

**PIRACY AND PERSONAL INSECURITY IN THE GULF OF
GUINEA: A STUDY OF BAYELSA STATE WATERWAYS,
NIGERIA**

**IYAMAH, JOY OBIAGELI
(20PAH02322)**

JULY, 2022

**PIRACY AND PERSONAL INSECURITY IN THE GULF OF
GUINEA: A STUDY OF BAYELSA STATE WATERWAYS,
NIGERIA**

BY

**IYAMAH, JOY OBIAGELI
MATRICULATION NUMBER: 20PAH02322
B.Sc Political Science Madonna University, Okija**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF
SCIENCE (M.Sc.) DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY OTA,
OGUN STATE NIGERIA.**

JULY, 2022

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

Mr. Taiwo B. Erewumi
(Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

Prof. Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

DECLARATION

I, IYAMAH, JOY OBIAGELI (20PAH02322), declares that this dissertation is a representation of my work, and is written and implemented by me under the supervision of Dr. Ajayi Olumuyiwa of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria. I attest that this dissertation has not been submitted either wholly or partially to any other university or institution of higher learning for the award of a masters' degree. All information cited from published and unpublished literature has been duly referenced.

IYAMAH, JOY OBIAGELI

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled “**PIRACY AND PERSONAL INSECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA: A STUDY OF BAYELSA STATE WATERWAYS, NIGERIA**” is original research carried out by **IYAMAH, JOY OBIAGELI (20PAH02322)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Ajayi Olumuyiwa. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Relations.

Dr. Ajayi Olumuyiwa
(Supervisor)

Signature and Date

Prof. Daniel E. Gberevbie
(Head of Department)

Signature and Date

Dr. Augustine N. Eneanya
(External Examiner)

Signature and Date

Prof. Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the Almighty God for His protection, provision, guidance, love, mercies, and great favour throughout my academic programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My profound gratitude goes to God Almighty, the author and finisher of this work for his overwhelming love, favour and mercies upon on me, and for the grace and ability to start and finish this dissertation successfully.

I acknowledge the Chancellor, Dr. David O. Oyedepo for creating a conducive atmosphere for learning and exploit. I wish to appreciate the Pro-Chancellor, Bishop David Abioye, the Board of Regents, the Secretary of the University, Mr. Adedeji Owojaiye, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo, the Acting Registrar, Mr. Emmanuel Igbani, and all the management team. My thanks also go to the Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Akan B. Williams; Sub-Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Emmanuel O. Amoo; and the Dean, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Professor Charles Ogbulogo. I deeply appreciate the Head of Department, Political Science and International Relations, Professor Daniel E. Gberevbie for his fatherly care and advice.

More importantly, I thank my relentless, persistent and impeccable Supervisor Dr. Ajayi Olumuyiwa for his patience, unwavering enthusiasm, guidance and expertise and push towards the completion of this study. I deeply appreciate his efforts to painstakingly ensure that this research emerges successful. May God's divine favour, mercy, grace and wisdom continue to abide with you. Also worthy of appreciation are Professor Sheriff F. Folarin, Professor Anthony Oladoyin, Dr Duruji Moses, Dr. Samuel Oni, Dr. Felix Chidozie, Dr. Kester Onor, Dr. Fadeke Owolabi, Dr. Lady Ajayi, Dr. Faith Olanrewaju, Dr. Ugochukwu Abasilim, Dr. Ilemobola, Olanrewaju, Dr. Oluwakemi Udoh, Dr. Nchekwube Excellence-Oluye, Dr. Oluwatosin Ifaloye, Mr Olaniyi Ayodele, Mr. Adekunle Olanrewaju, Mr Gideon Folorunsho, Mr. Oluwatimilehin Dehinde-Adedeji, Miss Esther Adekunle, Mr. Abolaji Atobatele, Mr. Nick Essien and Mrs Modupe Ochim

My humble appreciation goes to my wonderful and lovely parents, Mr. Joseph Iyamah and Mrs. Nkem Iyamah for all their struggles and prayers over me and their unwavering

love for education that has seen me to this height in life, I say a very big thank you. I appreciate my siblings, Iyamah Faith Chioma and Iyamah Cyril Chibuike for their words of encouragement and prayers during the writing of this dissertation, My Uncles, Mr. Benjamin Ndiijekwu and Mr. Monday Chukwujindu.

To my wonderful comrades in the Postgraduate Student Council, I appreciate them for their support and encouragement. Finally, I want to appreciate my friends and colleagues, Samuel Ibok, Dr. Yartey Darlington, Moyo Dada, Tumininu Adebajo, Goodness Rotimi, Seyi Egunleti, Tosin Adeyemi, Dorcas Johnson, Ikike Ibanga, Faith Bella, Jennifer Ndulue and Folorunsho Oladimeji, to my wonderful mates, those whose names are not mentioned here, and all my well-wishers, thank you.

Iyamah, Joy Obiageli

iyamahjoyoby@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE
COVER PAGE	
TITLE PAGE	
ACCEPTANCE	iii
DECLARATION	iv
CERTIFICATION	v
DEDICATION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xv
ABSTRACT	xvi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Research Questions	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Research Hypotheses	4
1.6 Significance of the Study	4
1.7 Scope of the Study	5
1.8 Organisation of the Study	5
1.9 Definition of Terms	5
References	7
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	8
2.1 Preamble	8
2.1.1 The Concept of Piracy	8
2.1.2 History of Piracy in Selected Countries	11
2.1.3 Historical overview of Piracy in Nigeria	13
2.1.4 Types of Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea	15
2.1.5 Pirate Group Structures	18
2.1.6 The Gulf of Guinea (GoG)	20
2.1.7 The Concept of Human Security	21
2.1.8 Strands of Human Security	22

2.2 Theoretical Framework	28
2.2.2 Application of the theory	34
2.2.3 Gap in literature	35
References	36
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS	42
3.1 Preamble	42
3.1.1 Research Design	42
3.1.2 Population of the Study	42
3.1.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	43
3.1.4 Instrument of Data Collection	44
3.1.5 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	44
3.1.6 Method of Data Analysis and Analytical Tools	45
3.1.7 Ethical Consideration	46
3.2 Area of the Study	46
3.2.1 An overview of Bayelsa state	47
3.2.2 An Overview of Brass Local Government Area	48
3.2.3 An Overview of Nembe Local Government Area	49
3.2.4 An overview of Ogbia and Otuoke Local Government Area	49
References	50
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	52
4.1.1 Data Presentation	53
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	72
5.1 Preamble	72
5.1.1 Quantitative Findings	72
5.1.2 Piracy and Personal Insecurity in Bayelsa State waterways	72
5.1.3 The immediate and remote causes of piracy and riverine criminalities in Bayelsa State waterways.	73
5.1.4 Lapses in strategic approach to the control of piracy by the government have increased its incidents in Bayelsa State waterways.	73
CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION	75
6.1 Preamble	75
6.1.1 Summary	75
6.1.2 Contributions to Knowledge	76

6.1.3 Recommendations	77
6.1.4 Conclusion	77
6.1.5 Limitations of the Study	78
6.1.6 Suggestions for Further Studies	78
References	80
BIBLIOGRAPHY	81
APPENDIX A	89
APPENDIX B	90
APPENDIX C	93

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURES	TITLE OF FIGURES	PAGES
	Figure 2.1: Map showing the Gulf of Guinea Source: Bello, Nwagwu, & Edobor, 2013.	21
	Figure 2.2: Diagram showing the strands of human security	22
	Figure 3.1: Map of Bayelsa state	48

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES	TITLE OF TABLES	PAGES
Table 3.1:	Locations and No. of Questionnaires Administered	43
Table 4.1:	Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	53
Table 4.2:	In recent times, piracy has become a serious security problem in Nembe, Brass, Otuoke and Ogbia local government areas of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.	54
Table 4.3:	Travelling by water has become a major source of worry and fear to residents of Nembe, Brass, Otuoke and Ogbia communities in Bayelsa State.	55
Table 4.4:	People who travel by water before, no longer do so, because of fear of attacks by sea pirates.	56
Table 4.5:	The recent occurrences of attacks and kidnappings by pirates in Nembe, Brass, Otuoke and Ogbia local government areas are an indication of rising personal insecurity in Bayelsa State.	56
Table 4.6:	Many residents living in Nembe, Brass, Otuoke and Ogbia communities have relocated because of attacks and kidnappings by pirates operating on Bayelsa State waterways.	57
Table 4.7:	Many residents living in Nembe, Brass, Otuoke and Ogbia communities have lost their lives, friends and families due to pirates' attacks and kidnappings.	57
Table 4.8:	Acute hunger, abject poverty, lack of a means of livelihood and other forms of human deprivations are the unseen hands behind incidents of piracy in Bayelsa State, Nigeria.	58
Table 4.9:	A pool of jobless and impoverished youths exists in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria.	59
Table 4.10:	Most of the pirates' members are drawn from a pool of jobless and impoverished youths of the Niger Delta area of Nigeria.	59
Table 4.11:	An accumulated and growing sense of discontentment among the Niger Delta youths against the multinational oil companies and Nigerian government have fuelled the incidents of piracy in Bayelsa State.	60

Table 4.12: The wanton destruction of mangrove vegetation and environmental pollution caused by multinational oil companies in the Niger Delta has led to increased agitations by the Niger Delta youths.	61
Table 4.13: The Nigerian government must prioritize the problem of piracy as a major security threat in Nigeria, in order to ensure the personal security of the local communities in the Niger Delta area of the country.	62
Table 4.14: The Nigerian government should also contract private military mercenaries to provide additional protection against piracy in the Niger Delta area of the country.	63
Table 4.15: The Nigerian government should provide sustainable solutions to the socio-economic and environmental challenges of the Niger Delta area of the country.	63
Table 4.16 Correlations	65
Table 4.17 (a) Model Summary	66
Table 4.17(b) ANOVA	67
Table 4.17(c) Coefficients	68
Table 4.18(a) Model Summary	69
Table 4.18(b) ANOVA ^a	69

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GoG	Gulf of Guinea
IMB	International Maritime Bureau
K&R	Kidnap-for-ransom
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta
NDA	Nigeria Defence Academy
NIMASA	Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
PANDEF	Pan- Niger Delta Forum
PIs	Personal Insecurity
SPOMO	Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences Act 2019
TFRM	Terra Risk Management Tool
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDR	Universal Declaration of Human Right
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

ABSTRACT

The unrestricted movement of ships carrying people and cargo is impeded by the international crime of piracy, which also has implications for personal security. The criminals are often equipped with high-tech weapons to seize a ship or ships and direct them to the target destination in exchange for the stated ransom. This study scrutinises the rivers of Bayelsa State while investigating piracy throughout the Gulf of Guinea. In Bayelsa State, the centre of Nigeria's oil and gas development, the majority of pirate operations are concentrated. Some of the region's jobless youths resort to piracy as a way to build a resistance to the Federal Government of Nigeria's unfavorable "governing of its resources" initiatives. The study is anchored on Frustration-Anger-Aggression and Relative Deprivation Theory which brought to limelight, the supposed causes of piracy and its impact on personal security in Bayelsa State waterways. The study adopted the quantitative research method. For this study, primary data is retrieved through questionnaires. Findings of the study reveal that increase in pirate activities within the region will further increase personal insecurities. The result from the findings clearly showed that piracy has become a serious security problem in Bayelsa State waterways. Findings from the fieldwork, identifies deficiencies in the policies established by the government and other stakeholders to reduce incidence of piracy within the state. It is therefore recommended that although piracy has a lengthy history in the GoG, a visionary and competent government is often considered as a cure for all societal ills. As a result, given the occurrences of piracy, which generally bedevils the Gulf of Guinea and particularly Bayelsa State waterways, and the immeasurable damages done in terms of personal security as explored in this study, the preceding policy recommendations suffice in the search for a long-term solution on how piracy incidents can be circumvented. The study draws the conclusion that in the battle against piracy, the Federal Government of Nigeria including its National Assembly must be honest and transparent with the Nigerian public. In the battle against piracy, the government should place the highest focus on social amenities and employment development.

Keywords: Bayelsa state waterways, Gulf of Guinea, Personal insecurity, Piracy