Security Threat, Pattern and Trends of Crime in Lagos State

Key Findings:

- About 67% of Lagos residents said they have fear of becoming a victim of crime. 23% agreed to have experienced crime in the last one year.
- General perception is that crime rate has increased from 12% to 21% in Lagos State. Robbery 28% and theft of property 17% are more prevalent crimes in the state.
- About 47% think violent crimes in the state are more likely to be committed by people born and living in Lagos while 33% think such is committed by people born outside but living in the state.

Finding 1: Lagos measured highest 38% in Assault compared with other Southwest States.

- Between 2011 and 2012, the rate of Assault increased 27%, from 11% to 38% in Lagos State.

Finding 2: Kidnapping and attempted kidnaping dropped from 3.3% in 2011 to 0.2% in 2012

- From current incidences thus far, it is clear that problem of kidnapping has considerably exaggerated in 2013 after a drop in 2012.

Finding 3: In 2012, 3.3% residents in rural areas experienced threat at gunpoint while 2.3% persons living in urban areas had such experience while, from 2011 to 2012, the rate of attempted murder declined 2.2% in Lagos state.

- Since 2011, the rate of Robbery declined 8%. More victims of robbery in year 2012 live in the urban area (15.3%) while (7.4%) victims live in the rural. About 4% residents have suffered snatching of handset at the hand of Okada riders.

Finding 4: About 1.0% of residents say they own gun/firearms and common reason given for owning a gun in Lagos is for personal protection (74.2%)

Other violent crime recorded in the survey includes Household burglary: The survey revealed an increase from 9.1% in 2011 to 10.4% in 2012. Incidentally, theft of Mobile phone decreased by 15% in 2012, While in 2011, it was 49%

Recommendations

- To effectively fight the recent scourge of kidnapping in Lagos state and to avoid further escalations, government and security agencies must act as a matter of urgency by putting adequate structures in place.
- To reduce the increasing fear of becoming a victim of crime in Lagos State, there is also a need to strengthen community partnerships with the police to facilitate cooperation and communication between local Police and the community.

For a full report of the National Crime & Safety Survey 2012 see www.cleen.org or email cleen@cleen.org