



NIGERIAN DRUGS SYNDICATES IN THAILAND:

A PANACEA FOR THE MAYHEM

Anthony Ukam Unor¹

¹The Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies Graduate School, Rangsit University (mr.anthonyunor@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Evidentially, the Nigerian Transnational Drug Syndicate in Thailand that emerged in 1980s is fueled by the vulnerability of the Nigerian child to factors that are unfortunately beyond his/her control, chiefly due to and not only limited to the ill-legacy of colonialism, the 1980s economic hard landing from the collapse of oil boom and the decade's era of military interventions and meddling in politics. Besides, the advances in technologies that eliminated the physical barriers to access to information also exposed many young Nigerians to the two worlds of “the have” and “the have not” outside their hemispheres thereby creating an emerging culture of repugnant cravings for quick and easy accumulation of wealth often through the illegitimate means due to the lack of sufficient legitimate opportunities and the enabling environment.

For decades, the lack of scholarly in-depth exploration combined with the states unwillingness to chronicle the root cause and effect of their activities to better understand how the above factors influence their choices become very consequential to the adoption of the inept policing and monitoring practices cum institutional measures employed and accounts for why substantial progress has not been made in the fight against the group in Thailand, which is relevant to this study that will serves as a panacea for the mayhem.

Keywords: Drugs Syndicates, Transnational Organized Crime, Push and Pull Factors, Illicit Narcotics, Drugs Trafficking

1. Introduction

Historically, the use and moderate abuse of substance and stimulants existed in every society before the discovery of the modern day drugs. Like in every other society in the world, Nigeria is not insulated from crime and criminal activities or proceeds from crime irrespective of the obvious notion that crime is evil and that no society is immune to the menace of its impact on people and democratic institutions. This study is not in any way an attempt to appraise the activities of these criminals neither does it intend to audit the lives of these criminals for life itself is not always fair but remains a valuable asset and beautiful. So to say, while I believe strongly in the imperfect nature of human (including myself), I also believe that the pursuit of happiness at the expense of others' happiness via illicit activities like drug trafficking does not justify that imperfection per se but a display of the weakness of our benign nature and true potentials as a great people who are super-endowed with so much abilities, material and human resource to effect the kind of change needed for us to live in a safe and better society without necessarily being engaged in illicit acts like drugs trafficking. Rather, it explores and the evolution, trends, and impacts of the activities



of the Nigerian transnational drug syndicates and their networks in Thailand on Nigeria and Thailand and to ascertain to why the fight against these groups has been futile. It also aims to open a door for serious public open debate about their activities and serve as a stepping stone for further scholarly researches and a policy recommendation tool for both states policy makers.

The United Nations Office on drugs and crime (UNODC), Klantschnig, and Okafor admitted that the NTDSN - Nigerian Transnational Drug Syndicates and their Networks such as the one in Thailand have over the past few decades become undoubtedly a major West African drug cartel that has gained significant global attention. Perceived as a threat to international security and regional stability, it becomes a considerable concern that has provoked global debate and discourse among national, regional, and international decision makers, domestic and international law enforcement agencies as well as states and non-states democratic institutions due to the huge social, economic, political, and national and international security impact of its activities on Nigeria and Thailand (in this context), the sub-Sahara region, as well as the global community (UNODC, 20012, Okafor, 2014, and Klantschnig, 2015). For instance, UNDOC held that

“... Today, Nigerian drug trafficking groups have been detected in almost every country in East Asia, and are particularly active in Japan, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia

and Thailand: At airports in Japan, 59 “African” couriers were detected between 2007 and 2011, most of which were identified as Nigerian.25 Throughout the country, 24 “Africans” were arrested for tracking amphetamine type stimulants in 2010. The number of West African air couriers arrested in Malaysia nearly doubled between 2009 and 2010, from 35 to 65, with Nigerian nationals accounting for 79%of the total.26 In Thailand, 22 Africans were arrested between 2010 and February 2011 carrying some 38 kg of crystal methamphetamine between them 27 Igbo street dealers can be found in the red light district of Nana (Bangkok).28 In China, from 2004 through October 2010, a total of 418 West Africans were arrested for drugs, and two thirds were identified as Nigerians.29 Many of these were dealing on heroin imported from Karachi, but others were involved in methamphetamine-related activity.30” (CITE) As a very trendy organized criminal group, it has evolved from domestic drug cartel to a well - organized transnational organized criminal drug syndicate that has successfully developed an integrated-non-violence and dynamic duped-network-model with a complex and an intricate web of interaction with likeminded folks (actors, victims, and other TOC groups) from various regions of the world by infiltrating both countries’ legitimate commercial sectors and state and non-states institutions: Nigerian and Thai immigration service, Thai and Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian NDLEA and Thai Narcotics Control Division, Thai and Nigerian Prisons Authorities, churches, diplomatic missions; Thai universities, high schools, language schools, including the institution of marriage) to create blurry lines between legitimate and illicit Africans’ (and predominantly Nigerians) commercial engagements in Thailand thereby subjecting all Nigerians to crime related stereotypes in Thailand and globally.

The dynamism of its modal operandi has helped it to traffic illegal narcotics from their point of origin (either locally manufactured at home or re-exported from south America or Asia) where the illicit narcotics are produced or obtained via containerized consignments and sea shipping in addition to their traditional methods of air couriering and postal shipments (UNODC, 2005) to their transit point (in Thailand) where the drugs are further concealed before being dispatched via the mules by similar aforementioned means including new model such as swallowing or



insertion of drugs pallets through mules' rectum as seen the case of Godwin Chinedu Agbarakwe in Thailand (nollygrio, 2014).

To circumvent security officials, the mules usually fly by air (and take little or no food or drink during the flight) onward to either their sub-targets to re-strategies before hitting the prime markets or fly directly to their prime destinations especially, the EU, US, Japan, and China where the agents are induced to defecate the substance from their bowel. For example, UNODC study on transnational Organized crime on West Africa concluded that of all the air couriers arrested for trafficking of methamphetamine in their primary destination in Asia - Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand in 2010, approximately 10% of the culprits were West Africans, and predominantly Nigerians.³⁵ (UNODC, 2013).

2. Their Emergence and trend

Historically, like in almost every other traditional societies, the local consumption of addictive substance such as the locally brewed Oogoro, Brukutu, Shisha, and even special trees skins as well as social unease about their uses existed long in Nigerian societies even before the illicit smuggling and the consumption of the local cannabis and other hard drugs emerged in the 1940s following the returned of the Nigerians veterans of the WWII back home during which some of them smuggled home the opium they were being fed with in the remote jungles to keep them agile and high in spirits, old soldier alleged (in a private conversation, 2001).

The trend then quickly spreads into fake pharmaceutical products. For example, according to Erhun, W.O. Babalola, O.O. and Erhun, M.O. (2001), In 1947, Aluko, (1994) posits that 14 children were reported dead after being administered chloroquine phosphate injections. Similarly, 109 kids felt victim of the same problem and died after being administered fake paracetamol in 1990, they offered.

However, the declarations of drug war in the 1980s and 1990s when the military regime made it a top priority to rebrand Nigeria image as pressure mounts on them from the international community (Klantschnig, 2015) led the global spread of these traffickers' activities across its frontiers. These decades also witnessed an increase in illicit transnational narcotics trafficking and other TOC related crimes (such as advance fee fraud - 419) that caught both regional and international authorities' attention in the 1980s and 1990s. According to a study, it was reported that not less than 328 cocaine seizures were carried out between the period of 1986 and 1989, with a surged in the the number of hard drug convictions from 8 in 1986 to 149 in 1989, with women accounting for 27 percent of the 275 total convictions during this period. In 1988 for example, drug-induced psychoses accounted for about 15 percent of admissions to four psychiatric hospitals which prompted the government promulgate the counterfeit and fake drugs (miscellaneous provisions) decree No. 21 of 1988 (Erhun, W.O. Babalola, O.O. and Erhun, M.O. (2001). A year later, in 1989, the Federal Ministry of Health reported that about one-half of the drugs available in Nigeria were imitations due to the Shortcomings in the 1988 decree which led to its repealed by decree No. 21 of 1989 and subsequent amendments, the study concludes.

Amid the surge in the global transnational illicit drug trafficking within these decades and the decade earlier (in 1970s) in parts of Asia, there also emerged a great deal of global interest by the international community in partnering with each other to fight transnational drug trafficking and other TOC activities as it becomes obvious that transnational nature of these illicit activities has no respect for states' sovereignty and does not insulate any constituted and democratic institutions from the menace of its threats. Consequently, Nigeria threw its heavy weight



around illicit drug trafficking and other TOC related activities by enacting series of decrees (during the military regimes) that imposed serious penalties on fake and counterfeit drugs which actually curtailed the menace to a great extent (Klantschnig, 2015). However, the zero tolerance strategy gave birth to the substantial exodus of these groups and their activities across its national frontiers.

As these groups gained global reputation for trafficking of heroin and cocaine within the aforementioned decades, Nigeria became an important transit point for these illegal activities and accounted for about 65 percent of the heroin seizures with about 50 grams or more intercepted in British airports said to have arrived from Nigeria, which served as the transit point for 20 percent of all heroin from Southwest Asia, a study revealed.

According to Bonner (1993), Poland customs officers discovered four containers of fish that arrived from Nigeria at the airport loaded with half a ton of marijuana worth about \$2 million on the street (Bonner, 1993). In another study, it was noted that Nigerian National Shipping Line was implicated in about 20 percent of the hard drug cases in Britain. The scale of their activities became a serious concern to Washington DC. For example, Bonner, 1993 reported that Stephen Greene, acting administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said in a telephone interview from Washington that

“... Washington is particularly concerned by the activity of the Nigerians in Eastern Europe, he said. “They are some of the most experienced heroin traffickers in the world,” he said. (Bonner, 1993).

As a consequent, Nigeria witnessed unprecedented scale of arrests and incarceration of its subjects for illicit narcotics trafficking and other TOC related crimes (such as economic and financial crimes – advance fee fraud) on almost daily basis across the globe where hundreds languished in foreign jails.

2.1 Their Decline in Heroin and Cocaine Trafficking and Spread into Thailand

Their notoriety for heroin and cocaine trafficking in the 1980s and 1990s declined since 2008 when the first evidence of facility used for methamphetamine manufacturing was identified in Guinea and subsequently in Liberia in 2010, and 2011 in Lagos etc. due to increased regional security efforts (“UNODC TOC threat assessment on west Africa,” 2013, p. 19). This is partly due to the increase in demand and supply from Asia as a result of the loosely control pharmaceutical manufacturing cohorts in the region including Thailand.

According to experts and scholars such as Okafor a UNODC study on TOC threat Assessment on West Africa, their link and spread into Thailand is traced back to a span of three decades - the period between 1970s (“TOC threat Assessment on West Africa, 2013, p.19) to 1980s which coincides with the global spread of Transnational drug syndicates and the collapse of the oil boom in Nigeria and 1990s when South East Asia became one of the major opium and heroin-producing and trafficking regions in the world (“the Mekong MUO on drug control,” 2015). The opening of the Nigerian Embassy in Bangkok on February 2000 (Thai embassy .com) further enhanced the interaction between Thai and Nigerian traders and tourists alike with a lucrative trade relationship established between Thai rice, clothes, and gemstones exporters and their Nigerian counterparts in the preceding decades that made Nigeria the world’s largest importer of Thai rice in 2010 (Okafor, 2012). As a result of the globalization of commerce and the enhanced interaction, a two-way trade between both states was valued at US\$1.5 billion in 2012 with Thailand export making up \$900 million (Nigerian Embassy, Bangkok, 2015).

Latest evidence suggests that over 2,000 Nigerians were documented to resident in the Kingdom excluding those who are in transit in 2015 (although Thai immigration puts the number at about 120,000 Nigerians while others



alleged there is an estimated number of 10,000 are here to do drugs), according the embassy of Nigeria in Bangkok. The increase interaction in commercial activities also came with the infiltration of the market and other sectors with illicit commercial activities alongside legitimate business activities thus, the spread of transnational organized criminal syndicates such as the Nigerian drug syndicates and their network in Thailand.

3. Impact on Nigeria and Thailand.

Since the discovery of Thailand by these drug kingpins, their activities have posed calamitous social, economic, and security threat to both partners which has particularly dealt a serious damage to Nigeria image and its good citizens in Thailand. Evidence suggests that most of these Nigerians only got into drug trafficking as a result of their exposure to Thailand, most community leaders alleged (in a private conversation). They asserted that the caused is largely related to the fact that the policies used in fighting the crime eventual constitute part of the problems as a result of its lack of cognizance of the major forces that lure them into the drug trafficking business in the first place – the push and pull factors - and lack of political will to review the zero tolerance strategies that have proven to either failed or are futile in the fight against drug trafficking globally especially here in Thailand where the number of incarcerated inmates for drug is relatively high.

According Nigerian Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. Chudi Okafor, over 500 Nigerians are languishing in Thai prisons for drug related offence (ChanelTv.com). Besides, more Thai women are being sent to jail from across the world due to their illicit activities of Nigerians in Thailand in Thailand. They have given the Sukhumvit Areas (where most of their illicit activities are centered) a negative reputation that scare some tourist away from the attractions there.

Their activities and the zero tolerance policies against Nigerians have discouraged most legitimate Nigerians from coming to Thailand thereby creating a haven for these criminal to continue to perpetrate their evils at the mercies of innocent Nigerians who are easily targeted and Thais who are constantly victimized by their activities Irrespective of the negative impact of the activities of the few unscrupulous Nigerians and the impression created by the narrow narratives of Thai Medias and security agencies that surrounds the discourse, Nigeria and Thailand have recorded recommended achievements diplomatically and otherwise. For example, Nigerian embassy in Bangkok holds that a Nigerian health expert, Dr.Uche Amazigo was named the winner of the prestigious Prince Mahidol Award for 2012 in the field of public health for her outstanding contribution in controlling and eliminating onchocerciasis or river blindness as a disease of public health importance in Africa using a community based strategy (Our Stewardship, 2013. P.61). For instance, Okafor posits that, “We are aware that many Thais are very comfortable going to Nigeria for business investments”. He further stressed that many Nigerians are also doing legitimate business; some are teachers, missionaries, and expatriates in Thailand and that there are over 200 Nigerians studying in Thailand while some are in Thailand for sports and and they are doing very well (Okoafor 2013).

Likewise, Thai investors and companies such as Bangkok Metropolitan electric authority, CAT telecom, and group of investors known as “friends of Nigeria” are pouring in to Nigerian with most of them already engaged in business activities in Nigeria in different sectors (Nigeria Embassy in Bangkok, 2016). Despite the progress made between the two states, the activities of these groups continue to pose serious threat to both states’ national security and the global community as all unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral efforts to contain them have proven to be very



futile due to the zero tolerance approaches that has failed to gain Thai and Nigerian public support in the war against drug trafficking. Their members have been alleged to infiltrated every key institutions such as Secondary and tertiary institutions of learning – Language schools, primary and secondary schools, and universities (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9KOdbuPIkc>, 2016); religious institutions–churches (; security apparatus - police forces, immigration, narcotics control agencies–NDLEA, and prisons service; government parastatals–diplomatic missions members (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0s6KCpEV-4>, 2011); community leadership – Nigerian community inn Thailand; and the business and sports world (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dASnWhwzL-Y>, 2016) etc. Consequently, weak state security, high incarceration of Nigerians drug offenders (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaLJHUWYDrS>, 2014) and attraction of more victims especially Thai women via love scam and fake marriages (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhuWciN14OE>, 2016), corruption, interruption with the embassy official functionality via their covert actions to influenced its operations to their advantage (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsV9FyMvrac>, 2011). It has been alleged they are planning to mount pressure on Nigerian embassy in Bangkok again under the pretense that the mission is not doing enough to protect Nigerians in Thailand, the immigration attaché hinted (in a private conversation, 2016).

Against the old architecture of the policies the gradual widespread of global acknowledgement of the need to deviate from what Winn (2016) term to be “policing that have largely mimicked the zealous drug war mindset propagated by the United States” (referring to Thailand) to embrace alternative measures from Portugal, to Paraguay, Mexico to Cambodia, US to Jamaica, and recently in Thailand thus, we cannot fix these problems with the very mentality we have used to create them domestically, regionally and Internationally.

According to Winn (2016) senior officials including Thailand’s Justice Minister Paiboon Khumchaya have eventually come to acknowledge that “The world has lost the war on drugs,” he concluded. A move that he alleged is describes as “unprecedented” by experts such as Pascal Tanguay, a Bangkok-based associate with the International Drug Policy Consortium who alleged that “They’ve actually been talking about different models from decriminalization to full-fledged legalization.” (referring to Thai authorities), Winn offered. Whether the move to legalized drug such as Yaba (methamophine) would be achieve in Thailand remains a mystery on how that will change the institutional discrimination, negative public perception, and stereotype that has inflicted so much damage and difficulties on innocent Nigerians in Thailand and the Thais caught in the crossfire which will probably take time to come to fruition. But until then, more and more people will continue to be plague by the impacts of these criminals in the strategies in the drug war remain the same.

4. Bilateral Initiatives between Thailand and Nigeria to fight the crime.

- 4.1. Prisoners transfer treaty
- 4.2. NDLEA Clearance Initiative.
- 4.3. People to people diplomacy Initiative

The establishment of Thai-Nigeria Chambers of commerce in Thailand under the watch of Ambassador Chudi Okafor is hailed as the establishment of joint commissions where Nigerian and Thai business communities can interact on a level playing field. “Nigeria and Thailand to establish bilateral commission” contends that Aina (2015) reported that the ambassador in his word maintained that “despite the successful economic cooperation between



Nigeria and Thailand, it is necessary to fine tune confidence building frameworks and encourage people to people interactions between both sides” (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1Ke62H56nw>, 2015) it offered.

5. The Embassy of Federal Republic of Nigeria in Thailand Unilateral initiatives.

5.1 The Image Laundry Initiative.

Although many Nigerians blamed the lack of diplomatic tenet by the previous mission members of the embassy for partly contributing to their difficulties in Thailand, however, the tenure of Ambassador Chukwudi Newington Okafor, the Nigerian Ambassador to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand has instilled a sense of discipline, national pride, co-operation, brotherhood and trust on the embassy amongst Nigerian residents in Thailand in an image laundry initiative geared towards rebranding Nigeria’s image in Thailand. Under the scheme, the following are among other numerous remarkable achievements recorded. They are:

- 1) Inauguration of Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDOTH).
- 2) Inauguration of Nigerian Student Association in Thailand (NSAT)
- 3) Revival and Inauguration of Nigerian Community Association Thailand (NCAT)
- 4) Advising state associations – Enugwu, Anambara, and Imo state etc. in Thailand
- 5) Collaborating with NUTT to organized annual English camps for Nigerians Kids and their foreign friends in Thailand to empower them.
- 6) Census of Nigerians and collection of data of Nigerian professionals in Thailand.
- 7) The creation of a welcoming atmosphere at the embassy as a second home to all it citizens.
- 8) Inauguration of Nigerian Union of Teachers in Thailand (NUTT).
- 9) Inauguration of Nigerian Pastors Association.
- 10) Inauguration of Ohaneze Ndi Igbo Mekong Association etc.

5. Objectives

This study aims to achieve the followings:

- 1) To explore the evolution and trend of the groups and their network in Thailand.
- 2) To examine the push and pull factors that exposes them to drug trafficking in Thailand.
- 3) To analyze the existing measures and their implications and effectiveness in the fight.
- 4) To bring into context the impact of their activities on both sovereign states.

6. Data and Methodology

As an exploratory research, it encompasses both secondary and primary research elements using qualitative analysis method combined with ideological and analytical approaches. It has two units of analysis, namely, the push factors (Nigerian Factors) and Pull factors (Thailand and beyond factors); and analysis of the effectiveness and implications of the measures against them. The rationale for this is to find out in much details the push (internal or domestic) and pull (external or International) factors and to what extent the measures employed in the fight may have contributed to the combating the Nigerian TOC drug syndicates activities to ascertain to why efforts to contain them is fruitless and how more Nigerians are lured into the business in Thailand base on relevant analysis, scholarly studies,



respondents' opinions, and personal firsthand experiences as a community leader with over ten years' experience in Thailand.

The primary data were collected from various in-depth interviews with relevant government officials using key informants from state agencies such as the Nigerian and other African diplomatic mission members in Bangkok, NDLEA officials in Nigeria, Thai Police, Thai immigration, Thai Prisons etc.; direct communication with Non-state actors such as the leaders of Nigerian Community in Thailand (NCAT) and other associations under its umbrella; focused group such as Nigerians in Thai prisons; consultation with UNDOC in Thailand and other NGOs; observation of the street guys and other relevant Nigerians; including survey from Thais and foreign nationals from all walks of life who are au fait with the subject matter in Thailand where the impact of the Nigerian Transnational drug syndicates on the socio-economic life of the people is mostly felt.

The secondary data are sourced from reference books, articles in academic journals, electronic resource from official reports, publications and reviews from the UNDOC and The US department of State website etc., newspapers articles from Bangkok post, The Guardian, and The Nation etc., internet/websites, and other available official government documents and communiqués (where accessible) in form of hard copies and soft copy via the internet that are relevant to the subject to create a better understanding based on in-depth analysis.

7. Literature Review

As a child from a family of nine, constant conflict between us during the toddler's years was practically inevitable among the six girls and three boys. And I remember my father always tells us that

"... in trying to fix any problem, we should always ensure that the root cause of the problem is given a prime attention so that the choices we make and the measures taken in the process of trying to fix it do not end up becoming part of the problem both in the interim and in the long run whether we successfully fixed the problem or not". When asked why, he said "If you cannot fix a problem, don't become part of the problem in any capacity as that will only compound the existing problem" (Elder.Sammuel Unor Onete)

Such aforementioned conventional wisdom by a man who has no Harvard University education perhaps slipped the group of western and Chinese think tanks who brokered the first transnational treaty (the Treaty of Wangxia, 1839–1844) that brought the first opium war to an end in 1842 in the 1840s which dissatisfaction with its terms led to the second Opium war in 1850s that also led to the Treaty of Tianjin, 1857–1859 that also brought the second Opium war to a rest; The same may have also been the case with the diplomats and scholars who tirelessly worked to finalized the UN convention treaty against Transnational organized crime: Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 which, its zero tolerance based architecture was and remains a prototype and model imposed on or mimic by all states until date irrespective of the acknowledgement by the same very UN that it has failed in the fight; Perhaps, it did not also occur to the Demand Reduction Working Group that represents the first institutionalized mechanism for bilateral collaboration on drug demand reduction, focusing on all aspects of demand including, prevention, research, data collection, treatment and public education and awareness e in 1996 (US Department on state) that rather led to a boom in the illegal trade within the Americas and its spread globally where drug gangs now operate as multinationals.



For instance, “Not only Thailand.”, “The world has lost the war on drugs,” were the words of Thailand’s Justice Minister, Paiboon Khumchaya, (winn, 2016). The truth remains that the war against drug is a dismal failure globally especially in its dealings with the small traffickers and the same is applicable to Thai authorities whose choice of Zero tolerance against drug trafficking became the moral grounds for the then Taksin administration to declare the war on drugs against its people in 2003 that claimed an estimated 2,500-plus lives (winn, 2016) while Thailand still housed over 3444 of its citizens languishing in various prisons across the country even though it has been successful in only reducing the cultivation of Opium within the Golden Triangle. For example, Human Rights Watch (2008) claimed that on 20 February, Interior Minister, Chalerm Yubamrung, told parliament that "For drug dealers if they do not want to die, they had better quit staying on that road... drugs suppression in my time as Interior Minister will follow the approach of [former Prime Minister] Thaksin. If that will lead to 3,000-4,000 deaths of those who break the law, then so be it. That has to be done ... For those of you from the opposition party, I will say you care more about human rights than drug problems in Thailand."

Africa is also not free from the implementation of the brutal policies and strategies use globally in the war against drug. It has been acknowledged that the very architecture of the UN Declaration implemented in West Africa, and motivated by work of UN experts and scholars as contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 contributed to the spread of the groups across the region.(UNODC 2015). In Nigeria for instance, the Osun State Commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Mrs Sylvia Ekaete-Egwunwoke who spoke on the commemoration of the United Nations 'Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' noted that Nigerian some communities within the state have become notorious for attacking NDLEA officers, inflicting serious bodily harm on them and vandalizing official vehicles of the agency used in their operations (Oyegbade, 2016). She further warned that "I want to sound a note of warning to these communities that henceforth, officers of the command would no longer show restraint in the light of such attacks and would apply whatever is necessary, in conformity with the laid down rules of engagement, whilst carrying out their duties.", Oyegbade alleged. In fact, investigations and studies confirmed that efforts to eradicate drug trafficking lacks public support and has failed at all levels globally due to the harsh measures that fails to address or take into a serious consideration the very forces that continue to compel people into such TOC activities such as drug and human trafficking and smuggling - the push and pull factors - which of course, constitute the key forces that induce Nigerians to move to Thailand followed by the attraction from the incentives in Thailand where some of them unfortunately join the bad wagon due to the greed factor that emerged as a result of their unmet needs via legitimate means because of lack of legitimate opportunities because of the socially constructed institutional protectionism and discrimination against Nigerians as a result of the activities these few Nigerians.

Besides, even when there is an enabling environment out there, most of them are not usually qualified to fit into the workforce that could help transform their lives as anticipated since the odd jobs that they could do are not well paid and have been occupied by Thai neighbors (Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar) whose citizens are constantly scrambling for them irrespective of the harsh conditions and abuses recorded in those sectors in Thailand. While the pull factors such as lack of enough jobs in Nigeria; few opportunities, lack of entrepreneurial enabling environment, depleting and poor infrastructures, poor living and health conditions; civil war; famine/drought ; political fear and



persecution ; poor medical care; loss of wealth; social unrest, economic instability, corruption, ethnic politics and conflicts, and natural disasters are economically, politically, culturally, and environmentally based, the Push factors are on the other hand are conditions or incentives that serve as a magnet to the Nigerians who migrate to Thailand for greener pasture and TOC activities. Pull factors are exactly the opposite of push factors; they are factors that attract people to a certain location. Examples of these push factors are job opportunities; better living conditions; political and/or religious freedom; enjoyment; education; better medical care; and security, job opportunities etc.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report 2005 on organized crime in West Africa attributed the emergence of the group in Nigeria and its global spread to partly push factors such as weak institutions, conflict, porous borders, and corruption that infested the sub-Sahara region with high unemployment that expose many people to sustained poverty, it also recognized that the early spread of the group from Nigeria into most of the west African countries was also partly due to the progress made in the securitization of trafficking of illegal narcotics both at national and regional level followed by advances in technology, transportation, and commerce etc. (UNODC, 2005)

Okafor holds that the spread of Nigeria organized drug syndicate from Nigeria into Thailand specifically caught international attention in the 1980s and the decades that follows as a result of trade boom that opens the doors to increased interactions between Thai rice traders, clothes, and gemstone exporters and importers and tourists alike when a huge number of Nigerians presence was felt in The Royal Kingdom of Thailand (Okafor, 2012). The interaction was further enhanced by the cordial diplomatic courtship between Nigeria and Thailand in 1962.

Aside the home factors, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) argues that the increase flow of drugs to and fro South America and Thailand into Nigeria and other countries within the region is caused by the high demands for methamphetamine from poorly regulated pharmaceutical manufacturing industries in South East Asia of which Thailand is also not in exception (NDLEA, 2013).

For example, An Australian who is familiar with illicit pharmaceutical availability in Thailand contends that “Thailand is a great destination for anyone using steroids or who wants to buy steroids and that many people come over for months on holidays to bulk up on these hormones and go back home feeling great”, “I see it all the time”, he acclaimed. He went on to asset that, for example, “Valium and Zanax are not legal for sale in pharmacies in Thailand, however seeing there is a strong demand for these drugs and profit to be made they can be found” (Anonymous, 2012)

A careful analysis of the evolution of the group in Thailand and their modal operandi reveals that there is a strong link between Thai law enforcement officials. According to an interviewer whose identity is not revealed for security reasons, the traffickers sometimes contribute money to settle the police officers especially around the Sukhumvit areas in Bangkok who leak information to them about any police raids in advance. Some even connive with them to plant drugs on their fellow innocent Nigerians in order to get money from them.

Besides, the police sometimes allow Nigerians who have finished serving their jail terms back on the streets on a kickback then pretend the culprit has been deported back to Nigeria (Anonymous, 2016). This of course constitute to huge disparity between the embassy figure (2000 Nigerians and the Thai immigration figure of 120,000 Nigerians in Thailand). Most Nigerian drug traffickers like most others were pushed to migrate from Nigeria by the push factors when they become victims to the agents (traffickers) who usually extort them due to the difficulties in securing a Thai



visa or landing into a job (within a foreseeable time frame) because of the social stigma from the negative public perception and institutional discrimination against Nigerians in Thailand.

To add salt to the fresh wounds, the harsh immigration policies against Nigerians that is motivated by institutional discrimination made it hard for most Nigerians to compete freely like other foreign nationals in Thailand in the job market or commercial sectors which eventually put their faith to survive into the hands of the traffickers, smugglers, and Thai and Nigerian corrupt officials making them more prone to trafficking of drugs, cyber-crimes and other financial criminal activities than ever as the only alternatives to survey. Unfortunately, while the obvious aforementioned push factors with huge direct impact on the vulnerable people become agreeably noted by researchers, scholars, and UN to constitute the key factors that lure people into drug related crimes, it is however sad that they have formed the basis for the architecture of the traditional measures against drug traffickers - zero-tolerance policies in Thailand that are counterproductive.

Unfortunately, the ineffectiveness of the measures against these groups have led to the existence of privileged law, negative media coverage about Nigerians activities in Thailand, and corrupt law enforcement officials (Thai police, prison warders, and immigration officials etc.). As if that was not enough, the inability of the previous Nigerian Missions regimes in Thailand (though substantial progress was made during ambassador Chudi Okoar's tenure) to care for its subjects and protect its citizens within the bounds of international law and in accordance with the Vienna conventions on consular relations etc. (Ndigwee, 2011).

Thus, a clear indication that the crops of the matter were either partially addressed or do they reflect in the policies used in the fight against the Nigerian drug syndicates in Thailand. The use of traditional punishment measures against these drug peddlers and their accomplice that targets all Nigerians rather than rethinking alternative sustainable and friendly preventive initiatives that involve direct collaboration and partnership with multiple state and non-state actors such as the Nigerian community in Thailand and their Thai wives to discourage more new people from jumping unto the bad wagon has compounded the whole problem to create other factors I termed "the survival forces" which emerged as a result of states failed efforts to address both the push and pull factors adequately due to the zero tolerance approach thereby pushing more vulnerable, gullible and wretched minded Nigerians to choose to crossover from the conventional world they perceived as is being socially constructed against them into the other world (the world of illegality or crime world) that is full of risks and high rewards but with little or no direct competition against them in bit to survive.

The survival factors or forces otherwise called "the greed factors" are the obviously acknowledged forces that are usually not given the desired weighting by authorities in the policy making process for some obvious reasons including bureaucratic bottleneck and red tape due to lack of political will to accept more responsibility (Fedotov, 2026). There are: the sub-culture that encourages value for social status especially among the Igbos and respect for and peer pressure, quick craving for material wealth due to pressure from home, direct or indirect accomplice of religious leaders with the criminals and misinterpretation of religious teachings by some (if not almost all) African churches to please these groups for financial gains, personal appeal to some popular religious and few powerful community leaders with links to the traffickers for spiritual guidance and protection (see papa Philip case at www...), and especially overreliance on the role of the middlemen – the smugglers, corrupt police and immigration officers



and gods fathers in Thailand (see.. case...) caused by the vacuum created by the harsh policies against Nigerians in Thailand.

In fact, Thai security officials' involvement in the drug business and other TOC activities across the country is not the first of its kind. For example, Williams attested that “ it has been well documented that the CIA, DEA, State Department and several other government agencies have been implicated in various drug trafficking enterprises since World War II, which were used to fund illegal covert activities in several countries. At the same time the government led the public discourse on the evils of drugs”. Politically, TOC and illicit drug money creates powerful drug lords with serious links to influential politicians and law enforcement officials who are domestically or internationally very keen to influence the political landscape in order to protect their illicit activities and make them flourish more which is usually felt directly or indirectly in most developing countries with Thailand and Nigeria not in exception. Though there has not been any evidence of direct Nigerian drug syndicates meddling in such capacity in Thailand, however, it transnational links and global outreach due to the globalization of demand for drug implies that it is near impossible to rule out financial links between them and other drug and TOC money globally.

As Fedotove noted in his speech during the recently concluded 8th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held on 17 October 2016, "For justice to be truly for all, we need to make better use of the tools provided by the Convention and protocols, work together, share responsibility and acknowledge that we can and must do more," said Mr. Fedotov. Referring to UN Convention and its three protocols on human trafficking, migrant smuggling and firearms.

In terms of human cost, it's very hard to list exactly the number of Nigerians who have died as a result of drug related activities due to lack of records. However there has been couple of death that the community has suspected to be linked to drug including a Nigerian who was alleged to have been pushed down from a skyscraper by Thai police in the process of trying the arrest him (Nigeria Embassy, 2015) plus over 500 Nigerians incarcerated with most of them repeated offender linked to drug related cases in Thailand. Also, there is a staggering number of about 13 young Thai women were condemned to death in China on drug charges With about 68 women condemned to death on drug charges in Thai jails all between 20 - 40 years of age with most of them linked to Africans drug syndicates which is notable dominated by the Nigerians drug traffickers. Fedie, and else convict who serve 8 years in Thai prisons and is back on the street again claims “The harsh condition in Thai prisons have also help to destroy most Nigerians by making even first offenders to become more determined to go back to the very business again as soon as they complete their terms in prison and are freed”, Fedie (in a private conversation, 2010). According anonymous (2014) while analysing the fate of the 13 Thai ladies concluded that “ But when one compares it with the appalling conditions of imprisonment in the Thai corrections system, the arbitrariness of judgment, the death penalties imposed on the word of police witnesses, and what can only be called, the vindictiveness of the treatment of drug related convicted prisoners, the condition of the 13 Thai women in Guangzhou is not the worst fate of all.” an anonymous (“13 Young Thai Women Condemned to Death in China”, 2014)

8. Trends

One of the major difficulties in understanding the trends and dealing with the Nigerian drug syndicates in Thailand is the complexity and blurry lines that exist between the migration, smuggling and trafficking as well as legality and illegality



nature of their activities in Thailand. Therefore, distinguishing the terms often interchangeably used without distinction becomes crucial to put it into a perspective in order to overcome the confusion and misunderstanding about their trends in Thailand and the hurdles in crafting a proactive approach to fight their activities.

Besides, the lack of concise universally accepted definition of what constitute transnational organized crime by all states (due to states sovereignty and the difference in states laws and international law) made it even more harder to manage the group activities without either occasional gross violation of human rights or adoption of approaches that will rather become part of the problem in the long run such as in the case in Thailand and Nigeria partly because there has been either little or no reflection of attention paid to the push and pull factors that remains a powerful force that continue to lure more Nigerians into these criminal activities in the measures used in fighting the crime.

According to the embassy of Nigeria in Bangkok, there are over 2000 documented Nigerians who are residing in the Kingdom while the Thai immigration puts the number of Nigerians in Thailand at about 120,000. (Embassy of Nigeria in Bangkok, 2015). What is not clear here is whether the rest of the number not known by the embassy are illegal migrant who entered the country clandestinely by avoiding or beating the border controls. But the growing number of Nigerians constantly arrested in Nigerian churches and on the streets of Thailand without valid visa also conformed to the fact that Nigerians migrants arrive the kingdom with genuine documents and then overstay their visa due to the very policies that made it hard for them to extend their visa here which rather than fixing the problem becomes the beginning of their illegality in Thailand.

Unlike in Europe and other parts of the world where illegal immigrant could still work and get paid under the table, the illegal status adds to the problems of lack of opportunities for Nigerians in Thailand and constitute a force designed by such policies that pushed them into the hands of the middlemen – smugglers- and traffickers – the drug lords - who have used it as a strength to exploit them and recruit the new comers into the dirty business by providing them with other alternatives means of survival. In its 2005 annual report on Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment: Transnational Organized Crime Threat on West Africa, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) acknowledged that the West Africa region (dominated by the Nigerian drug syndicates) has gained popularity as a major transit point for illegal narcotics trafficking such as heroin to Europe, and the United States; and methamphetamine destined for the South East Asia as well as a transit route for illicit proceeds flowing back to source countries with serious global implications (UNODC, 2005).

Their success in the use of networks is likely due to their abilities to maintain ties with established crime networks and share convergence points with Nigerian businesses, or and citizens with ethnic affiliations to launder or convert their illicit profits into legitimate funds and repatriate the funds to Nigerian via similar means and people across from the world.

For example, according to Hamilton (2016), Mazzitelli posit that “They are everywhere” referring to the Sinaloa Cartel global presence. He asserted that " They have the capacity to negotiate with Nigerian criminal groups, European criminal groups — they provide to everybody. They are businessmen." Comparing the cartel to a "multinational" corporation, and cited the "entrepreneurial spirit" of Mexican traffickers and the "technical edge" the Sinaloans have over their competitors as reasons for the group's global expansion. He went further to say that "In these last 15 years, they have transformed the illicit drug business into a worldwide business," he said.” (Hamilton, 2016).

Socially, the drug syndicates have infiltrated key secondary and tertiary institutions such as secondary schools (with a Nigerian Teacher arrested for drug peddling) and Universities with more and more students from Siam University



and Ramkhamheang University etc. apprehended for drug related crime consistently such as the case of Fidilis (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXoqsj9MJFY>, 2014). In fact, with the increasing incarceration of numerous Thai women and other nationals (both at home and abroad) who are constantly duped into the business via clever tricks like fake marriages and similar love scams (the uncountable arrest of Nigerians linked to TOC will blow anyone's mind by just typing the search term "Nigerians in Thailand") and drug related crimes in Nigerian or African churches in Thailand (Okafor, 2012), it appears there is no limit and respect for even key and revered institutions like the marriage and religious institutions in Thailand which has created a social stigma and stereotype on all Nigerians in Thailand.

Unfortunately, while the social circles and medias are often inundated with negative information about Nigerians, one thing any of these medias have either hardly or never done is rethinking about how such role combined with the lopsided policies against Nigerians have actually contributed to the creation of these criminals as the study revealed that most of these victims were only exposed to drugs while in Thailand due to the very harsh policies that have exposed them to more difficult conditions they were trying to run away from home.

In effort to salvage the situation, both states have to rally their organs against them unfortunately, using the traditional confrontational strategy that emphasizes the use of deterrence approach (favored by the realists) primarily focused on punishment of offenders, frustration of almost all Nigerians residing and entering the Kingdom to deter the criminals via harsh immigration policy, indiscriminate crackdown, negative media reports by state institutions and their loyalists with little or no commitment made to directly or indirectly embrace or partner with the Nigerian community (the good Samaritans on the ground who are often the victims of the harsh measures) in Thailand in the fight against these groups etc.

For years, the adoption and dwelling in such ineffective approach suggests to many Nigerians that the menace of these groups activities that has no respect for Thai and Nigerian sovereignty has unfortunately been politicalized to become moral grounds to justify the already existing negative public perception, institutional discrimination, stereotype, and racial profiling of other minorities and Africans in Thailand especially the Nigerians (Obianuju, 2015) without exceptions instead of making keen commitment to specifically study this group in-depth to better understand its trends so as to orchestrate better strategies and inclusive measures to better manage the situation in order to probably stamp it out, ameliorate or curb it to its barest minimum.

As a result, coordinated states efforts, policies and action plans to dislodge their activities unilaterally by Thai government via its state institutions, multilaterally by the United Nations' (UN) responsible organs such as the UNODC; regionally via ASEAN collaboration; bilaterally via the use of state institutions initiatives between Thai and Nigerian Ministry of foreign Affairs through diplomatic effort in conjunction with Royal Thai Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau (RTPNSB) and Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thai prisons Authority and Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) facilitated by the Embassy of Nigeria in Bangkok, Thailand and theirs in Abuja, Nigeria have all proven to either fail or yield minimal results.

UNDOC study on methamphetamine from West Africa to East Asia maintained that the amounts of drugs seized at the international airport in Lagos from those that tested positive for amphetamines in 2010 alone stood at (75 kg) and (45 kg) in 2011, acknowledging that while their notoriety for cocaine and heroin has fallen since 2008, their involvement in methamphetamine has however increased since 2010. It blamed part of the problems to the responsible authorities' inaccurate report of illicit drugs as "psychotropic substances" when unsure due to the lack the technology to distinguish between certain banned substances.



Consequently, the Nigerian drug syndicate and other related TOC activities such as the internet scam, trafficking in person etc. in Thailand continuous to resist any signs of suppression and have degenerated into a grave concern with catastrophic impact that has undermined the diplomatic progress and good dividends derived from this cordial friendship. Although there has been conflicting evidence of how many Nigerians are in Thai prisons exactly. However, recent data shows that Nigeria remains the only country with the highest number of foreign prisoners in Thailand from 7th position with 94 prisoners in 2009 (www.thaiprisonlife.com, 2012) to 1st position with over 500 incarcerated inmates in 2014/2015 according to Nigeria's ambassador to Thailand, Excellency Mr. Chudi Okafor (Akanfe, 2014) despite the fact that about 395 to 492 inmates (Thai department of correction, 2014), with about 237 of them convicted for drug related crimes were reported to have been released on prisoner's transfer treaty between 2003 through 2012 when the program was halted for alleged irregularities by Nigerian prisons authority after prisoners who benefited from the treaty and were supposed to have been serving their remainder prison terms in Nigeria were spotted and some arrested in the same drug related crimes again in Thailand by Thai authorities (ambassador Okafor, 2015)

The frustration and lack of recommended progress made in fighting these groups have in fact stigmatized Nigerians (especially those residing in Thailand) as weirdoes and savory by Thai authorities and in its public eyes due to the dire security, social, political, and economic threat cum unprecedented human cost of its TOC activities on both states with mostly good Nigerian citizens caught in the crossfire and with occasional hurdles on the smooth flow of diplomatic progress of Nigeria Embassy in Thailand that has often resulted into some sort of diplomatic hiccups or disdain (if you like) between Nigerian Embassy in Bangkok and Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Thai embassy in Abuja by occasionally refusing to give official request (letters) from the Nigerian embassy in Bangkok the full weight of recognition it deserves and vice versa which I am a living witness.

9. Conclusion and Recommendation

Data collected and analyzed in this study conclude that the implementation and enforcement of the zero tolerance measures and approaches against these groups are deficient and unpopular in the public eyes and contributes to why even the agencies vested with the responsibility to fight drugs trafficking usually compromised the system which is why they have been partially effective in the fight despite their inadequate staffing strength, funding, and lack of necessary equipment and expertise needed to deal with these criminals effectively.

As a result of the challenges and negative perception from the increase incarceration of Nigerians, and the growing strength of their operations and networks in Thailand, innocent Nigerians are constantly targeted and expose to harsh conditions that rather encourages illegality to survive, so to say, with huge social-economic and security impacts on Thailand while ignoring the root cause of the problem and the need for rethinking about new and proactive strategies in the drug war.

In light of the findings the following recommendations could be useful at various level: Urgent extensive international, domestic, and regional co-operation among state and non-state actors in the fight against the Nigerian transnational drug syndicates and their networks in Thailand is a necessity and calls for a rethinking about the present confrontational or zero tolerance drug policies embraced by Thai and Nigerian authorities that have become futile and part of the problem itself. To achieve that, Thailand need to urgently embark on drug policing and judicial systems structural reforms that emphasizes full observance and respect of human rights, more active civil society participation,



and constant review of the measures in place to ascertain to their effectiveness including the engagement of the Nigerian community in Thailand in the fight.

Thus, the need to not over emphasis further initiatives and measures that support the militarization and excessive policing that focuses on violence crackdown as it builds a culture of impunity, corruption, extortion, abuse of human rights, and sometimes direct accomplice of Thai security officials (who are rather entrusted to fight the evil) in the illicit activities which only protect the traffickers while innocent Nigerians on Thai street walk around with the negative stigma that has subjected Nigerians in Thailand to constant fear, negative public perception, and institutional discrimination etc. Thailand should rather adopt co-operation mechanisms that strengthen both countries' efforts to increase the accountability, transparency, and professionalism of their law enforcement and other relevant institutions especially the Thai Police, Immigration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Abuja in their dealings with Nigerians and Africans as a whole, combat corruption especially among government officials and assist in the implementation of reforms to their correction system and judicial institutions.

Above all, Thailand should always consider the fact that most traffickers become victims of the push and pull factors by simply being born naturally into these societies with little or nothing they could do to change such destiny designed by nature. As such, structural economic, security cum immigration policy changes that help legitimized legitimate Nigerians' efforts to maintain their livelihoods through licit activities is a necessity to curb the violence crackdown and institutional discriminatory policies (which welcome and strengthened the traffickers but prevent legitimate Nigerians from visiting Thailand while those residing in Thailand are constantly exposed to the very factors that lure the criminals into the illicit activities) against Nigerians which could help to restore hope and trust between the community and state institutions in this struggle to avoid the occasional provocation of social unrest that demands unduly use of forces and policing as usual.

On the part of Nigeria, as a great nation, it must realized that the era of unethical-state-irresponsibility (failure to fully care for its citizens both at home and abroad as enshrined in the constitution that unite all the different kingdoms into one union as a nation) when its citizens are treated like a rented car that nobody cares to watch should be gone. As such, it should sensitized its subjects and assume more responsibility for its citizens by prioritizing efforts to address those prevalent push and pull factors that are making its citizens prone to these illicit activities in their large numbers in Thailand and globally by recognizing some of the notable deficiencies in managing drug problems among its institutions and citizens to enhance Nigerian law enforcement efforts to fight illicit drug trafficking.

To the embassy of Nigerian in Thailand, although the era of Ambassador Chudi Okafor that expires in 2015 has made good progress via the use of the image laundry campaign, more need to be done to sensitize its subjects at home and in Thailand at all levels. Most importantly, as Nigeria and Thailand continue to strive to maintain their friendship based on mutual respect and benefit irrespective of the constant distraction by the Nigerian drug and other TOC syndicates activities in Thailand, Nigerians and Thais alike are very weary of the existing measures and are looking forward to seeing Thai-Nigeria future anti-drug co-operation shift in the right direction to embrace helping measures rather than the status quo – the zero tolerance approach pioneered and favoured by UN -.that are discriminatory, not co-operative, excludes observance of human rights, lacks any consultation with the Nigerian civil society (the Nigerian community in Thailand), leads to further incarceration of Nigerians, and disproportionate use



of force and policing that will continue to cost both countries hugely to enforced without actually fixing the problem itself.

Finally, unless urgent action is taken to change the status quo, the fight against these groups in Thailand will continue to be futile as it benefits only the drug syndicates and their global networks who constantly explore new options to circumvent law enforcement, corrupt state officials, infiltrate key institutions to weaken them without respect for state sovereignty and territorial frontiers while they remain in business at the detriment of both states and their good citizens who unfortunately become constant victims of the ineffective zero tolerance initiatives and confrontational government policies in the war against drug.

References

- Anonymous, (2012). My Bangkok Anabolic Steroids Story. Retrieved from <https://www.stickmanbangkok.com/readers-submissions/2012/12/my-bangkok-anabolic-steroids-story/>
- BONNER, RAYMOND (1993). Poland Becomes a Major Conduit for Drug Traffic. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/1993/12/30/world/poland-becomes-a-major-conduit-for-drug-traffic.html?pagewanted=all>
- Caught in the act, Nigerian man caught with drugs in his anus. Retrieved from <http://www.samuitimes.com/caught-act-nigerian-man-caught-drugs-anus/>
- Channels Television (2014). Drug Trafficking: Over 500 Nigerians in Thai Prisons. Retrieved from <https://www.channelstv.com/2014/07/31/drug-trafficking-over-500-nigerians-in-thai-prisons/>
- Erhun, W.O., Babalola, O.O., and Erhun, M.O. (2001). Drug Regulation and Control in Nigeria: The Challenge of Counterfeit Drugs. *Journal of Health & Population in Developing Countries*; 2001, 4(2):23-34. Retrieved from http://www.nigeriapharm.com/Library/Drug_regulation.pdf.
- Felson, Marcus and Clarke, Ronald V. (1998). Opportunity makes the thief. *Police Research Series*. Paper 98. Retrieved from <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/fprs98.pdf>
- Hamilton, Keegan. (2016). The golden age of drug trafficking: how meth, cocaine, and heroin move around the world. Retrieved from <https://news.vice.com/article/drug-trafficking-meth-cocaine-heroin-global-drug-smuggling>
- Hart, Beth. (2015). Nigerian drug baron duped models into being drug mules. Retrieved from <https://www.naij.com/514663-photos-see-nigerian-drug-baron-duped-models-drug-mules-exposing-risk-death-penalty.html>
- Human Rights Watch (2008). Thailand's 'war on drugs'. *International Harm Reduction Association and Human Rights Watch briefing paper*. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/03/12/thailands-war-drugs>
- Klantschnig, G. (2015). The politics of drug control in Nigeria: exclusion, repression and obstacles to policy change. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. Retrieved from <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>
- Nollygrio (2014). Thailand arrests Nigerian with drug hidden in his anus. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFjt8dFYEdQ>
- The Richest (2016). 7 Police Officers Caught Breaking The Law. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ab8pYqhSKbw>.



- Okafor, Emmanuel Nweke (2014). Nigerian Community Association Thailand: A Revival Mission. Retrieved from <http://nigeriamasterweb.com/blog/index.php/2014/11/26/nigerian-community-association-thailand-a-revival-mission>
- Oyegbade, Abdul-Hameed (2016). Nigeria: NDLEA Seeks Support of Osun Residents Against Illicit Drug. Retrieved from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201607060139.html>
- Radio 419 MegaHertz. (2011). EXPOSED 419 Nigerian Crime Lord in Thailand's Nigeria Embassy: Embassy officials and community leaders alleged involvement in crime in Thailand. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsV9FyMvrac>
- Radio 419 MegaHertz (2014). Nigerian International Heroin/Meth Dealer Busted in Bangkok: Nigerians drug dealers infiltrate Thai universities. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXoqsj9MJFY>
- Radio 419 MegaHertz (2014). Papa Philip Criminal Cult Leader ARRESTED in Bangkok: Nigerian drug syndicates infiltrate the Nigerian churches in Bangkok. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pCCAfmaBVA>
- US Department of State Office of the historian. Milestones: 1830–1860. The Opening to China Part I: the First Opium War, the United States, and the Treaty of Wangxia, 1839–1844. Retrieved from <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/china-1>
- UNODC, World Drug Report (2005). UN Myanmar Country profile. Retrieved from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/myanmar/myanmar_country_profile_2005.pdf
- UNODC. (2013). Transnational Organized Crime in West Africa. Retrieved from https://www.unodc.org/documents/toc/Reports/TOCTAWestAfrica/West_Africa_TOC_METH.pdf
- UNODC. (2017). Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa. The threat to stability and development (with special reference to Guinea-Bissau). Retrieved from https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-andanalysis/west_africa_cocaine_report_2007-12_en.pdf
- U.S Department of State. (2011). Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs: 2011 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) Report. Retrieved from <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2011/vol1/156363.htm>
- Winn, Patrick. (2016). Thailand is moving closer to decriminalizing meth. Retrieved from <http://www.pri.org/stories/2016-09-07/thailand-moving-closer-decriminalizing-meth>