

A Critical Look at the Rehabilitation and Empowerment of the Growing Number of at-Risk Youth (*Zogos*) in Liberia

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Abstract: Bearing some elements of scientific research, this paper takes a critical examination at the rehabilitation and empowerment of the growing wave of disadvantaged youths turning into “*Zogos*” that poses potential security threats to the fragile peace of Liberia. As a form of qualitative approach, the paper adopts a literature review method with emphasis on content analysis to explore the phenomenon defined as one of the contemporary social problems in Liberia.

Through the lens of the social control theory viewed as the theoretical framework that guided the study, the paper attributes the growing wave of “*Zogos*” to the formal social control considered as a sub-set of the theory. Under this sub-set, the paper argues that the weak drugs law, and the lack of logistical and financial support to relevant law enforcement agencies exacerbated by the porosity of Liberia’s border points making it easier for narcotics and illicit drugs to be brought into the Liberia be the main contributing factors.

Against the main contributing factors that explain cause and effects concept, the paper also argued that though the rehabilitation and empowerment program is commendable but not the root cause (s) of the imminent security threat that it seeks to address. As such, it cannot be a viable option or remedy for neutralizing the very perceived threat looming over Liberia.

Conclusively, the paper argued that ignoring the main contributing factors will lead to more stress and strain on the program that has serious financial implications for sustainability.

The paper recommends that to neutralize the perceived imminent security threat looming over Liberia, the rehabilitation and empowerment of “*Zogos*”, increase budgetary support to empower relevant law enforcement agencies, and the amended drugs law before the Liberian Senate for concurrence must be done concomitantly.

Key Words: At-risk youth, Disadvantaged youth, Empowerment, Liberia, Rehabilitation, Security Threat, “*Zogos*”

I. INTRODUCTION

Cognizance about the eminent security implications the growing number of at-risk youths popularly labelled or branded as “*Zogos*” pose to the peace and stability of the nation and its peaceful citizens and foreign residents, prominent figures, local institutions and finally the government have embarked upon the campaign and fight to remove the perceived imminent security threat.

To start with, Madam Sando Massaley directed the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged Youths (SEED) project in the Gobachop Market in Paynesville, outside Monrovia that targeted “*Zogos*”. The project which commenced in 2019 was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), through the YWCA under the Ministry of Health. Under the project, scores of disadvantaged youths or “*Zogos*” went through psycho-social counseling and acquired skills training in mechanics, carpentry, pastry, catering, among others (Johnson, 2022).

Next is the Honorary Consul General of India, Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, a very popular Indian businessman, who is more famously known in Liberia as “Mr. Jeety.” He has been in the frontline of providing food especially during the COVID 19 curfew lockdown for “*Zogos*” and also attempted renovating a dilapidated building that currently housing some “*Zogos*” at Center Street (Johnson, 2020).

Followed by Jetty is Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon in fulfilment of his campaign promises dedicated a rehabilitation center constructed in the Rehab Community for less fortunate, underprivileged young people or at-risk youth (Karmo, 2021).

A humanitarian organization identified as LibX Records Foundation has been in the campaign as well. As part of its contributions toward rehabilitating and making 'disadvantaged Liberians' alias “*Zogos*” productive citizens, the foundation in 2021 launched a very educative musical video produced by “disadvantaged Liberians”. Established May 2020, LibX Records Foundation seeks to stop the stigma associated with generation “*Zogos*” and work with the individuals to build their talents (Daily Observer, 2021).

Finally, the government of Liberia through President George Manneh Weah recently launched a National Fund Drive for the rehabilitation and empowerment of “*Zogos*” aimed at US\$13 million (Emansion, 2022).

Admittedly, all these initiatives strategically designed to remove the perceived eminent national security threats are good. As such, both the government including private citizens and local institutions deserve commendation. However, will these initiatives tackle the growing number of at-risk youths

believed to be influenced by the weak current drug law of 2014 with several loopholes in the fight against drug and substances in Liberia? In other words, in absence of the speedy passage of the amended Drugs law, will these initiatives yield the desired results? Are the initiatives viable options to addressing the looming security threat? The answers to these high core questions are germane to the crux of this paper. Against these backdrops, this paper takes a critical look at these initiatives intended to address the looming national security threat by rehabilitating and empowering the growing number of at-risk youths in Liberia. Precisely, it focuses on the National Fund Drive for the rehabilitation and empowerment of “Zogos”.

By doing so, the paper is structured into four segments. The first segment which is a research imperative lays out the theoretical framework that guides the paper discussion. The second segment provides a synoptic insight of at-risk youths labelled in Liberian parlance as “Zogos”. More importantly, this segment connects the vulnerability of the growing number of at-risk to the theoretical framework of the paper. The third segment dives into the crux of the paper by the viability of the National Fund Drive for the rehabilitation and empowerment of “Zogos” in absence of the endorsement of the amended drug law of 2014 currently before the Liberian Senate for concurrence. And finally, the last segment draws logical conclusion from the first three segments.

II. METHODOLOGY

From the look of the topic under exploration, it should be easy to imply a qualitative approach. Particularly, it adopts a literature review as the methodology with emphasis on content analysis. The purpose is not merely to repeat everything that the researcher has read, or all the things written on the subject but to critically evaluate the content of literature so as to advance logical inferences on the phenomenon under interrogation. The researcher reviews applicable publications (such as journal articles, newsletters, documents, etc.) pertaining to the topic being examined.

Theoretical Framework

To have a better understanding and appreciation of the issues in this paper, a proper understanding of the underlying theoretical framework is necessary to guide the study. Therefore, the key theoretical framework is the social control theory is confined to both sociology and criminal justices. This theory is appropriate to the paper because, the phenomenon under interrogation is peculiar to the two interrelated disciplines.

Social Control Theory

Pioneered by the early work of Travis Hirschi in 1969 and postulated by Pratt, Gau and Franklin, and Bartol & Bartol in 2011, the social control theory offers insight that explores the causes of individual engagement in deviant or criminal behavior in society. It examines how society influences anti-social behavior. In other words, the theory blames not the

individual but the society to be responsible. The theory contends that all people, from the time we are born, are basically bad apples that must be controlled by laws, rules, values and regulations in order to keep society in check. Therefore, Bartol & Bartol (2011) argued that crime and delinquency occur when an individual's ties to the conventional order or normative standards are weak or largely nonexistent” It further maintains that those who have a weak bond to societal controls end up participating in deviant or criminal behavior.

The theory also insists that the breakdown of social control as in social norms, values, law and order give rise to deviant or anti-social behavior.

Travis Hirschi (1969) theorized that the stronger one's social bonds to family and religious, civic, and other groups - the less likely one is to commit crime. Hirschi argues that social bonds promote conformity with the community's shared values and norms. Hirschi categorized the social bonds into four factors such as attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief.

Bonds of Attachment

This bond explains the implications for anti-social behavior or delinquency in which drugs abuse cannot be an exemption. The main argument that reflects family responsibility is that the amount of affection that mothers and fathers give to their children is a powerful indicator of delinquency (Glueck & Glueck, 1950). The reason is simple. The family is the first agent of social control that inculcate values or approved social norms into children during socialization. The assumption has been those who had stronger emotional ties to their parents were less likely to be delinquent. How adolescents answered the question, "do your parents know where you are (And what you are doing) when you are away from home?" was another powerful predictor of juvenile delinquency (Nickerson, 2022).

I will also want to include education and religion under attachment. In sociology, both are social institutions and agents of social control. They buttress the family efforts when it comes psychological affection that strengthens attachment. The breakdown of these institutions (Family, Education, and Religion) creates the grounds for social vulnerability.

Bonds of Commitment

The Commitment Bond assume that the “importance of the social relationships that people value, which they would not want to risk jeopardizing by committing criminal or deviant acts” (Pratt, Gau, and Franklin, 2011). To express it another way, the assumption has been conforming to one's behavior protects and preserves what one has, while crime and delinquency put it at risk. Take for example, students with high grade point averages are likely to aspire to further education and less likely to commit delinquent acts or get into difficulties with the police.

Bonds of Involvement

This bond assumes that how people spend their time has implication for anti-social behavior or delinquency as a drug abuse or any crime for that matter. It resonates with the adage that “An idle mind is the devil’s workshop and idle hands his tools.” Similarly, (Pratt et al., 2011) opined that people who do conventional things, such as walking, playing sports, doing homework, engaging in hobbies, or talking to parents, are, in doing these activities, unable to commit delinquent acts regardless of their delinquent tendencies. Nickerson (2022) put it better in this way, people who are strongly bonded to society are less likely to both engage in activities that provide opportunities for delinquency as well as seeing these opportunities in the first place as they arise. In short, this bond assumes that people who are less busy or busy doing nothing productive are likely vulnerable to deviant behavior.

Bonds of Belief

Bonds of belief assume that the degree to which people adheres to the values associated with behaviors that conform to the law are less vulnerable to deviant behavior. It asserts that the more important a person’s values are in relation to a certain crime (such as using illegal drugs), the less likely they are to commit said crime (Pratt et al., 2011).

In my opinion, all the last three bonds are reflection of the first bond (attachment) that squarely rest on the shoulder of the family as the first agent of social control. It is the family that inculcate the value of hard work that eliminate the grounds for being idle, it is the family that inculcate the value of commitment and finally it is same family that indoctrinate strong belief system that eschew deviants’ behavior unacceptable to society.

III. TWO SUB-SETS OF SOCIAL CONTROL THEORY

Sociologists identify two basic sub-sets of social control – informal control and formal control. Let me briefly talk about each.

Formal Social Control

It is a form of social control that squarely rest upon the shoulders of the states. Judiciary, police agencies, law enforcement or the criminal justice system, are classic example of the agents of formal social control. The laws are enacted to ensure compliance by regulating acceptable behavior in society. Violation carries penal sanction which is formal. Police presence is enough to achieve this form of control. In others, police might intervene in a situation that involves unlawful or dangerous behavior to stop the misconduct and maintain social control (Crossman, 2019).

A compromised criminal justice system coupled with weak law enforcement has implications for delinquent or anti-social behavior in human society. Moreover, breakdown in this form of social control has implications for deviant behavior.

Informal Social Control

Involves conformity to the norms and values of society as well as adoption of a belief system learned through the process of socialization (Crossman, 2019) This form of social control is enforced by family, religion, peer group, community, neighborhood, etc. Violation for informal social control carries naming and shaming, ridicule, withdrawal, etc.

Criticism of the theory

In academic environment, every theory is not immune from criticism. In fact, criticism is one of the major weaknesses of every theory. Bear in mind that people write from different disposition. So, I too have my own criticism on the social control theory. To me, this theory seems to be situational. Reflecting on Travis Hirschi four social bonds particularly on attachment, there is an exception. It can be argued that while it is true that there are some people who become delinquent because of the lack of the bond of attachment, the same is also true about some people who did not enjoy the bond of attachment as postulated by Hirschi but refused to choose the pathway to delinquency or anti-social activities. History documents these people. For example, Pierce Brosnan, best known for his iconic role as James Bond, Pierce Brosnan was brought up by his grandparents while he was aged four, due to his mother moving away as she was training to be a nurse. However, his grandparents died when he was six and after that, he stayed at various relatives until being sent to live in a boarding house until age 10 (Capstone Foster Care, n.d.)

Eddie Murphy is also one of the celebrities who grew up in foster care – having his life take a turn for the worse at age 3, with his parents going through a divorce. Five years later, Eddie learned about the death of his father, and his mother struggled financially which led her to be hospitalized for a long period of time. It was during this time that Eddie and his brother were sent to a foster home for around a year (Capstone Foster Care, n.d.)

Coco Chanel, at the age of 12, Gabrielle Bonheur – also known as Coco Chanel suffered the loss of her mother and was then sent alongside her sister to live in an orphanage. This foster care facility was run by the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Mary – founded to care for the poor and rejected. However, going on to become one of the most well-known fashion icons of the 20th century, she managed to escape the sadness of her childhood and move forward to a successful future (Capstone Foster Care, n.d.)

In the case of Liberia, I am sure you will agree with me that there are hundreds of successful people in Liberia who grew up without the bond of attachment from their immediate or biological parents. Instead of choosing anti-social behavior they work so hard to climb the top of the social ladder.

On the flip side of the same coin, it can also be argued that some people who enjoyed family attachment choose the pathway to delinquency. So, it can be concluded that the more time children spend with their family (mother and

father) does not necessarily guarantee attachment. It is all about what parent routinely engaged in is that matter most. It is possible that children can be psychologically or emotionally detached from their parents under the same roof.

Despite the obvious shortcomings of the social control theory, it is still a viable analytical tool for delinquent behavior in contemporary society. It is not a one side fits all concept or theory. However, it is applicable in different context or situation.

Synoptic Insight on “Zogos”

This second segment of this paper provides the following information that put “Zogos” into the context. It looks at the characterization of “Zogos”, its emergence, as contemporary social problem, the security threat it poses to the fragile peace of Liberia and more importantly connects the vulnerability of the growing number of at-risk to the theoretical framework of the paper.

Characterization of “Zogos”

For the benefit of those of you not familiar with this Liberian parlance (*Zogos*), this second segment of the paper provides relevant clarification. In Liberia context, disadvantaged and vulnerable youths most of whom are child soldier and ex-combatants. soldiers are labelled as “Zogos” because of their sociality or social activities.

Normally dressed in rags with poor health appearance, these vulnerable Liberian youths between the ages of 18 to 35 years are seen during the day hours scavenging dumpsites for fairly used electronic and other materials to sell, boarding commercial vehicles with passengers, washing cars of unknown persons that have been parked on the streets for handouts, among others (Johnson, 2022).

The weak drugs law of 2014 coupled with weak law enforcement has turned most of them into drugs addiction. To support this unfortunate habit, they will have to scavenge dumpsites for fairly used electronic and other materials to sell, boarding commercial vehicles with passengers, washing cars of unknown persons that have been parked on the streets for handouts, and sell stolen items such as money, cell phones, jewelries, computers, among others far below the original prices (Johnson, 2022). They reside in marketplaces, cemeteries, and abandoned shacks and buildings.

Numerically, their exactness is yet to be established. However, according to their spokesperson identified as Julius Makor, they are more than 2, 055,000 across Liberia (Mulbah, 2022). Arguably, Monrovia is believed to host bulk of the estimated number of *Zogos*.

It is no doubt about their gradual increase is immensely contributing to the proliferation of ghettos and influx of narcotics and other dangerous substances in Liberia. In some communities, they hanged old sneakers or shoes atop electrical wires to portray the existence of a notorious gang or ghetto in a particular community (Mulbah, 2022).

The Emergence of “Zogos”

On the premise of anecdotal evidence that most of the “Zogos” are forgotten child soldiers and ex-combatants, it can be inferred that the emergence of “Zogos” date far back to the civil war of Liberia. This implies one of the indisputable failures of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program initiated under the auspices of the international community in the 2003. The main essence of the DDR was to integrate all combatants into civilian life so that they would participate in national development and reconciliation and minimize the risk of renewed fighting germane to securing peace and stability. It is also assumed that most of these child soldiers and ex-combatants turned into “Zogos” lost their parents in the war, or don’t know their whereabouts.

“Zogos”- Contemporary Social Problem

Although not the focus of this paper, however, it is important to inform Liberians that the growing wave of “Zogos” has become one of the contemporary social problems confronting the Liberian society.

From sociological lens, the objective approach presumes that a social problem exists as an objective condition or arrangement in the texture of society. To express it in other words, the approach explains the reality of the existence of a condition or behavior recognized as a social problem. The reality of the existence of a social problem stems from the negative consequences for large numbers of people in society.

In one of his eloquent articles, (Nebo, 2020) argued that this large number of people affected by a given problem remains contentious in terms of numerical value or threshold. For example: Is 100,000 enough? How about 10,000 or 1,000? Does the problem need to affect more than 1percent of a nation’s population? This contention that is yet to be resolved is one of the loopholes that lie within the objective approach. It can be argued that regardless of the universal consensus on the numerical threshold, it still does not question or erase the reality of the existence of a condition recognized as a social problem. For example, apartheid in South African society cannot erase the reality of how it affected thousands of black South Africans.

Concerning the recognition of a condition to be a social problem, the question that may be asked is: who or what determines the recognition of a condition to be a social problem? (Best & Harris, 2013) provides logical insight worth learning from. They argued that the process in the development of a social problem begins when someone (the maker of a claim) makes an argument (a claim) that a condition or behavior is harmful and tries to convince others why something must be done about it and what specific actions are needed.

The claims maker may be an expert in a related field, someone with personal experience, a social activist, or opposition who tries to assemble evidence supporting a claim that a condition or behavior is a social problem. The next step

is gaining favorable coverage from the media. If this effort is successful, the public will react by coming to view the objective condition or behavior as a problem. Claims makers may also try to mobilize large numbers of people in a movement to work together to deal with the problem and force lawmakers to do something about it. The growing wave of “Zogos” is an example. The entire society is the maker of the claim (“Zogos”). Why are they making the claim? The answer is very simple, it is because of the negative impacts on the internal security and that fragile peace of Liberia. Put it differently, all the humanitarian organization including private citizens in the fight of rehabilitating and empowering “Zogos” affirms that the growing wave of “Zogos” is a social problem. Moreover, even the government of Liberia acknowledged the growing wave of disadvantaged youth turning into “Zogos” as a social problem. This is the main reason why it has launched a national fund drive aimed at US\$13 million (Emansion, 2022).

In summation, a condition is said to be an objective social problem only if citizens, policymakers, or other parties call attention to the condition or behavior. Of course, because the growing wave of “Zogos” has increasingly instilled fears in the minds of the citizenry, and other foreign nationals, it has since claimed the attention of the government including opposition politicians as a social problem. The fears of the Liberian society for the growing number of “Zogos” stems from internal security threats briefly discussed below.

Security Threat

In the September 2003 report to the Security Council, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that ‘failure to adequately plan for and implement the various stages of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, would jeopardize the entire peace process and destabilize Liberia’ (Munive & Jakobsen, 2012).

Undeniably, the late Kofi Annan assertion resonates with all the continuous clarion calls upon the government to construct rehabilitation centers for “Zogos” because of the perceived security threat, especially internal security. Moreover, both the government and opposition politicians see the growing wave of “Zogos” across Liberia as looming security threat due to their vulnerability of being induced and manipulated by politicians with ulterior motives.

What cannot be counter-argued is the current numerical strengthen of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) coupled with serious logistical challenges that may not be able to contain the growing number of “Zogos” across the country. The rapid increment in the number of “Zogos” or “at-risk-youths” is instilling fear and terror in the minds of the citizenry, if nothing concrete is done by central government. In some parts of Monrovia and its environs, citizens harbor fear of being rubbed by “Zogos” criminal gangs after 7pm.

On one occasion, “Zogos” in some part of Bushrod Island retaliated strongly by throwing blunt objects and other deadly

weapons at the LNP and LDEA that went to raid their notorious ghetto. The “Zogos” even went as far as terrorizing business owners and passers-by (Johnson, 2022).

It can also be recalled following the climax of the first day of an open-air crusade on January 20, 2022, at the D. Tew football field, 29 worshippers including a pregnant woman died in a stampede after a criminal gang comprising of scores of disadvantaged youths or “Zogos” reportedly staged a hijacking and robbing attack from the main entrance of the field (VOA, 2022).

Application of the Social Control Theory to Liberia Context

One of the academic benefits for any theory in social sciences research is to explain the causes of social phenomena or phenomenon. Therefore, it makes no mistake to connect the social control theory to the growing wave of “Zogos” or at-risk-youths” in Liberia. Let me provide the argument to support the claim. Remember the following salient points earlier discussed under the social control theory.

First, the bonds of attachment squarely rest upon the shoulders of the family as the first informal agent of social control. Other social institutions such as religion and education buttress the family efforts. The breakdown of these institutions has implications for delinquent behavior. Moreover, the breakdown in the bond of attachment has implications for the rest of the bonds postulated by Travis Hirschi. In the case of Liberia, the 14 years civil war eroded or collapsed these institutions to the extent that most of the child soldiers that turned into “Zogos” were denied parental attachment or bond attachment from their parents. They grew up with the kind of socialization repugnant to approved societal values and norms. In short, the breakdown of informal social control cannot be aloof from the rapid increment of disadvantaged youth turning into “Zogos”.

Secondly, formal social control squarely rests upon the shoulders of the state or government. Through the criminal justice system, the government enforces the law to generate compliance for social control. Doubtlessly, weak criminal justice system creates the grounds for delinquency. Moreover, laws are also legislated or enacted to ensure that human behavior is regulated. Conversely, weak laws also explain the cause for delinquency. In the context of Liberia, this sub-set (formal social control) of the social control theory is more apparent. The entire Liberian society accepts without equivocation that the weak drugs law occasioned by lack of logistical and financial support to the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) are main contributing factors to the growing wave of “Zogos” Moreover, the porosity of Liberia’s border points, including the ones with neighboring countries make it easier for narcotics and illicit drugs to be brought into the country without any hindrance. This is another main factor influencing the raid increment of “Zogos” in Liberia. It is the negative impacts of illicit drugs such as marijuana, Italian white, cocaine and other dangerous substances influencing the

delinquent behavior of disadvantaged youth in Liberia. Grand Bassa County District #5 Representative Thomas Goshua, a member of Liberia National Legislature buttressed this fact when he said, “drugs and substance abuse have contributed negatively to the growth of the younger generation, adding that the proliferation of illicit drugs in Liberia has led several youths to become uncontrollable and are being referred to as “Zogos” (Wadpn, 2021).

In summation, formal social control is more apparent in the case of Liberia.

The Rehabilitation and Empowerment of “Zogos”

This segment focuses on the crux of the paper. It looks at the viability of the government inclination to rehabilitate and empower the growing number of “Zogos” as its approach or strategy of removing the perceived security threat posed by the growing wave of “Zogos”.

Having realized the eminent threat the growing wave of “Zogos” present to the fragile peace of Liberia, the Government through the National Steering Committee, in collaboration with the One UN System and other Development partners, has developed a joint-concept document to tackle the situation with the growing number of “At-Risk-Youths” or *Zogos* in the country. Indicative of its expressed commitment, President George Manneh Weah recently launched a National Fund Drive for the rehabilitation and empowerment of “Zogos” aimed at US\$13 million (Emansion, 2022).

When constructed, it is expected that the rehabilitation center will include Technical and Vocational Training facilities and provide psychosocial counselling or therapy to help transform the ugly self - image of “Zogos” to self-worth.

As mentioned under the introduction, this initiative is commendable and as such, thumps up to President Weah or a pat on the back of President Weah. However, how viable is this initiative to addressing the problem? Arguably, to some extent, it is viable because it agrees with belief bonds postulated by Hirschi. The psychosocial therapy or counselling that will be offered by the rehabilitation center could help to transform the belief system of “Zogos”. On the flip side of the same coin, an analysis of the concept of cause and effects will reveal that the rehabilitation and empowerment of “Zogos” is not the root cause of the perceived security threats. In other words, disadvantaged youth turning into “Zogos” is the effect of drugs and substance abuse that is attributed to what many Liberians considered as weak drugs law occasioned by lack of logistical and financial support to the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) as the main contributing factors. So, what significance difference rehabilitating and empowering the growing number of “Zogos” will have on our society without regard to addressing the main contributing factors? Will it remove the perceived imminent security threat?

In my candid opinion, ignoring the main contributing factors will create more stress and strains on the centers or initiatives that have financial implications. This is what will happen if we ignore or overlook the main contributing factors. The center will continue to have influx of disadvantage youth simply because the vulnerability (main contributing factors) is there. To prevent the influx of disadvantage youth turning into “Zogos” coming into the proposed center, there is serious need for the society to mount political pressure on the Liberian Senate to concur in passing the amended drugs law and increase budgetary support for all relevant law enforcement agencies policing illicit drugs in Liberia. The delay of the Senate to concur in passing the law is due to the billability of the crime. Mindful about the principle of confidentiality or anonymity this paper reliably learned that the Senate committee responsible to scrutinize the amended drugs law wants to make the crime billable thus delaying the concurrence. If this ever happens, it will make no significance difference in solving the growing wave of “Zogos”. This is because drug abuse is a lucrative crime that put drugs barons in advantage position to invade justice or prosecution through bill

This is the only strong viable option or remedy for neutralizing the perceived imminent security threat looming over Liberia. Please don’t get me wrong. All the initiatives are good. However, I am just worried about their potency to weaken the looming security threat.

IV. CONCLUSION

From the objective approach of sociology, the growing number of disadvantaged youths rapidly mutating into “Zogos” has become one of the contemporary social problems in Liberia that must be addressed from the root causes instead of the effects. The too much growing attention for rehabilitation and empowerment of “Zogos” is good and impressive. However, it is an effect that will not yield the desire outcomes in absence of the Liberian Senate passing the amended drugs law by retaining its billability and increase budgetary support for all relevant law enforcement agencies policing illicit drugs in Liberia. To actualize the desire outcome crucial to national security, all the initiatives or collective efforts must be done concomitantly.

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2. The Wave of Protests Leading to Regimes Change in Africa: A Sociological Perspective available at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9975153461>
3. Introduction to Liberia Criminal Justice System: A Concise Edition available at <https://www.morebooks.de/store/us/book/introduction-to-liberia-criminal-justice-system/isbn/978-620-3-04123-1>
4. Liberian Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology available at: <https://www.amazon.fr/LIBERIAN-SOCIETY-FOCUS-INTRODUCTION-SOCIOLOGY/dp/1639024425> <https://librotterra.com/shop/social-science/liberian-society-in-focus-an-introduction-to-sociology/>

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