of all who have made it possible for me to be where I am today. This is a tall order because so many people have impacted positively in various ways on my life. Where do I start?

First and foremost, my appreciation goes to the Almighty God for making it possible for me to get this far and for making this day a reality. "It is not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

Next, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of my parents, the late Mr. Jonathan Olufemi Soyombo (March 29, 1924 to June 5, 2008) and Mrs. Victoria Olubamwo Soyombo. One could not have wished for better parents! Very humble, they both believed so much in education and sacrificed everything, even their own comfort, to ensure that all their seven children attained high levels of education. The date for this Inaugural Lecture was selected to coincide with the First Anniversary of our dad's death. If he were alive today, nothing could have stopped him from being at this Inaugural Lecture. However, my mother, the matriarch of the family, is here today and I respectfully acknowledge her presence, her love, her support, her nurturing and encouragement over the years.

I also appreciate the contribution of the numerous teachers who laid the foundation for my academic career at the primary school (Owu Baptist Day School, Abeokuta), and secondary schools (O-Level at Baptist Boys' High School, Abeokuta and A-Level at Abeokuta Grammar School). I also wish to acknowledge the encouragement and support of my teachers at the University of Lagos, especially Professor Olatunde Oloko - a foremost sociologist and doyen of Unilag Sociology, as well as Professor Oladejo Okediji, the late Professor (Rev. Fr.) Joseph B. Schuyler, and Dr. Moses O. Shoremi. I also acknowledge the contribution of my Ph.D. supervisor at the University of Essex, Professor Kenneth Plummer. Given the fact
that what we pay for services is a reflection of the value we place on such services, it is apt to say here that, for the positive impact they make on people's lives, teachers definitely deserve more than the remuneration they currently receive. I would also like to appreciate the support of all the academic and non-academic staff and colleagues in the department and the faculty. The support of several people I have worked with or interacted with in the University over the years is also highly appreciated.

Most importantly, I appreciate the University of Lagos for giving me the opportunity to be of service. It has indeed been a long time and I would say, enjoyable tenure since I joined the services of the University of Lagos on 1st August, 1981 as an Assistant Lecturer until my appointment as a Professor of Sociology on 1st October, 2005. The University provided a good environment for me to develop in various ways, including the granting of a three-year Study Leave, with pay, to pursue my Ph.D. degree abroad. I have also been privileged to serve in various capacities in the University and to learn more about the working of the University system. From a young Departmental Examinations Officer (1982 to 1985, 1986 to 1987), Sub-Dean of the Faculty (1992 to 1994), Faculty Examinations Officer (1992 to 1994), Faculty Admissions Officer (1992 to 1994, 1996 to 1997), Acting Head of the Department of Sociology (1994 to 1996 and 1997 to 1998), Deputy Director of Academic Planning (2002 to 2005), Deputy Managing Director, Unilag Consult (2006), and now Managing Director, Unilag Consult (since November, 2008). I have also had the privilege of serving in various Committees notable among which are the University Admissions Committee, the Development Committee, the Academic Planning Committee, the University of Lagos Central Strategic Planning Committee, 2001 – 2004; the Central Research Committee, elected Member of the University of Lagos Senate, 1994 – 1996. This, in the sociological parlance, has been a good socialization process for me. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the support of our highly dedicated, diligent and affable Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tolu Odugbemi, OON, NNOM, FAS for giving me the opportunity to serve the University in my current position as the Managing Director of Unilag Consult and for his tremendous support in ensuring a successful turn-around. I also appreciate the support of the immediate past Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Oyewusi Ibiappo-Obe, FAS, OFR, FAEng.

I also appreciate my brothers and sisters, starting from my eldest brother, His Excellency Ambassador Olakunle Soyombo, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Cote d'Ivoire, who blazed the trail of Sociology being the first Sociologist in the family, and who came all the way from his duty post in Cote d’Ivoire, my immediate elder brother, Dr. Ayodele Soyombo, a renowned orthodontist in Milton Keynes, UK, and my younger siblings, Mr. Richard Feyisayo Soyombo, Executive Director, California Centre for International Trade Development, San Francisco, California, U.S.A., Mrs. Folasade Omolola (School Administrator, Maryland, U.S.A.), Pastor Mrs. Taiwo Odubiyi of the Still Waters Church, Ikorodu (Preacher, Motivational/Public Speaker and Author) and Mr. Kehinde Soyombo, (Retail Business Executive, Sao Paulo, Brazil).

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My achievements would not have been possible without the wonderful support I had at the home front. The academic profession is particularly challenging in that it is not the typical type of work. There is virtually no closing time. Promotion is not regular as in other organizations where people can expect to be promoted after 'x' number of years on a particular grade. Progress in the academic profession depends on publications (contribution to knowledge).
quest for this takes so much of the time of the typical scholar. Inevitably, the family has to bear part of the burden, and unless there is understanding, there may be problems. I wish to particularly appreciate my wife, Abiodun Funmilayo, who, true to her name, has always given me joy, and is always willing to provide necessary support. I also say a big thank you to our wonderful children—Omolola, Omotola and Omoyele—for their understanding, love, support and encouragement.

Finally, I would like to appreciate everybody who is here today (all my friends and associates, colleagues, numerous staff and students, and gentlemen of the press) for Honouring me with their presence on this great occasion.

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