

## **Crude Oil Pipeline Vandalism and its Effects on Crude-Oil Terminals Operations in Nigeria: A Study of Bonny Crude Oil Terminal Operations**

**Dimla Joel Nchinney**

Department of Defence and Security Studies  
Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna  
*Corresponding author:* babanabbas14@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

The Nigerian Oil sector being the major source of revenue to the nation has over the years suffered series of challenges as a result of frequent pipeline vandalism by thieves, thereby affected the volume of quantity of crude oil exploration. This paper examines the menace of crude oil vandalism in one of the major crude oil terminals in Nigeria, the Bonny Terminal. It adopts a qualitative methodology through the use of both primary and secondary sources of data collection. Primary data were generated through Key Informant Interview (KII) and secondary data were utilized through books, journals, articles, conferences papers, government documents, among others. It also uses frustration–aggression theory to analyze reasons for people of the area engaging in these criminal acts. The findings reveal that, there is significant relationship between the pipeline vandalism and effective functioning of bonny terminal. Equally, part of the modes of operation by the vandals is the use of equipment to puncture the pipelines. They have experts who are engineers that use a hose to link the oil from underground. They cover it so that it will not be detected, and then connect the hose to a far place where the refining takes place. They also have a big boat that is solely used for transporting oil to its selling destination, among other *modus operandi*. Consequently, it is recommended that, a robust community policing should be established with local residents in maintaining safety of pipelines which would complement the patrol-works of the security agencies and oil companies

**Keywords:** Crude Oil, Pipeline, Vandalism, Terminal Operations, Bonny.

### **Introduction**

Today, crude oil stands as one of the major primary sources of energy in the world and a key raw material in functioning of many industries. The importance of petroleum includes; global economic growth, power generation, agricultural chemical production, infrastructural development, and many more. (Liberto, 2024) This is what made it a politico-resource commodity which led to the underdevelopment of smaller countries of the world that have it at the expense of multinationals who found themselves there for business activities. In Africa, Nigeria is the largest crude oil producer in the continent with a maximum production capacity of 2.5 million barrels per day.

The Nigeria Upstream Operations, that is Exploration and Production (E&P), are mostly in joint partnerships with the major International Oil Companies (IOCs) who are predominantly operating in the on-shores of Niger Delta region, the coastal offshore areas, and currently in the deep waters. As a common feature with most of the developing countries, the multinational E&P companies have been operating in

Nigeria under what is called a “Concession System” with Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). The NNPC is solely responsible for the management of the exploration bidding rounds for Oil and Gas. The various international oil companies operating in Nigeria are in partnership with her under the Joint Operating Agreements (JOA), or the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs). Similarly, the Nigerian Indigenous Oil Companies (NIOC) operate in partnership with the International Oil Companies (IOC) under Sole Risk or as independents. (NUPRC, 2021)

One very important thing to know about crude oil production is the existence of an industrial facility known as crude oil terminal. Crude oil terminal play a critical role in oil production by acting as the final stage in the extraction process, where the oil is received, stored, and efficiently distributed for further processing or export, essentially managing the flow of the oil from production sites to refineries or international markets. Thus, crude oil terminal operations face multiple challenges such as; environmental concerns, safety hazards, operational disruptions due to weather or pipeline issues, regulatory compliance complexities, infrastructure limitations, storage capacity constraints, potential for spills, theft and vandalism, fluctuations in oil prices, labor shortages, and the increasing pressure for sustainability and transition to renewable energy sources.



Figure 1.1: Map of Rivers State showing Bonny Island  
Source: Irikana & Akujuru, 2

## **Theoretical Framework**

This paper adopts the analysis of Frustration Aggression Theory developed by Dollard, Miller, Doob, Mowrer and Sears (1939). Dollard et al. (1939) posits that the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression. Frustration, in this context, is specified as the thwarting of a goal response, and a goal response, in turn, was taken to mean the reinforcing final operation in an ongoing behavior sequence. At times, however, the term frustration is used to refer not only to the process of blocking a person's attainment of a reinforcer but also to the reaction to such blocking. Consequently, being frustrated means both that one's access to reinforcers is being thwarted by another party or by circumstance, and that one's reaction to this thwarting is one of annoyance. It recognizes that the initial claims that aggression is always based on frustration and that frustration always leads to aggression. These claims made frustration both a necessary and sufficient condition for aggression.

Linking the theory to this paper, both the Nigerian Government and multinational companies are destroying the environment of Bonny without a sustainable programme plan because there are omnipresent environmental risks associated with the general insecurity experienced by the vulnerable people of the area. Any unwarranted interference with or obstruction of this relationship constitutes a danger to, breach of, or deprivation of security, which leads to assault by people of Bonny through pipeline vandalization.

## **Findings of the Study**

The findings of the paper guided by the above stated objectives beginning with weather there is relationship between between crude oil pipeline vandalism and operation of the Bonny terminal reveal that:

There is a very significant relationship between crude oil pipeline vandalism and crude oil terminal operations in Bonny Crude Oil Terminal. The reason why I said so is because; most of the stolen crude oil are from the pipeline not from the terminal. The crude that are yet to arrive at the terminal is referred as the 'wet crude', while the one from the terminal is the 'dry crude'. So when the pipes are vandalized and the wet crude is stolen, it will definitely affect the terminal production in Bonny Crude Oil Terminal (Interview, 13 August, 2024, 2:00 am).

According to Simeon Ubelejit:

The terminal is a very critical point, laden with pipelines. A pipeline is one method of transporting crude oil to the terminal. When the boys discover the terminal, their goal is to find the link where the crude oil is actually flowing to the terminal. There is a

network of underground pipes connecting most of these oil communities. The purpose of this network is to allow crude oil to flow to the terminal. For example, Bonny has a terminal, and it is from this terminal that crude oil is loaded for exportation. The boys do not aim to destroy the heavily guarded terminal, but rather to locate the source from which the crude oil is flowing. Once they discover the underground connection of pipes, they vandalise it, steal the crude oil, and channel it to their sites. They then use it for okpo fire, which is a local refinery. So, this crude oil pipeline vandalism arose as a result of these boys knowing the link, and their aim is to break it open. From there, they can get their crude oil into tanks or drums where they refine it or export it. There is a level at which you burn it and it will turn into fuel, and there is another level at which you burn it and it will turn into kerosene (Interview, 4 July, 2024, 12:14 pm).

In support of the above assertion, Opara Lawrence maintains that:

The Bonny terminal is where crude oil is stored and exported to other countries around the world. He went on to say that the vandals understand the operations at the oil terminal. They know where the pipes are being laid, so they take advantage of this fact. When they vandalise pipelines, it automatically affects the pumping rate at the terminal, leading to a reduction in production capacity at the Bonny terminal. As a result, the performance of the nation as a whole is affected and losses are suffered. The allocation that reaches the state is also affected. Therefore, the operations at the Bonny crude oil terminal are being affected, as the pumping rate is not achieved (Interview, 23 July, 2024, 10:00 am).

In line with the position of Opara, Obarijima Olaka Alale posits that:

The link between crude oil pipeline vandalism lies in the fact that if the pipelines are not running steadily or flowing as they ought to at the terminal, production will be affected. For hitch-free operations at the Bonny terminal, there is a need to keep pipeline vandals at bay. Nigeria needs to produce like other OPEC countries, such as Saudi Arabia. Therefore, there is a need to safeguard the receiving outlets at the Bonny terminal and ensure that the pipeline remains untampered with (Interview, 5 July, 2024, 9:30 am).

Also, Ikennaya Mark posits that:

The link between crude oil pipeline vandalism and crude oil terminal operations in Bonny crude oil terminal is that it reduces crude oil supply. When these pipelines are vandalized, it leads to a reduction in oil supply to the terminal. This has always forced the terminal to operate at a reduced capacity, which impacts overall productivity. He went on to say that it also leads to delays and logistics challenges. When pipelines are destroyed, it becomes difficult for the oil to be transferred to the terminal for exporting, resulting in delays in transferring crude oil to terminals. Sometimes, alternative means of transportation are used, which have lower capacity and are less reliable. This scenario has always created issues with scheduling when a particular vessel is going to be loaded completely. Attacks on pipelines have resulted in investing more heavily in security measures, adding to the operational expenses of running the whole exploration thing (Interview, 4 July, 2024, 9:00 am).

In a contrary opinion on the activities of vandals affecting production capacity at the Bonny terminal, Pepple Haniel posits that:

In as much as there are excuses for oil pipeline vandalism, I will not justify acts that are legal and legitimate. Let us ask the question: why were those pipelines vandalised? I am telling you that sometimes in this Kingdom, in these seas and rivers, crude oil will be on the surface for more than two weeks. Fishing is our occupation, so how do you fish? How do you eat? How do you take care of your children? And this continues for years. There was total neglect. When you make a peaceful revolution impossible, you make a violent revolution inevitable. People did not do that because they want to do that. Now you are shipping the crude oil and other places are being developed. The goose that lays the golden eggs is suffering. The suffering is glaring everybody in the face. And so, do they have employment when their children manage to graduate after training them in the university? How many of them get jobs? What are the structures they put in place? How are they interacting with the communities? The companies were doing their things the way they like and the government will come and protect them. Fine. How do you cater for the interest of the communities? How? So, what they couldn't get illegitimately, they started the

vandalization of the oil pipelines. But let me tell you this very straight, my people make those excuses. Like I said, I do not justify criminality in any way. But the point I am making is that if these people were not neglected, if you made them part and parcel of what is coming out of their place, Bonny is crisscrossed with crude oil and gas pipelines. When these crude oil spills happen, is compensation being paid? You destroy the environment, and you don't pay compensation. As a matter of fact, even when communities complain (Interview, 2 July, 2024, 11:00 am).

To buttress on the primary data, it was gathered by Worldwide Report (2022), that in third-quarter 2022, Nigeria's crude oil production briefly dropped below one million barrels per day (b/d) because of significant and extended disruptions stemming from crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism. These disruptions reduced crude oil production of Nigeria's major crude oil grades, such as Bonny Light, Brass River, and Forcados. Although crude oil output largely returned to typical levels by first-quarter 2023, disruptions remain a significant and persistent downside risk to Nigeria's production. Also, that Nigeria's oil and natural gas industry is primarily located in the southern Niger Delta area, where it has been a source of conflict. Local groups seeking a share of the wealth often attack the oil infrastructure, forcing companies to declare *force majeure* on oil shipments (a legal clause that releases parties from contractual obligations because of circumstances beyond their control). At the same time, oil theft causes pipeline damage that is often severe, resulting in loss of production and in pollution. This damage also sometimes forces companies to shut in production. In addition, aging infrastructure and poor maintenance resulted in oil spills.

From the foregoing, it can be deduce that there is a relationship between crude oil pipeline vandalism and crude oil terminal operations in Bonny Crude Oil Terminal. This owed to that fact that, when there is crude oil pipeline vandalism the pipelines will not running steadily or flowing as they ought to at the terminal and production will be affected. On the same vein, in responding to what are the *modus operandi* in the vandalization of the Bonny oil terminal, reports from the field reveal that - *Modus Operandi* simply means a particular way or method of doing something. Whatever one is doing, there must be certain ways adopted in doing them. Hence, as regarding the method(s) using in crude oil pipeline vandalism in Bonny Crude Oil Terminal, Ikennaya Mark is of the opinion that:

It is simple; they get information from high-ranking officers working with the IOCs to know when pressure flow is favorable for them. They use that information to tackle pipelines that pass through their areas, then vandalise them. This is mainly carried out by those who want to vent their anger towards the government for destroying their environment. Additionally, there are criminal-minded groups who want to profit from the process, and they are the ones who run illegal refineries. They obtain vital

information from the IOCs, such as the pressure of the crude flow, when the crude is flowing, and when the crude is not flowing. They use this information to plan their approach to vandalise pipelines. They tap into the pipelines and channel the crude to the creeks where they have their illegal refinery plants. They have technicians, welders, pipe fitters, and various other types of technicians who ensure that the process happens smoothly. They do this because you have to apply caution. You don't just go and vandalise a high-pressure pipeline that could result in an explosion. So, they make sure that the vital safety information gets to them (Interview, 4 July, 2024, 9:00 am).

In support of the above view Simeon Ubelejit holds that:

There is an adage that says that before a thief comes to your house to rob you, an insider must have given them information. This is the case with pipelines vandalism in Bonny terminal. You will be amazed to see or hear the kind of equipment they use for this operation. One of their modes of operation is to have several equipment for puncturing the pipelines. They even have experts who are also engineers. It is not something a layman can do with just a knife or whatever. They have experts who, immediately after puncturing the pipe, use a hose to link the oil underground. They cover it up so that it will not be detected, and then connect the hose to a far place where the refining is taking place. They also have a group of people who guard them. They work with a lot of people, including the communities, chiefs, and the army (law enforcement agencies), to ensure successful completion of their tasks. They also have a big boat that is solely used for transporting oil to its selling destination. It is surprising that as they pass through the waterways, they encounter military personnel, but they are not harmed and instead receive a share. If the crude oil is being refined locally, they burn it at night to avoid attracting attention from the smoke. Therefore, they carry out their operations, such as puncturing pipelines, shipping illegal crude oil, and refining, at night. This is because naval officers do not work at night, as nobody wants to risk their lives (Interview, 4 July, 2024, 12:14 pm).

In line with the above, Obarijima Olaka Alale posits that:

The *modus operandi* involves a whole lot of planning. First of all, they need to get information to know the

line where the flow will be, because these pipelines are not just one. So, they have to be sure where the flow will be coming in or going on. Then, this will now involve preparing to tamper with the pipeline, either by getting someone specialized in drilling to place a valve. Since Bonny is a coastal area, they will equally need a flying boat or a mini vessel where the crude oil will be pumped into once the valve is placed. The valve is a special instrument that is fixed on the pipeline, allowing the oil to flow through into a channel that has been created either by pipes or hoses to drums or any other vessels where it will be stored (Interview, 5 July, 2024, 9:30 am).

In support of Obarijima's opinion, Joseph Okokon stipulates that: "Most of the time, these vandals, since they have a good knowledge of the pipeline network, go into the creeks and vandalize these pipelines. They extract the product and sell it outside. In most cases, they do it with the help of insiders (Interview, 6 July, 2024, 10:25 am). On the other hand, as regarding its effects of on the security of the local people, Mr. Linus Ekpo asserts that:

The primary method utilized by vandals in Bonny is tapping, a process that involves illicitly accessing and extracting oil from pipelines. This practice has resulted in numerous incidents where the integrity of the pipelines is compromised, leading to significant damage. Such vandalism not only disrupts the flow of oil but also poses serious risks to the surrounding environment and infrastructure. In certain tragic instances, these acts of vandalism have led to fatalities. Explosions or fires resulting from damaged pipelines can claim lives, leaving families devastated and communities mourning. The combination of environmental, economic, and human costs underscores the urgent need for effective measures to combat vandalism and protect both the infrastructure and the well-being of the local population in Bonny (Interview, 8 August, 2024, 10:50 am).

Furthermore, Engr. Emmanuel James provides a keen insight into the *modus operandi* of vandalism in Bonny by stating that:

The collaboration between vandals and corrupt officials linked to IOCs. This partnership appears to facilitate a systematic approach to sabotage, as these individuals exploit the vulnerabilities within the security framework surrounding oil facilities in Bonny. The choice of nighttime for these acts of vandalism is particularly strategic. Under the cover of darkness, the vandals can operate with greater anonymity, reducing

the likelihood of detection by security personnel. This timing not only enhances their chances of success but also reflects a calculated understanding of the operational patterns of both the security forces and the oil companies (Interview, 13 August, 2024, 2:00 am).

In his opinion, Dr. Eunice Abraham argues that:

Vandals specifically target pipelines situated deep within the creeks and this is a deliberate tactic to evade security detection. These remote locations are often less monitored, making them prime targets for vandals. The minimal security presence in these areas can be attributed to a variety of factors, including logistical challenges, resource allocation, and perhaps even complicity among local officials who may turn a blind eye to such activities in exchange for bribes or other forms of compensation. And if you want to know the truth, all oil thefts are sponsored by very high profiled people. A poor man cannot sponsor that (Interview, 5 August, 2024, 11:20 am).

Engr. Kpeku Ekpeyong responded in a very unique way by saying:

The vandalism of this pipeline is a complex issue that transcends traditional social class boundaries, highlighting a complex problem that engages a diverse range of individuals. It is not merely an act perpetrated by the impoverished or marginalized members of society; rather, it encompasses a wide spectrum of participants, including affluent individuals and organised criminals. This involvement of various social classes suggests that the motivations behind such acts are varied and cannot be attributed solely to economic desperation or social disenfranchisement. For instance, some affluent individuals may engage in vandalism as a form of protest against perceived injustices or environmental concerns, using their resources and influence to make a statement. On the other hand, criminals may exploit the situation for financial gain, viewing the pipeline as a target for theft or sabotage. This intersection of different social classes in the act of vandalism indicates that the issue is deeply rooted in broader societal dynamics, including economic inequality, environmental activism, and criminal opportunism. The fact that individuals from various backgrounds are involved in this act of vandalism underscores the complexity of the motivations driving such behaviour. It raises important questions about the underlying

causes of discontent and the ways in which societal structures can lead to actions that disrupt public infrastructure. This phenomenon challenges the notion that vandalism is solely a reflection of poverty or lack of opportunity, suggesting instead that it is a symptom of deeper societal issues that affect people across the social spectrum (Interview, 15 August, 2024, 11:00 am).

Based on the above data, it is obvious that the Modus Operandi of the crude oil pipeline vandalism in Bonny Crude Oil Terminal is in diverse forms. For instance, the vandals rely on information from high-ranking officers working with the IOCs to know when pressure flow is favorable for them. Also, they also reply of the expert engineers among them who have the knowledge on the equipment to use in puncturing the pipelines and immediately use a hose to link the oil underground. They cover it up so that it will not be detected, and then connect the hose to a far place where the refining is taking place.

On the other hand, crude oil pipeline vandalism has seriously affected the operation of the Bonny Crude Oil Terminal in diverse ways. Speaking on these effects, Ikennaya Mark for instance observes that:

There are enormous effects of this crude oil pipeline vandalism but the most popular one is the environmental impact, it causes enormous environmental pollution. Sometimes when this criminal gangs vandalized and they don't get the necessary information like flow pressure of this pipeline when they break into it sometimes it becomes uncontrollable and then you have enormous spillage in the surrounding area and it will take the intervention of government agencies to seal off or stop the flow but it will do harm to the environment as you will see people source of livelihood being destroyed as it will deprive the locals of their land for agriculture and the river gets polluted and the mainstay of most communities in Niger Delta were this pipelines passes is fishing and farming when their source of livelihood is affected they have to look for alternative source to survive. Economically it affects the people and geographically it affects their landmass. At times this people still go to fish despite the pollution and some of the fish they get are being contaminated by this crude oil and eating it would result in have chronic infection or diseases. At times, these people still go fishing despite the pollution, and some of the fish they catch are contaminated by crude oil. Eating these fish could result in chronic infections or diseases (Interview, 4 July, 2024, 9:00 am).

According to Mr. Linus Ekpo:

The vandalism of pipelines significantly reduces the supply of crude oil. When these pipelines are compromised, it results in a decreased flow of oil to the terminal, compelling the terminal to function at a diminished capacity, which adversely affects overall productivity. Additionally, logistical challenges and delays arise when these pipelines are damaged, making it difficult to transport oil to the terminal for export. This situation often necessitates the use of alternative transportation methods, which typically have lower capacity and reliability. Such circumstances frequently lead to complications in scheduling the loading of oil. Attacks on pipelines have necessitated increased investment in security measures, thereby raising the operational costs associated with the entire exploration process (Interview, 8 August, 2024, 10:50 am).

Simeon Ubelejit posits that: “There are many effects, but I will focus on economic and environmental effects. If you notice, most of these companies are complaining of revenue loss. If you observe, most of the companies are not employing like they used to; they have reduced their workforce. There is also export disruption, which will lead to a decline in the barrel produced by Nigeria” (Interview, 4 July, 2024, 12:14 pm).

According to Opara Lawrence:

First of all, you have environmental degradation. It is affecting the ecosystem and there is also insecurity because sometimes various groups clash over who can vandalise more. We also have a situation where there is a proliferation of arms. The youths now have access to different kinds of arms and ammunition because they have cheap money from their acts of vandalism, which they use to purchase arms. Another effect is adulterated products. Adulterated products have saturated the market to the point where vehicles and houses are being affected. You don't even know what will happen because the product is illegally produced (Interview, 23 July, 2024, 10:00 am).

Joseph Okokon posits that:

There are instances when certain operational challenges or unforeseen circumstances arise as a result of vandalism, leading to the temporary suspension of activities at the flow station. This closure can occur due to a variety of factors, such as maintenance requirements, safety concerns, or

external environmental conditions that necessitate a halt in operations. As a result, the flow station may be closed for a period of time, impacting the overall workflow and productivity of the facility and thereby affecting businesses in Bonny (Interview, 6 July, 2024, 10:25 am).

Engr. Kpeku Ekpeyong concurred by saying: “As a direct consequence of vandalism, the reliability of the pipeline is compromised, leading to a cascading effect on the entire supply chain. The terminal, which relies on a consistent and adequate supply of resources, will face challenges in maintaining its operations. Without a stable flow of crude oil, the terminal cannot function optimally, which may lead to delays, increased operational costs, and potential losses in revenue” (Interview, 15 August, 2024, 11:00 am).

Giving a consideration to the aspect of socio-economic effects, Mr. Romanus Orji speaks intensively when he said:

The economic foundation of the region has been significantly impacted, primarily due to the reliance of local residents on employment opportunities provided by companies engaged in oil exploration within the Niger Delta, particularly in Bonny. This reliance manifests in various ways: many individuals are directly employed by these oil companies, while others play crucial roles in supporting services that facilitate the operations of the oil industry. For instance, some residents may work in logistics, transportation, or maintenance, ensuring that the necessary equipment and personnel are available for oil extraction and processing. Additionally, a number of local businesses thrive by supplying essential materials and services, such as construction supplies, catering, and technical support, which are vital to the functioning of these oil companies. The surge in pipeline vandalism has led to a significant reduction in oil production and operational activities in the region. This decline has had a cascading effect on the local economy, resulting in widespread job losses as companies scale back their workforce in response to decreased output. Many individuals who once relied on stable employment in the oil sector now find themselves without jobs, leading to increased unemployment rates and economic instability within host communities. The ripple effects of these job losses extend beyond individual families, as local businesses that depend on the patronage of oil workers and companies also suffer from reduced demand for their goods and services (Interview, 14 September, 2024, 4:00 pm).

According to Dr. Mike Osadebe:

The vandalism of crude oil pipelines at the Bonny terminal has significant and detrimental effects on the socio-economic conditions of the local communities. Stating that vandalism leads to severe pollution of the waterways, which are vital for the daily lives of Bonny people. Contaminated water sources not only pose serious health risks to the community members but also disrupt their access to clean drinking water, which is essential for survival. The destruction of farmlands caused by oil spills further exacerbates the situation. Many local families rely on agriculture as their primary source of income and sustenance. When oil spills occur, the soil becomes contaminated, rendering it unsuitable for farming and leading to a decline in crop yields. This loss of agricultural productivity not only threatens food security for these communities but also diminishes their economic stability, as they are unable to sell their produce in local markets (Interview, 5 August, 2024, 9:40 am).

In agreement with the submission of Mr. Romanus and Dr. Osadebe, Mrs. Rebecca Ekpeyong maintains that: “Vandalism deters legitimate businesses from investing in Bonny, leading to a decline in overall economic development. This creates a vicious cycle: as businesses leave or refuse to enter the area due to safety concerns, job opportunities diminish, and the community's socio-economic conditions deteriorate further” (Interview, 9 August, 2024, 10:00 am).

In his opinion, Engr. Emmanuel James holds that:

Sure, crude oil pipeline vandalism has seriously affected the operation of the Bonny Crude Oil Terminal. The truth is that, because of oil theft, enough wet crude do not go to the terminal, and that affects delay in loading. It is also affecting the effective operation of the terminal, as well as our domestic consumptions (Interview, 13 August, 2024, 2:00 am).

Buttressing on some of the above points, Okon (2014), opines that, the illegal oil theft replaced the traditional and legitimate economic activities in the Niger Delta region, and the individuals and criminal groups move stolen crude to large barges for sale to foreign buyers. The scourge of oil theft continuously threatens the sovereignty of Nigeria, the well-being of its people, and the national economy.

Okoli and Orinya (2013) explained that the national security of Nigeria was threatened through these criminal activities, especially because the pipeline networks allowed for easy access, thereby increasing the occurrence of vandalism. Apart from economic losses and environmental degradation, there was also the fact that during oil

theft, fire and explosions had destroyed lives, the environment, the land vegetation, and animals. Similarly, Ejumudo (2014) noted that Niger Delta region was a hotbed of conflict, which included pipeline vandalism because to youth attacks of oil facilities, pointing out that about 3200 cases of pipeline vandalism occurred between 1993 and 2007. The militant groups changed their tactics of only attacking oil facilities and started attacking personnel, one time attacking six flow stations and kidnapping hundreds of personnel and shutting in about 10,000 barrels of oil (Ejumudo, 2014).

According to Yeeles and Akporiaye (2016), all parties involved in oil production had argued their failure to hit high production targets and maintained was because of pipeline sabotage. Government statistics had shown that oil MNCs faced direct risks from sabotage of pipelines, which had enormous costs (Yeeles & Akporiaye, 2016). Revenue declines because of oil theft impact on MNCs in the oil and gas sector in the Niger Delta. Despite some strategies employed by these companies, the high rate of oil theft has not changed. More than 300,000 barrels of crude are lost daily through pipeline vandalism, oil theft, and other illegal methods (Boris, 2015). Obaseki (2019), confirmed that NNPC reported that Nigeria in 2019 recorded a loss of 22.64 million barrels of crude oil valued at \$1.35 billion for the half year and \$2.7 billion for the full year at \$60.0 per bar.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this article has examined the issues associated with crude oil pipeline vandalization and its effects on Bonny terminal operations. It found out that, there is a significant link between the crude oil pipeline vandalization and effective utilization of the Bonny crude oil terminal. The chapter treated various patterns used by the vandals in breaking the oil pipes for stealing. From the responses of the respondents, it became clear that this act has been an organized crime, involving different stakeholders including some security agents.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are provided for effective policing of the bonny terminal for efficient crude oil exploration:

- i. A robust community policing should be established with local residents in maintaining safety of pipelines which would complement the patrol-works of the security agencies.
- ii. Oil companies that operate in Bonny should provide adequate economic opportunities to the teeming youth in the affected areas in order to reduce the crime of pipeline vandalization.
- iii. Modern technological gadgets should be used in guarding the pipelines because it is easy to navigate in all the creek areas.

## **References**

Alagoa, E.J. (1971). Nineteenth Century Revolutions in the Eastern Delta states and Calabar. *Journal of Historical Society of Nigeria*, 5(4): 565–570.

Crude Oil Marketing Division, NNPC. (2017).

- Ejumudo, K. (2014). Youth restiveness in the Niger Delta: A critical discourse. *SAGE Open*, 4: 1-12.
- Irikana, J.J. & Akujuru, V.A. (2019). Monetary Valuation of Selected Forest Products in Andoni. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Invention*, 6(10), 5688-5693.
- Liberto, D. (2024). What Is Crude Oil, and Why Is It Important to Investors? Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia.com/>
- Neuman, W.L. (2000) *Social research methods qualitative and quantitative approaches*. 4th Edition, Allyn & Bacon, Needham Heights.
- Obaseki, G. (2019) *Stemming Oil Theft*. Paper Presentation at Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NETTI) 2019.
- Okoli, A. C. & Orinya, S. (2013). Oil pipeline vandalism and Nigeria's national security. *Global Journal of Human Social Science*, 13: 67-75. Retrieved from [www.socialscienceresearch.org](http://www.socialscienceresearch.org)
- Okon, G. (2014). The war against oil theft in the Niger Delta region and advocacy campaigns by the Nigerian press: A normative appraisal. *Studies in Media and Communication*, 2: 61-70.
- Omodanisi, E., Eludoyin, A. & Salami, A. (2014). A multi-perspective view of the effects of a pipeline explosion in Nigeria. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 7: 68-77.
- Osaghae, E. (2015). Resource curse or resource blessing: The case of the Niger Delta 'oil republic' in Nigeria. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 53: 109-129.
- Silverman, D. (2006). *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. London: SAGE Publications.
- The Investopedia Team. (2024). The World's Top Oil Producers. Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia.com/>
- [www.manpower.com.ng](http://www.manpower.com.ng). Bonny Local Government Area.
- Yeeles, A. & Akporiaye, A. (2016). Risk and resilience in the Nigerian oil sector: The economic effects of pipeline sabotage and theft. *Energy Policy*, 88: 187-196
- Zerihoun, T. 2016. "Open Debate of the Security Council on Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in the Gulf of Guinea, Assistant Secretary-General," United Nations Department of Political Affairs, 25 April, [www.un.org/undpa/en/speeches-statements/25042016/Piracy-Gulf-of-Guinea](http://www.un.org/undpa/en/speeches-statements/25042016/Piracy-Gulf-of-Guinea).