



## **A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE'S INVOLVEMENT IN SOME SELECTED UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS IN AFRICA**

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**ABSTRACT:** *It is posited that there has been a great change in various forms of global conflict and in the rapid international community response to them. Humanitarian and human right principles have strongly been invoked to justify the uses of force in both internal and interstate war. It is also certain that in the last decade, numerous conflicts were settled by means of negotiations, vis a vis. The Nigerian police force is a security system of the Nigerian nation established to combat crimes at all levels as well as to ensure the security of lives and properties of the citizenry. However, the position of Nigeria in the West African sub-region, (big brother) has propelled government to involve the security outfits in settling regional conflicts and peace keeping activities. Despite their flaws and weaknesses, they, however, had reasonable impacts on the development and growth of the West African sub-region. This research however examines the various roles, contributions and challenges of the Nigerian Police Force in some selected peace keeping missions in a bid to maintain a good neighbourliness policy. The research relied on both primary and secondary sources of data with a thorough usage of analytical and descriptive methods of analyses.*

**KEYWORDS:** Nigeria Police Force, United Nations, Peacekeeping Missions, Nigeria, Africa

### **INTRODUCTION**

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that the primary function of the police force is the prevention and detection of crimes, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and shall perform such other military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them under constitution or any other Act. (N. A. Cap. 359). Since independence in 1960, the Nigeria Police Force has been performing other responsibilities aside the traditional maintenance of law and order. Hence, this study focuses on the involvement of the Nigeria Police Force in UN peacekeeping operations in the selected missions in Africa between 1960 and 2010.

### **Peace-Keeping and Its Nature**

The term "Peace" used in relation to nations has been discussed by many as a state of absence of war or freedom from civil disorder. However, the absence of war does not signify peace, Richard Smoke and Willis Harman in their book "path to peace" described peace as a "state of harmony, mutual regard and indeed active cooperation among groups or nations involved and the world at large". (Richard and Harman, 1987)



They further suggest nine ways by which peace can be achieved as follows: removing the source of the threat to peace, deference, threatening a potential enemy with unacceptable punishment should the enemy begins a war; Diplomacy of peace negotiations, Mediations to avert war; Disarmament and arms control; eliminating the fundamental causes of war; Alternative defense by employing methods that would discourage any aggressions, Non-violent resistance, that is, engaging in systematic non-violent activities by the civil public to avoid conflict; Alternative to conflict, and changing attitude and perception of people about war. (Richard and Harman, 1987: 1)

Traditionally, peace keeping was described in the United Nations circle as an operation involving military personnel but without enforcement powers, established by the United Nations to help maintain or restore peace in areas of conflict. (Doma, 1995) The above definitions could be criticized for its limited perception of peace-keeping which it ties only to military whereas, it is a notorious fact that it is not only military that is involved in peace-keeping operations. The Nigeria Police Force has been active in peace keeping operations since their first outing in 1960 in the then Congo later on Zaire and now Democratic Republic of Congo. The Force had been to many places with its senior counterpart (the Nigeria Army) and has performed creditably to the glory of the Nation. Nigeria Police Officers had served in: - Congo (Ahiabike, 2003). Angola, Somalia, Namibia Western Sahara and Mozambique (Atere, 2014).

### **Nigeria Police Operation in Congo (ONUC)**

Congo lies in the heart of Africa and surrounded by nine other African countries. The country was granted independence by Belgium on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1960 after half a century of paternalistic rule. Lefuer is of the opinion that two weeks after the declaration of independence, Congo was thrown into crisis and threatened with secessions (Lefuer, 1965: 2). A month prior to independence, the first general election conducted on May 31, 1960 placed political powers in the hands of the National Congolese Movement of Patrice Lumumba who was elected *premiere* on June 21, 1960. He formed a coalition government with Mr. Kasauubu as President.

Having a diverse population of 13.8 million people from more than 200 different ethnic groups at independence, there was no sense of national identity to sustain a viable national government in Congo. The existing political parties in Congo were tribally based and run by untrained men because Belgium, their colonial masters, did not deem it necessary to politically educate the Congolese. Moreover, the Congolese lacked experience in civil administration as she had only 30 University graduates at independence. Over 9000 top to middle administrative positions were still occupied by Belgians even after independence. The aftermaths of this were inexperience, ignorance and irresponsibility that surrounded the leaders of the infant republic from the outset. (Lefuer, 1965: 3)

However, the military and police forces became security threats in the country instead of agents of defense and security. During this period, Moise Tshomber declared the succession of the Katangua province. Belgium intervened, sending several of her troops into Congo, under the pretext of securing her nationals, but more probably with an eye on securing the mineral rich Katanga province to her bosom. The government, under the leadership of President Joseph Kasagunbu and Patrice Lumumba, overwhelmed and by the instability or crisis called on the United Nations for assistance to restore peace, order and security, and also



get Belgium to withdraw her troops from Congo. (Doma, 1995) Within few days, the first contingents of peace keeping force arrived Congo on July 15, 1960 to commence ONUC mission. Nigeria was invited among other members, to contribute troops to the United Nations operation in the Congo (ONUC). ONUC at its peak had a military and civilian strength of 19,828. (UNPK, 1996)

The mandate given to the ONUC mission as the mission dictated was to:

- i. Ensure the withdrawal of Belgian forces from Congo;
- ii. Assist the Congolese government to maintain law and order, secure and maintain the territorial integrity and political independence of the Congo;
- iii. Provide the Congolese government with technical assistance
- iv. Prevent the occurrence of civil war;
- v. Ensure the removal from Congo of all foreign military, paramilitary, mercenaries and advisory personnel not under the United Nations command. (Nwolise, 1999: 124)

However, as Nigeria was yet to attain her independence until October 1, 1960, her troops did not leave for Congo until 1960, that is, after independence. Inyang, a former Inspector General of Police opines that; the crisis in Congo afforded Nigeria the opportunity to project her image abroad. The first police contingent of 500 officers and men arrived Congo in 1960 and took over from Ghanaian contingent who was withdrawn from the ONUC following Kwame Nkrumah, president of Ghana's disagreement over the United States dominated UN policy in the Congo. (Etim, 1996: 65)

Under the command of Mr. Louis Edet, 5000 Nigeria Police personnel served in the Congo fewer than two different contingent commanders Mr. Louis Edet, initially and later Mr. Brishe, both of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) rank.

In appreciation of the envoys' brilliant accomplishment in hold sway at the port of Matadi, Monsier Rene Bavassa, the Chief of Protocol in Congolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs commanded the officers by remarking thus;

... it is necessary to hasten to say that our leaders have not been deceived in placing their choice on these brave men. These policemen are polite, impeccable and helpful. (Gbor, 2003: 86)

In the words of Mr. Loius Edet, the contingent commander in ONUC mission in Congo states that;

A very quick-witted Police Corporal evaded arrest by a clever manoeuvre. Whilst on traffic point duty, he was accosted by two Congolese soldiers who asked him to leave his post and go into their car. When the corporal refused, they threatened him with guns. With calculated indifference, the corporal removed the copper finger ring he was wearing, spat vigorously on it, muttered aloud



some incantations and he fixed a fierce stare on the soldiers. The effect was dramatic. They promptly disappeared into their car and raced off, apparently for their lives. They had no doubt thought they were being charmed with Nigerian juju (Dan-Azumi, 1998: 24).

The Nigeria policemen in ONUC mission in Congo relied on the whistle, tear gas and buttons to control crowds and carry out the onerous duty in the crisis prone Congo. As a result of the performance of Nigerian police envoy in the Congo mission and the respect with which the police officers were regarded, the last contingent was prevailed upon to remain behind when ONUC mission ended and other contingents were being pulled out. More so, five Nigerian police officers were appointed to assist in the establishment of a police college in Congo. (Dan-Azumi, 1998: 25)

Nigeria police contingents handled their duties maturely, impartially, professionally and in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the UN. Their outstanding performance in the Congo so pleased and impressed the Congolese officials that at the end of the crisis, some members of the Nigerian contingents were invited to remain in Congo under the United Nations Technical Assistance Board (UNTAB). The Nigeria police in peace keeping mission in Congo did not leave when the ONUC left on June 30, 1964, but rather left at the end of December 1965.

Again, in appreciation of the outstanding performance of the Nigeria Police contingent, the United Nations decorated its personnel with medals. And a valedictory message of appreciation was sent by Mr. David Owen on behalf of the UN secretary general to the Nigeria police as cited by Doma Dan Azumi:

The Secretary General of the United Nations has asked me to convey to the Commanding Officer of the Nigerian Police contingent the expression of his gratitude for the invaluable services rendered by the Nigeria police in the Congo. During the most trying times of the United Nations operations in the Congo and later on, under the administration of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, the Nigerian police contingent has always stood as a pillar of strength, courage and discipline. It has served in a spirit of dedication to cause of peace, and international cooperation. It is with a feeling of deep regret and sincere appreciation that we bid fare well to the brave men of the Nigeria Police. (Dan-Azumi, 1998: 25)

### **Gains from Congo Operation**

The peace-keeping operation provided Nigerian contingent with the necessary milieu to apply what they had learned in Police College. They benefited from the exposure to new international environment, which enabled them to learn new things and make friends. They were fully paid. They also derived satisfaction from being of use to our African brothers and sisters in search for peace, security and order. The Congo mission helped the new



independent state to place her on the map of the world, and in the mind of humanity as a state of peace towers and peace keepers.

### **Nigeria Police Peace Keeping in Namibia (UNTAG)**

Namibia, a large and sparsely populated country on Africa's South West coast, has enjoyed stability since gaining independence in 1990 after a long struggle against rule by South Africa. In 1968, the United Nations general assembly after series of resolutions further adopted a resolution that renamed the country Namibia. As the United Nations was taking steps to end the administration of South Africa over South West Africa (SWA) nationalist movements such as the Ovamboland People's Organization (OPO), South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), South West African National Union (SWANU) and People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) emerged to oppose and resist the mandate of south Africa over Namibia at the same time agitating for independence. While reacting to the agitation for independence, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 435 empowering the secretary general to establish (UNTAG) to ensure early independence for Namibia through free and fair united nations supervised elections. (Ifejika, 1989: 2)

### **The mandate: United Nations Transition Assistant Group in Namibia (UNTAG)**

The mandate given to the UNTAG Peace Keeping Operations in Namibia commenced in April 1989 to 1990 and was to: ensure early independence of Namibia through free and fair elections under the UN; the end of hostile acts in Namibia; confines troops to base and ensure ultimate withdrawal of South Africa; ensure release of political prisoners; ensure return of Namibia refugees; repeal all discriminatory laws; and ensure the maintenance of law and order impartially. (UNPK, 1996) The Police was fully involved in the formation of UNTAG mission from the out-set. The Force was represented by Mr. Ifejika, E.N and Mr. Bello Ado led Police Officers Contingent from Nigeria to Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia on April 29, 1989. Mr Bello Ado, was a Superintendent of Police Officer while Mr. Ifejika was a Deputy Commissioner of Police, who along with Colonel Klass Roots of the Netherlands earlier drew up the operational procedure for UNTAG at the UN Headquarter in March, 1989. (Nwolise, 1999)

As one of the pioneer staff of UNTAG, Mr. Ifejika was quick to access the political atmosphere of the country and discovered that the northern part of Namibia where 60% of the population, mainly blacks lived. The blacks were massively killed by South African Defense Forces and suffering in the hands of the minority German and African populations. (Gbor, 2003) The deployment and performance of Nigerian police personnel among the blacks in the north had a great ideological impact on the psyche of black Namibians, who saw hollows in the white men's long standing oppressive slogan in the area that black people were only fit to perform the jobs of gardeners, farm hands, newspaper vendors, domestic servants etc. The blacks in Namibia saw a black man Mr. Ifejika (Leader of the Nigerian contingent and the second in command of UNTAG civil police) barking out orders to white and black peace keepers alike. All these were seeing by white Namibians with disbelief. Thus, the presence and role of Nigerian police personnel inspired confidence in the black people of Namibia, and increased their zeal to participate in the elections and throw off the colonial yoke at all lost.





Mr. Ifejika notes that;

My posting as the 2i/c UNTAG civpol, giving out orders to whites and blacks alike, representing the UNTAG at various conferences and contributing in the discussions etc was greeted by some white Namibians with disbelief. (Ifejika, 1989)

The Nigerian contingent returned home in 1990 when peace security and stability were more curtailed and the government had stabilized.

### **Gains from Namibia Operations**

The then apartheid government in Namibia waged serious propaganda against the Nigerian contingent. This purposely was to discredit the force and Nigeria, intimidate the personnel as well as to reduce their influence and role in order to create room for racist interests to be served. The propaganda sort to impress on the minds of Namibians that Nigerian police officers were there to take their wives and imposed UNTAG as permanent government. For a society of largely unlettered and uncritical people at that time, this propaganda, if not countered, could have tarnished the image of the peace keepers' forces. The peacekeepers and UNTAG worked hard to win the people's confidence through public education and enlightenment. As quoted in Ekoko,

Ifejika stated that;

We worked under very difficult conditions. The local police did everything to frustrate, intimidate and alienate us. Our lives were placed on the fire line. The security arm of the local police was on our trail. They followed us everywhere we went. (Ifejika, 1989)

Again, apart from the financial gains that improved the police personnel from the UN allowances and the exposure to new conditions, those who did not suffer any casualty felt glad for being their brothers' keepers. The exemplary performance of the police monitors in UNTAG made Mr. S. Fanning, the Civpol Commissioner to describe the Nigerian contingent during their medal presentation ceremony as the best civpol out of the 25 other police contingents that operated in Namibia under the auspices of United Nations Transition Group in Namibia (UNTAG). (The Guardian, 1993: 3)

The Civpol Commissioner was so impressed with the excellent performance of DSP Solomon Aranse who was adjudged the best among the 6 Civpol Austric Commanders. DSP Solomon Aranse succeeded SP Bello Ado as Civpol District Commander of Otjiwarongo. (Dan-Azumi, 1998: 32) In addition, 24 members of the Nigeria police contingent got special commendation for good behavior, while 180 officers and men were decorated with United Nations medals. (IISS. 1991) As in Congo mission, members of the Nigeria contingent in Namibia accomplished their mandate creditably.

More so, Nigeria was fortunate not to have suffered any fatality or casualty in the mission despite the 19 casualties made up of 11 from the military, 4 from Civpol, 3 from foreign



civilians and 1 local staff. Nigeria did not record any casualty when the mission ended in June 1990. (Dan, Azumi, 1998).

### **Nigeria Police Peace Keeping Mission in Angola**

Angola can be said to be the greatest African victim of the fallouts of the East-West cold war. Located in Southern African with a population of about 9,803,576 and a land area of 1,246,700 sqkm, the country experienced several years of warfare in her struggle for independence from Portugal. Since her independence in 1975, civil war had become the norm as war escalated between rival groups the National Front (then base in Zaire), the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) backed by the defunct Soviet Union and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) aided by the US and South Africa. (Encyclopedia, 2013) However, an agreement was signed in December 1988 between Angola, Cuba, and South African for phased withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. (Encyclopedia, 2013). The United Nations decided to send a peace keeping mission to Angola, to verify the redeployment northwards, as well as the phase and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from the country. The UN thus sent the first United Nations verification mission in Angola (UNAVEMI) to Angola. The Nigeria police did not participate in this peace keeping operation until 1991 when the United Nations verification mission II (UNAVEMII) was established to verify the signed cease fire agreement as set out in the peace accords, monitor the Angola peace as set out in the protocol of Estoril; supervise the disarming and demobilization of the warring factions and supervise the conduct of general elections. UNAVEM II required the services of civil police; and the UN called for these. (United Nations, 1996: 20-23)

Therefore, a team of one Inspector of Police and eleven non-commissioned officers (NCOs) were dispatched to Angola on October 10, 1991. Their stay in the country was short-lived because of the intensity of the war that broke out leading to the temporary withdrawal of peace keepers. Nigeria contingent resumed sending peace keepers to Angola with the establishment of UNAVEM III Mission. Since then a large number of Nigeria police monitors have served in the mission.

It was recorded that UNAVEM III Mission was the only mission where the Nigeria Police have casualties since the force commenced the act of peace keeping in the 1870s. (Dan-Azumi) A Deputy Superintendent of police had his left arm amputated on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1996 following a gunshot attack on him by local Angolan policemen over a fatal motor accident driven by the amputated civpol which left their colleagues dead. One year later, the force also lost one Superintendent who reportedly died from acute cardio pulmonary (heart) failure on December 16, 1997. (Dan-Azumi, 1998)

These incidents have not in any way discouraged the Nigeria Police monitor as they have continued to wax stronger with their splendid performance in the mission. One interesting outcome of the Angola mission is the introduction of female police officers in UNAVEM II by the Nigeria Police. (Dan-Azumi, 1998)

### **Nigeria Police Peace Keeping in Western Sahara**

Western Sahara is a disputed territory in the Maghreb region of North Africa, bordered by Morocco to the north, Algeria to the northeast, Mauritania to the east and south and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The population is just over 500,000 and the largest city in



Western Sahara. It was occupied by Spain in late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Western Sahara has been on the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories since 1963 after Moroccan demand. In 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted its first resolution on Western Sahara, asking Spain to decolonize the territory. (United Nations General Assembly, 2016)

In 1976, when the colonial master left, the territory was partitioned between Morocco and Mauritania with Morocco having the northern 2/3 and Mauritania having the southern 1/3. The POLISARIO which proclaimed a government in exile in the same year testified its guerrilla war against the countries and in August 1979, Mauritania gave up all her claims over the territory due to pressure from POLISARIO guerrillas. With the withdrawal of Mauritania, Morocco moved her forces swiftly and occupied the vacated 1/3 thus forcefully taking total administrative control of the territory. (United Nations, 1995)

In 1988, Morocco and POLISARIO agreed to a new peace term designed by the then UN Secretary General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar. The Secretary-General had in the peace plan proposed a cease fire and a referendum. The issue to be addressed as agreed by Morocco and the POLISARIO was for the people to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

However, both sides accepted the plan and the referendum was scheduled for 1990. In pursuit of this plan, a UN Technical Commission was set up and the members arrived ELAGIUN on July 23, 1990 for a tour of all the relevant areas, and to affect the necessary ground work for the referendum. (Nwolise, 1999) The UN Security Council on May 24, 1991 resolved to send a peace mission to the territory with the name United Nations for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), under a Canadian commander 1,700 military observers, 300 Civpol (Civil Police), and 1000 Civilians. Its mandate includes, Monitor and maintain a cease fire, verify the reduction of Moroccan troops in Western Sahara, ensure the confinement of Moroccan and POLISARIO troops to designated areas, implement the repatriation programme, ensure the release of political prisoners, identify and register voters and organize a free and fair referendum. To build up the MINURSO, Nigeria was invited in 1991 to send troops, including a contingent of police officers and men, to monitor and maintain the cease fire while paving way for the referendum. (Dan-Azumi, 1998)

Nigeria dispatched her police contingent under the command of Mr. S. Dauda (SP) MINURSO began its peace mission from September 6, 1991. Since 1991, 16 Nigeria Police Officers and men have participated in the operation. Another set of officers and men left Nigeria in July 1999, under the leadership of M.T Albasu (ASP) for the mission.

The Nigeria Police Force contingent faced problems with the cold weather and difficulty of food acquisition. These problems notwithstanding, the police contingent has been performing its duties excellently and has so far been rated the best contingent. The excellent performance of Nigeria Police monitors in the SADR in their collective and individual capacities led to the declaration of Corporal Muhammad Lawal as MINURSO "Civpol of the month" when the then UN secretary General Dr. Boutros Ghali visited the territory and personally handed Mr. Lawal his letter of commendation which partly reads.

It is our pleasure to name Cpl. Muhammad Lawal of the Nigeria Police Force as our Civpol officer of the month. It is very difficult at times to tell people, especially





important people, that they have to wait outside the identification centre until they are cleared to enter but Cpl Muhammad Lawal has done this effectively and diplomatically. He has also been very kind and helpful to the old and informs people who have come to be identified. We congratulate you, Cpl Muhammad Lawal, on your professionalism. (Nwolise, 1999)

As at 2004, identification and thrashing out of controversial issues were still being carried out while the Nigeria Police contingent member returned home to their families and the nation. (Dan-Azumi, 1998)

### **Mozambique**

In 1994, Nigeria was invited to send police officers and men for the United Nations operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ). Based on this invitation, a contingent of 40 Nigeria Police Force Officers were dispatched to Mozambique under the leadership of Yusuf Atiku on August 30, 1994 to assist UNOMOZ in the maintaining of the UN sponsored election. The contingent operated in Maputo. The officers-maintained law and order, carrying out patrols and guards as well as monitoring the elections. Along with the Civpol monitors from other countries, the Nigerian contingent saw to security matters throughout the elections, especially, the presidential election held in December 1994.

After the election, the contingent returned home in 1994. 153 officers and men of the Nigeria police force participated in the peace keeping operation in which the Nigeria police contingent was rated the best.

Sequel to the outstanding performance of the Nigeria Police contingent which was rated the best, 26 out of 40 officers were redeployed to Yugoslavia straight from Mozambique and finally on December 9, 1994 the President elect, Mr. Chissano was sworn into office as President and his assumption of office ended the tour of duty of UNOMOZ, which withdrew from Mozambique in January, 1995. (Nwolise, 1999)

### **Nigeria Police Force in Somalia**

The only country in Africa which the UN has declared as a nation without a government is Somalia. (Nwolise, 1999:146) As cited by Doma Dan Azumi, the defeat of the Somalian dictator, says Barre in January 1991 by clan based military movements, heralded the struggle for power among the various faction leaders in Somalia. Series of conference were held to broker peace in the country thus giving birth to an interim government with Ali Mahdi Muhammad of United Somalia Congress (USC) faction as the president. He had hardly settled down for the business of governance when Mohammed Farah Adiid, the Chairman and war monger General who led the military onslaught that finally sacked Barre's regime challenged his presidency. As a result, intense fighting between Ali Mahdi and Aidid broke out and spread all over Somalia with new factions springing up. This crisis prevented farming and grazing of livestock a situation which resulted in famine in 1992. (Dan-Azumi, 1998)

In spite of the general insecurity in Somalia, the UN and NGOs continued their humanitarian relief efforts to reach the over 5 million people threatened by hunger and disease. But with the escalation of the conflict, thereby making the delivery of humanitarian efforts exceedingly



difficult, the UN agencies and NGOs were forcefully withdrawn from Somalia. (UN, 1995) However, as the crisis continued, the United Nations, OAU (later AU), League of Arab States (LAS) and the organization of Islamic Conference negotiated for peace with the factions. Their efforts culminated into the establishment of UNOSOM under the leadership of an Algerian Diplomat, Mohammed Sahnoun. (Dan-Azumi, 1998)

In December 1992, the UN accepted the offer made by the US to send her troops to Somalia in order to safeguard the delivery of food to millions of Somalia. Opposition to the US led operation by Somalia among other reasons led to the decision of the UN to send its own peace keepers to Somalia. Moreover, UN members contributed troops and policemen to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) which took over control of the relief effort from the US on May 4, 1993. (Mary, 2013)

With the killing of UNOSOM personnel by people who were being assisted to live in peace and harmony, and with no visible sign that the warlords were prepared for peace, the UN pulled out of its UNOSOM in March 1995. The Nigeria police contingent however returned home in 1994 while war continued between the warlords and between clans.

Thus, for UNOSOM and the Nigerian police contingents to Somalia, it was not only a bad outing but a very sad one, a failure propelled by unmitigated greed and ambition for power on the part of Somalia warlords who have never stopped to think of the life, security and welfare of their people or the fate of their bleeding country on their power game. Again, in 2010, Nigeria deployed its first batch of police officers to Somalia. The first batch of individual police officers (IPOs) arrived to serve under the auspices of AMISON. The West African country also deployed Formed Police Unit (FPU) to AMISON based in Mogadishu. An FPU team comprises 140 police unit, the first to be deployed by the African union. The FPU within Somalia played a crucial role in ensuring improved security in the liberated areas through joint patrols with the Somalia Police Force (SPF), assisting in public order management and provision of VIP escorts as well as providing protection to AU individual police officers (IPO) to co-locate with the SPF in a main Police Station as possible. Members of the Nigerian FPU (Formed Police Unit) performed in a medal ceremony on April in Mogadishu, Somalia.

## CONCLUSION

Nigeria police contingents handled their duties maturely, impartially, professionally and in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the UN. Their outstanding performances in the missions Peacekeeping so pleased and impressed the officials of the UN, OAU/AU as well as other west African sub regional countries that at the end of the each mission for example, some members of the Nigerian contingents were invited to remain in Congo under the United Nations Technical Assistance Board (UNTAB). The Nigeria Police in peace keeping mission in Congo did not leave when the ONUC left on June 30, 1964, but rather left at the end of December 1965.

Again, in appreciation of the outstanding performances of the Nigeria Police contingents, the United Nations decorated Nigerian personnel with medals. And a valedictory message of appreciation was sent by Mr. David Owen on behalf of the UN secretary general to the Nigeria police.



Similarly, the Nigerian contingent to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMOSOM), provided policing for the mission, gathered at Mogadishu stadium where medals were awarded to police for their service while in Somalia. Nigeria was the second of such unit to arrive in Somalia after the Uganda Formed Unit, and then about 200 police officers were serving with AU police in Somalia comprising 140 FPU, 59 IPO's and one senior leadership team officer Rex Dundun as the chief of staff of the AMSON Police component. Six of the individual police officers from Nigeria were stationed in Baidom and Beletweyne. (AMUSON, 2016) This however depicts the huge role in which the Nigeria Police Force through the Nigeria government has impacted the West African Sub-region in the area of security challenge and good neighbourliness policy.

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