POLITICAL WILL, FINANCIAL DISRUPTION AND COMMUNITY POWER: A POSITION PAPER ON ENDING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA WITHOUT BLOODSHED

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Abstract
The proposal to end insecurity in Nigeria within 24 hours without bloodshed focuses attention on a core reality: Nigeria's insecurity is driven less by a lack of capacity than by a deficit of political will, financial integrity, and community ownership of security. This paper analyzes the 9-point framework proposed by Concerned Citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria through the lens of human security, financial disruption, strategic command, and community policing. Drawing on Akinade's works on strategic security, financial crime, agrosecurity, and community policing, the paper argues that rapid disruption of illicit finance, withdrawal of unauthorized security details, activation of community policing, and credible accountability for local leaders are feasible within 24 hours and can produce immediate de-escalation. The paper provides a practical implementation roadmap, risk analysis, and safeguards to prevent abuse.

Keywords: Political Will, Financial Disruption, Community Policing, Insecurity, Deterrence, Nigeria

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

On 3 May 2026, Concerned Citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria published a proposal titled How Nigeria Can End Insecurity in 24 Hours Without Bloodshed. The document argues that insecurity persists because it is funded, protected, and politically useful. It proposes nine actions across three phases: turn off the financial tap, remove unauthorized protection, and devolve power to communities and local leaders.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has sufficient security personnel, laws, and intelligence agencies. The gap lies in the political will to act against financiers, to withdraw unauthorized security details, and to hold local leaders accountable. The result is a system where insecurity becomes a source of revenue and political leverage.

1.3 Objectives

1. To assess the feasibility of the 24-hour disruption framework.
2. To identify legal, operational, and political requirements for implementation.
3. To propose safeguards against abuse and unintended consequences.

1.4 Significance

If implemented, the framework would shift Nigeria from reactive kinetic operations to pre-emptive financial and governance disruption. It would restore public trust and reduce the profitability of violence.

1.5 Methodology

The paper uses policy analysis, legal review, and applied security management frameworks. It integrates Akinade's works on strategic security, financial crime, agrosecurity, and community policing.

2. Analysis of the 24-Hour Framework

2.1 Phase 1: Turn Off the Tap – Financial Disruption

Publish and Freeze Terror Financier Accounts: The NSA, DSS, NFIU, and CBN maintain data on suspicious transactions. Freezing accounts and publishing names within 6 hours is legally permissible under the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act 2022 and AML/CFT regulations. The immediate effect is to disrupt payments for logistics, weapons, and ransoms.

Suspend Illegal Mining Licenses: Akinade's Agrosecurity, Bioterrorism and Environmental Protection identifies illegal mining as a primary funding stream for banditry in Zamfara, Niger, and Katsina. Suspending licenses and deploying task forces can be executed within hours using existing security assets.

Switch Off Network Cover in Forest Camps: The NCC has the technical capacity to deny service to specific cells. Temporary shutdowns reduce coordination and ransom negotiation without affecting broader civilian access.

2.2 Phase 2: Remove the Umbrella – Withdraw Unauthorized Protection

Recall Orderlies: Thousands of police and military personnel serve as orderlies to politicians, traditional rulers, and businessmen not entitled by law. Akinade's Public Policing and Private Protection For Maximum Security argues that this misallocation weakens street policing and creates private armies. A presidential directive can return 30,000–40,000 personnel to operational duties within 24 hours.

Publish Names of Repentant Terrorists: Transparency is a deterrent. When communities know the identity of reintegrated actors, they can monitor and prevent recidivism. Secrecy fuels suspicion and undermines trust.

Governors Relocate to Worst LGAs: Leadership presence changes behavior. Akinade's Community Policing: Strategic Approaches In Crime Prevention shows that visible leadership increases police responsiveness and community cooperation.

2.3 Phase 3: Give the People Power – Devolve and Hold Accountable

Activate State and Community Policing: Section 215(3) of the Constitution allows the IGP to delegate operational control. A presidential proclamation can legalize and fund Amotekun, Ebube Agu, and Civilian JTF immediately, pending legislative confirmation.

Pay Outstanding Security Allowances: A hungry policeman is a compromised policeman. Immediate payment of arrears removes a key vulnerability to bribery and information leakage.

Hold Local Leaders Accountable: A presidential broadcast making traditional rulers and LG chairmen responsible for kidnapping in their domains creates immediate incentives for local action. Akinade's Communal Conflict and Violence shows that local leaders are often the first to know but the last to act.

3. Legal and Operational Feasibility

Action	Legal Basis	Operational Feasibility	Risk
Freeze accounts, publish names	Terrorism Prevention Act 2022, AML/CFT Act	High. Data exists in NFIU/CBN	Legal challenge if due process is bypassed. Mitigation: use interim orders
Suspend illegal mining	Minerals and Mining Act 2007	High. Task forces exist	Collusion with local officials. Mitigation: joint federal-state task force
Shut network in forest camps	NCC Act, National Security Order	High. Technical capability exists	Affect legitimate users. Mitigation: targeted cell-level shutdown
Recall orderlies	Police Act 2020	High. Administrative directive	Political resistance. Mitigation: publish list of beneficiaries
Activate community policing	Section 215(3) Constitution	High. Structures exist in SW, SE	Arming without control. Mitigation: vetting and command protocol
Hold LG leaders accountable	Local Government Law, Code of Conduct	Medium. Requires political will	Political witch-hunt. Mitigation: objective incident reporting

4. Safeguards Against Abuse

1. **Judicial Oversight:** All asset freezes and suspensions must be subject to 72-hour judicial review to prevent abuse.
2. **Independent Audit:** A panel of civil society, religious leaders, and retired judges should audit the process.
3. **Proportional Response:** Actions must target individuals and networks, not ethnic or religious groups.
4. **Communication Strategy:** Akinade's Communications in Security and Law Enforcement Operations emphasizes that transparency prevents rumor and panic.

5. Expected Outcomes Within 24 Hours

1. **Financial Starvation:** Bandit and kidnap networks lose access to funds and communications.
2. **Increased Police Presence:** Recall of orderlies increases street patrols by 25–30%.
3. **Local Accountability:** LG chairmen and traditional rulers mobilize communities to deny safe haven to criminals.
4. **Psychological Shift:** Citizens see state action, restoring confidence and willingness to cooperate with security agencies.

6. Limitations and Risks

1. Political Resistance: Elites benefiting from insecurity will resist. This requires presidential resolve and public support.
2. Collateral Impact: Network shutdowns and account freezes may affect legitimate businesses. Mitigation requires precision targeting.
3. Sustainability: A 24-hour action must be followed by institutional reform to prevent relapse. Akinade's Managing Strategic Security and Crime Prevention Models stresses that disruption must transition to prevention.

7. Recommendations for Implementation

For the Presidency:
1. Issue Executive Order 1: Financial Disruption and Accountability.
2. Direct the IGP to devolve operational control to states and community structures immediately.
3. Convene a 24-hour National Security Implementation Cell with NSA, DSS, NFIU, CBN, NCC, and state governors.

For State Governors:
1. Publish data on land use and occupants in forest areas.
2. Activate state security outfits under joint command protocols.
3. Relocate to the worst affected LGA for 48 hours to signal commitment.

For Citizens and Civil Society:
1. Monitor implementation and report abuse.
2. Support community policing structures financially and morally.
3. Refuse to pay ransom and report demand attempts.

8. Conclusion

Nigeria's insecurity is not an unsolvable military problem. It is a governance, finance, and willpower problem. The 24-hour framework is feasible because the data, laws, and structures already exist. What is missing is the decision to act against powerful interests. If the political class chooses peace over profit, insecurity will collapse faster than it was built. The clock is not a metaphor. It is a test of leadership.

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Appendices

Appendix A: 24-Hour Implementation Checklist for the Presidency
Appendix B: Legal Template for Interim Asset Freeze Orders
Appendix C: Community Policing Activation Protocol
Appendix D: Land Use and Forest Occupancy Mapping Template
Appendix E: Risk and Safeguard Matrix for Rapid Security Actions

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