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Crime, Policing and Judicial Prosecution in Colonial Ilorin, North Central Nigeria

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Abstract: The article fills an existing gap in Ilorin colonial historiography by exploring crime, policing and judicial prosecution. Using oral interviews, archival materials and other secondary sources drawn from books and peer-reviewed journals, the article shows that alongside the British colonialist economic interest, administrative institutions were set up to address issues of policing, crime and judicial prosecution. Under colonial rule, administrative institutions the Native Court, Native Police and Prison systems were employed as a means of subduing crimes and criminal activities detrimental to British economic interest. Statistical data gathered from archival documents reveal cases of crimes prevalent in colonial Ilorin to include murder, attempted murder, child stealing, armed robbery, burglary, stealing, coining offences, and illegal distillation among others were prevalent in colonial Ilorin. Also, the data reveals that the British not only focused on the natives but also prosecute native administrators under the indirect rule system if found guilty of offences.

Keywords: Crime, Policing, Judicial Prosecution, Ilorin, Colonial Rule, Nigeria

Introduction

The article examines some aspects of crime, policing and judicial prosecution in the colonial context of Ilorin, North-central Nigeria. The Nigerian pre-colonial criminal justice system for instance differs both substantially and procedurally from the colonial criminal justice system in Nigeria. While we cannot posit that there was no crime in the traditional society, the justice system procedure involves the head of the society. The criminal offences and civil wrongs recognised by the laws in the colonial period were also offences known to and administered pre-colonial long before the advent of the Europeans. Among these offences include murder, robbery, arson, treason, stealing, burglary, breaches of the peace and assaults, and rape, among others that were recognised and punished by pre-colonial native communities before the advent of British colonialists (Kolo, 2002).

The advent of colonial rule witnessed the bifurcation of territories known as Nigeria today. The British colonialists set up needed administrative structures necessary to govern the colonised territories. The territories quickly emerged under the indirect rule practices which witnessed the involvement of traditional institutions and local elements in the administration of these territories. The criminal justice system consisting of judiciary, police, prosecutor, correctional services and legal aid scheme forms the fulcrum of the colonial administration. The events that occurred under crime and judicial prosecution during colonial rule were administered under the jurisdiction of the Native Authority Police and the Native Courts. The Native Courts and the Native Police were important key institutions necessary for achieving the economic and political goals of colonialism. Native Police mirrored this the Native Courts and juridical division. Their legal footing rested on a series of statutory ordinances, which

provided for the preservation of law and order, the protection of property and armed assistance to the colonial government in times of unrest.

Using historical research methodology and relying on primary sources of data gathered from the National Archive Kaduna and other relevant secondary sources, the article was able to provide an overview of cases of crimes, policing and judicial prosecution in colonial Ilorin, north-central Nigeria. The article is divided into four sections apart from the introduction and conclusion. The first section examines policing and the court system in pre-colonial Ilorin while the second section examines policing and the court system in colonial Ilorin. The last section examines prevalent cases of crimes and judicial prosecution in colonial Ilorin.

Policing and Court System in Pre-colonial Ilorin

The establishment of the Ilorin Emirate in the nineteenth century, following the successful Muslim revolution that made Abdul-Salam the first Emir (1823-1836), resulted in the establishment of political institutions, including the policing and court system in Ilorin to prevent crime and adjudication of cases. Policing institutions such as the Dogari institution served as traditional police, and the Qadi, also known as Alkali. The first Alkali, in Ilorin, was *Abu Jalalyn*, who migrated from Sokoto (Danmole, 1989), while the Dogari family's origins in Ilorin claimed that their ancestor was *Ahmadu Baba*, who migrated from Borno and a friend of Sheik Alimi (O'Hear, 2006). These offices following the recommendations of the Sokoto Caliphate (Jimoh, 1994), the emir established the community and palace police, as well as the application of Islamic laws in the judicial prosecution of offenders. Hence, the pre-colonial institution effectively laid the foundation for community and palace police, as well as the application of Islamic law in the prosecution of cases. The authority of the Dogari institution was derived from the Emir, who was the supreme head of the political institutions in Ilorin. The Dogari institution had the duty to 'capture and discipline offenders, and to guard the town together with warders under the leadership of Seriki Dogari (Alh. Lukman, 2021/11/22, Oral interview; Abdulbaki, 2019). The Dogari perform important police duty of preventing and detecting crimes. They also executed the commands of justice. As part of the judicial process. Fika notes that in civil matters the plaintiff went up to the court and lodged his complaint in the company of official orderlies and messengers (Fika, 1978). The Dogari institution also conducted surveillance and intelligence gathering in areas that could serve as breeding grounds for various criminal acts according to Emirate norms and practices. Apart from the palace, they also operated in public places, such as markets, and neighbourhood watches (Alh. Lukman 2021/11/22 and Mall. Salman, 2021/10/29 Oral interview).

The Alkali judge and court were the most dominant judicial institution in Ilorin pre-colonial period. However, pre-colonial court institutions with Yoruba cultural socio-political elements were means of prosecuting criminal cases. However, with the emergence of Islam and the Emirate system, the introduction of Islamic principles and Alkali judges became an important legal system for prosecuting court cases (Alh. Abubakar, 2021/11/16, Oral interview). The Alkali's role in the Emirate was to settle disputes between disputing parties through mutual agreement or coercing them to follow the court directives. Examples of court cases include homicide, theft cases, debts conflict, land disputes, divorces, and conflicts prosecuted through Sharia-compliant punishments (Danmole, 1989). The caliphate appointed the Alkali judge. The court houses established in Ilorin were presided over by the Alkali judge. Most of the Emirate court houses were established, over which the Alkali judge. The *Dogari* and *Alkali* judge works collaboratively. For instance, once the case complaint was brought before the *Alkali* (Islamic judge) and the grievance was formally outlined, a *Dogari* would be directed to summon the respondent. If it was a criminal offence, the accused was

usually arrested by *Dogari* and brought before the court in chains (Mall. Yusuf, 2021/11/24, Oral interview; Danmole, 1989; Abdulbaki, 2019). The foregoing presents a pre-colonial survey of pre-colonial policing, court systems and judicial prosecution process in pre-colonial Ilorin.

Policing and the Court System in Colonial Ilorin

Colonial incursion into the northern, predominantly Muslim interior was messier; incremental and necessarily partial. In 1886 it assigned nominal control over administration and policing to Sir George Taubman Goldie's Royal Niger Company in return for which the company gained *de facto* monopoly control over commercial development in the Nigerian interior. In the sphere of policing and conquest, by 1987, the Royal Niger Company (RNC) bombarded and brought Ilorin like other Southern territories under colonial subjugation. By 1900, Lord Frederick Lugard had declared northern Nigeria a protectorate and had begun to make structural and legal efforts to establish its control over the new protectorate. As part of the administrative arrangement, Lord Lugard divided the protectorate into provinces, which were small, manageable administrative units (Lugard, 1970). Ilorin Division comprised a sizable portion of Ilorin Province, with Ilorin serving as the administrative capital.

Map: Colonial Nigeria Showing Ilorin, Northern Provinces



The level of administration in each province was divided into divisions and districts. The Ilorin Division, which was co-terminus with the pre-colonial Ilorin Emirate, initially embraced the Ilorin metropolis and the areas to the north of the Emirate. Administratively, it included areas of Igbomina, Ibolo, Ekiti, who had been conquered by Ilorin before the arrival of the colonialist. The colonial government set out to establish institutions for the administration of all colonial areas. At the inception of British rule in Ilorin like other

colonial Northern protectorate towns was brought under the indirect rule system in which the colonialists adapted the existing political system that was in existence in the emirates to suit colonial exigencies (O'Hear, 1984). The colonialist official used traditional political institutions under the Emir as an administrative base to achieve their administrative and economic goals. The Lugardian doctrine of native administration was founded on the notion that there existed a strong, rather autocratic, Emir or chief whose authority the government could officially recognise and to whom it could delegate some responsibility. By the administrative arrangement, the Emir was subordinate to the British administrative officer and was the division's centralised political, judicial, and administrative head (Catherine, 1990). Among the Emir's duties included acting as guards, preventing criminal activities and political unrest, and protecting the new colonial administration's property.

Under colonial rule, the Police Proclamation, repealing the Constabulary Proclamation was enacted in 1906 (Annual Colonial Reports, 1910). Until the middle of 1906, three Police Forces existed in Nigeria; The Lagos Police Force, The Southern Police Force, and the Northern Police Force. Meanwhile, The Dogarai Force became recognized as a Native Authority Police Force in 1907. Also, between 1907 and 1913, the Government Police Force in Northern Nigeria was re-organised. According to Tekana, it was in the course of the re-organisation under Governor Percy Girouard that the indigenous police organisation in the emirates, the *Dogarai* gained recognition as a unit of administration in 1907. In 1915, the number of men was increased to approximately hundred and forty-four (NAK/ILORPROF/SNP10/72p/1916). Prisons were also built, with a capacity of twenty prisoners at any given time (NAK/ILORPROF/SNP7A.M. 684/1909). By 1916, the Government Police in the Northern Provinces consisted of 20 Europeans and 923 natives, and by 1921, the number has raised to 1, 088. They were distributed amongst the Provinces, except for Sokoto and Bornu, in addition to detachments at Zungeru and Lokoja.

Table 1: Distribution of the NPF in Northern Province, 31st December 1921

Detachment	Officers			NCOs and Men						Remarks
Bauchi	-	-	1	-	1	4	6	10	124	145
Ilorin	-	-	1	-	1	2	4	7	58	72
Kaduna Headquarters	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	5	46	56
Kano	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	6	78	90
Kontagora	-	-	1	-	1	3	4	6	76	90
Lokoja	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	7	61	73
Munshi	-	-	2	-	1	3	7	13	137	161
Muri	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	5	39	48
Nassarawa	-	-	1	-	1	2	6	11	104	124
Nupe	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	5	64	75
Yola	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	6	62	74
Zaria	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	5	68	79
Railway	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total of Stations	1	-	13	1	13	26	45	86	917	1,088

Source: S.G. Ehindero, (1993):296

An important aspect of the British colonialist administrative structure was the Native Authority Council. Ilorin Native Authority Council (INAC) was formed in 1903 to ensure the indirect rule system effectiveness, and allow the Emir to exercise his powers and functions. The Council was presided over by the Emir along with four (4) Balogun's and a few leading chiefs were in charge of the Ilorin Division's overall operations. The Council served only as the Emir's judicial council and an advisory or decision-making body to the British

administrative officers. The British also gave the Emir and the Balogun's the power to pass a Native Authority Ordinance. This ordinance gave the Emir the authority to appoint and depose rulers and chiefs in the division, subject to the Resident's approval. As a result of the ordinance, the power of the Emir was strengthened (Lugard, 1970).

The Native Authority Ordinance also empowered the Emir to appoint the Native Police (Dogari) with which he could enforce his order (Lugard, 1970). The Northern Provinces' government police force consists of 20 Europeans and 923 indigenous people. This unarmed native police, known as Dogarai, worked for and were controlled by the Native Administration. Policing was practically left in the hands of the Native Authority in the Ilorin Emirate. The Native Authority Police Forces are referred to as Yan Doka among the Hausa people of Northern Nigeria. It played an important role in the upkeep of the emirate's law and order, coordination of colonial subjects to further the interest of colonialists, and tax collection. Following the institution's effectiveness in serving colonial needs, the colonial government strengthened it and incorporated the Dogarai into the Native Authority Police institution of the various parts of the Northern Province. They reported to the Emir directly, either through their chief or the inspector of Native Police (NAK/SNP1072p/1916). At the time, the Native Police (Dogarai) under the Native Administration for the entire Northern Province numbered 1,762, costing £21,949 (Catherine, 1990).

Like the pre-colonial period, the Dogari under the Native Police worked as a bailiff and court security in the Emir's Native Court. They issue summons, arrest, and arraign offenders who refuse to obey the Emirs' courts' invitation. There was a court located around the Emir's palace quarters, where justice was dispensed. It was known as *kotu-Nla* as the size of the court was bigger than the others and the cases handled there were complex.

Figure 1: Ilorin Colonial Court Complex



Source: Researchers Fieldwork, 2021.

From the pictorial evidence above, it was shown that the court is big and handle cases like divorce, land disputes, chieftaincy disputes, community clashes, and criminal cases among others handled in the court.

In collaboration with the *Baba Kekere*, Ajele, and other Emir-appointed officials, the institution enforces tax laws and collects tributes. It is also worth noting that they guard the

Emir and his entourage both inside and outside the building. The colonial administration issued a series of memoranda aimed at increasing the influence of the Alkali courts and other native courts to transform them into effective tools for the British administration (Report of the Native Courts, 1952). The Alkali court, which operated under Islamic laws, is a good example of a Native Court. The Emirate's use of Islamic laws in deciding cases was said to have begun in 1823 (Danmole, 1989). The colonial administration decided to implement this English legal system in some areas of the Emirate, particularly in areas where it had previously existed. The application of Islamic law was extended to other parts of the Emirate where the administration believed significant opposition would not be encountered. The belief was that if the system of jurisdiction was acceptable to the people, the administration of justice would be facilitated (Danmole, 1989). In 1900, Resident Dwyer enacted an ordinance and established four courts in the four wards of the town. This made the Emir's judicial council, presided over by the Balogun and presided over by the Emir, the highest judicial authority in the Emirate aside from the Provincial Court, presided over by the Resident, which could reverse or overturn the Emir's Judicial Council's decision (Lugard, 1970). The judicial council was given authority to handle a wide range of cases, including "land dispute" offences committed by or against the executive and matters of unusual gravity (Alh. Muhammed, 2021/11/20, Oral interview).

In 1903, there was an increase in the number of Alkali courts in the Ilorin Emirate. Apart from the one established in Ilorin that year, Alkali courts were established in Offa, and Ejidongari, Alkali Courts were established (NAK/ILORPROF/A.M 1854/1911). The Resident proposed eight more courts in 1909, and approval was sought from the High Commissioner (NAK/ILORPROF/A.M 468/1910). As a result, between 1903 and 1916, many Alkali Courts were built in various districts of the Ilorin Emirate, including Paiye, Ajase, Igbaja, and Afon. In 1929, the total number of court was around twenty-one (NAK/ILORPROF/SNP 10 168p/1913). The Colonial administration took into account the importance of courts in some of the districts. In some places, such as Omu, Osi, Ekun, and Offa, no attempts were made to administer judges, which does not appear to have reflected the needs of the people at the time.

In 1906, the courts in Ilorin Emirate were graded alongside Native Courts in the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria. Four types of courts were established, namely A, B, C, and D. Each Court's category is determined by the powers granted to it (Danmole, 1989). In Ilorin Emirate as in the other northern Nigerian emirates, a judicial council was established, with the Emir as president. The judicial council (Emir's Council) and the Alkali Court in Ilorin were assigned to category A while other Alkali Courts in places like Offa and Paiye were classified as category B, and those in Ejidongari were classified as category C (Hermon-Hodge, 1929).

Table 1: Native courts in Ilorin Emirate in 1929

Name of Court	Description	Grade
Ilorin city	Judicial Council	A
Ilorin city	Alkali's Court	A
Ilorin city	Junior Alkali's Court	B
Ilorin city	Alkali's Court	B
Lawnwa	Alkali's Court	B
Igborins	Alkali's Court	B
Afon	Alkali's Court	B
Offa	Alkali's Court	B
Oloru	Alkali's Court	B
Share	Alkali's Court	B
Ajasse	Alkali's Court	B
Shonga	Alkali's Court	B
Paiye	Alkali's Court	B
Omu-Isanlum	Native Court	C
Ekiti	Native Court	C
Osi	Native Court	C
Owode	Alkali's Court	C
Onire	Alkali's Court	C
Ejidongari	Alkali's Court	C
Igbaja	Native Court	C

Source: NAK ILORPROF, Annual Report No. 68 1929.

The yardstick used to classify these courts was not explained in the archival document. However, the grading of the Courts appears to have been based on the urban identity of the town and its population. Except for Omu, Isanlu, Osi, and Otun, almost all emirate districts had various types of Alkali Courts between 1924 and 1933 (NAI/C.S.O.26/2; NAKILORPROF/ Native Courts Revised Schedule, 1933). Apart from the Emir's court, there appears to have been a lot of pressure on the courts because there were two other Alkali Courts in Ilorin town alone. The colonial administration instituted some legal reforms. For instance, aspects of British law were incorporated into the existing Islamic legal system. The court officials were instructed in the fundamentals of administering justice, as was available in the British legal system (Danmole, 1989). In areas where Muslims were not prevalent, such as Otun, Ekan, Omu, Obo, and Ilofa, the justice system was a hybrid of indigenous customs and British law (Danmole, 1989). The court's expansion into various parts of the Emirate, combined with innovations introduced by colonial authorities, greatly improved the administration of justice in the emirate's Alkali Court (Danmole, 1989).

Prevalent Cases of Crimes and Judicial Prosecution in Colonial Ilorin

By the 1930s, Ilorin Emirate like other colonial provinces and districts has emerged as a cosmopolitan town and urban centre. The town became a natural gateway and entreport between the southern protectorate and Northern protectorate, and the towns located around the province. With the presence of motorable roads as early as the 1920s and the railroad from northern Nigerian linking with the southern region was also more prosperous and a zone of transit and destination for traders and migrants from the interior. Given the immense importance of Ilorin, this probably opened the town to several crimes. Therefore, the colonial government felt the need for a charge office, that engaged in the detection of crime,

apprehension of offenders and charge the offenders to the court for the judicial process. Below was the charge office used by the colonial police in Ilorin.

Figure 2: Ilorin British Colonial Charge Office



Source: Researchers Fieldwork, 2021.

This Crime statistics available for Ilorin and accessed at the National Archive Kaduna reveal that Ilorin witnessed numerous reported cases of crimes and the documentation of these crimes suggests that the colonial administration of Ilorin not only identified but tackled these crimes. Crime statistics for 1937-1938; 1951; and 1952 are presented below:

Table 2: Crime Returns and Statistics (Nigeria Police), 1937-38

Offence against the Person	1937	1938
Murder	-	1
Attempted murder	1	-
Manslaughter	-	-
Wounding and serious assault	15	3
Child Stealing	-	-
Other Offences against the person	42	1
Offence against Property		
Armed Robbery	-	-
Burglary	11	6
House-breaking by night	1	2
Housebreaking by day	1	1
Stealing (general)	59	36
Other offences against property	10	8

Forgery and Attempt to procure Forgery		
West African Currency Notes	1	-
Coining offences	2	2
Illicit Distillation	-	-
Offences against Arms Ordinances	2	-
Other Offences	51	16
Total	203	76

Source: Annual Report on the Nigeria Police Force, 1938, section 34. NAK CLO 3743

Table 3: Crime Returns and Statistics (Native Administration Areas)

Offences against the Person	1937	1938
Murder	7	-
Attempted Murder	3	-
Manslaughter	1	-
Wounding and serious Assault	26	6
Child Stealing	-	-
Other offences against the Person	68	3
Offences against property		
Armed Robbery	2	-
Burglary	38	47
Housebreaking by night	-	4
Housebreaking by day	-	-
Stealing (general)	53	24
Other offences against property	13	20
Forgery and Attempts to procure		
Forgery of the West African currency Notes	-	1
Coining offences	3	1
Illicit Distillation	-	-
Offences against Arms Ordinance	-	-
Other offences	20	5
Total	243	111

Source: Annual Report on the Nigeria Police Force, 1938, section 34. NAK CLO 3743

Table 4: Crime Returns and Statistics (Nigeria Police), 1950-1951

Offences against the Person	1950-1951
Murder	5
Attempted Murder	1
Manslaughter	3
Wounding and serious Assault	6
Child Stealing	-
Other offences against the Person	8
Offences against property	
Armed Robbery	-
Burglary	13

Housebreaking by night	1
Housebreaking by day	-
Stealing (general)	65
Other offences against property	1
Forgery and Attempts to procure	
Forgery of the West African currency Notes	2
Coining offences	1
Illicit Distillation	1
Offences against Arms Ordinance	-
Other offences	33
Total	140

Source: ILORPROF/3454 Crime Statistic, Administration Department.

The above tables of 1937 crime statistics by the Native Police and the 1937/1938 Native Administration Areas as well as the crime statistics between 1950 and 1951 reveal that Native Authority police prosecuted several cases among which include murder, attempted murder, child stealing, armed robbery, burglary, stealing, coining offences, illegal distillation among several others. According to the data presented above, the above total number of crimes prosecuted in 1937 was put at 243 and 111 in 1938 under the Native Administration Areas while 203 and 78 cases were prosecuted by Native Police between 1937 and 1938. Also, the above tables reveal that ‘stealing (in general)’ was the most prosecuted case. Stealing was more common than the indictable offences against persons in Ilorin during colonial rule. Also, there was an increase in burglaries during this period (NAK/ILORPROF/3394/1947). The reason for such an increase could be linked to the post-World War II economic situation caused by taxation, scarcity, job loss, unemployment, and reintegration of ex-servicemen. For example, the ASP Ilorin giving a self-criticism of his performance noted:

I suppose my main fault lies in over keenness, not uncommon perhaps in first tour officials. Particularly in respect of ex-service officers who not unnaturally discover that a considerable period is required to re-adjust their mentality to peacetime policy (NAK/ILORPROF/3394/1947).

To substantiate the burglary issue, the Assistant Superintendent of Police in Ilorin stated, “burglary and house-breaking are the exceptions rather than the rule in Ilorin” (NAK/ILORPROF/3394/1947). There were also instances of political unrest. However, while the Intelligence “I” Unit should have been on the ground to implement preventive measures, it appeared as if the government usually waited for the situation to erupt before mass deployments to police such areas were made. To be sure, the Commissioner of Police, anticipating a political uproar when certain public policies were implemented, wrote to the Resident:

I appreciate the fact that there may be demonstrations and disturbances when the decision is announced on the boundary question, but if you will let me know when this is about to take place, I will send two units, i.e. one hundred personnel to help in the policing of the disturbed areas (NAK/ILORPROF/3394/1947).

These crimes also resulted in significant property losses that were not recovered. The Nigeria Police recorded £387.81 worth of stolen property in 1937 and £346.6.17 in 1938, but only £61.6.10 and £21.10 were recovered in 1937 and 1938, respectively. The unrecovered property was valued at £327.2.1 in 1938 and £325.16 in 1939. In the native Administration Area, £534.12.4 and £580.4.7 in property were stolen in 1937 and 1938, respectively; only £288.15.9 (1937) and £145.2.5 (1938) were recovered, while £245.16.7 and £435.2.2 remained unrecovered in 1937 and 1938, respectively (NAK/CLO3743/1938).

Equally, it is important to state that crime statistics summary data between 1950 and 1951 reveals another aspect of judicial prosecution between 1950 and 1951. Apart from the prosecuted by the Native Authority Police, Native Authority Police and Administrators also refused cases, closed cases, recorded withdrawn cases, and transferred cases to Native Court among several others. There were numerous cases of unresolved crimes as well. According to the Annual Report for 1938, 36 cases, or 19.2 per cent, of 187 true cases that came within the scope of the police in Niger-Ilorin Province, either in areas controlled by them or outside their jurisdiction, resulted in convictions during the year. As of December 31st, 1938, there had been ten acquittals, and 39 cases, or 20.8%, were still under investigation, undetected, or awaiting trial (NAK/CLO3743/1938). However, it should be noted that the crimes prosecuted by the Nigeria Police differed significantly from those prosecuted by the Native Administration Police. The figures below compare the crime returns and statistics of the NPF and the Native Administration Police. Table 5 and 6 crime statistics summary reveals such case studies

Table 5: Criminal Statistic-Summary of Cases for 1st April 1950- 31st March 1951

Cases	1950-1951
No. of cases reported	140
No. of cases refused	17
No. cases transferred to Native Authority Court	2
No. of cases transferred	6
No. of total true cases	115
No. of cases convicted	59
No. of cases acquitted	10
No of cases withdrawn	-
No of cases awaiting trial	15
No. of cases under investigation	14
No. of cases closed	17

Source: ILORPROF/3454 Crime Statistic, Administration Department.

Table 6: Criminal Statistic-Summary of Cases 1951

Cases	1951
No. of cases reported	65
No. of cases refused	4
No. cases transferred to Native Authority Court	-
No. of cases transferred	1
No. of total true cases	60
No. of cases convicted	30
No. of cases acquitted	3
No of cases withdrawn	1
No of cases awaiting trial	15

No. of cases under investigation	11
No. of cases closed	-

Source: ILORPROF/3454 Crime Statistic, Administration Department.

Archival documents accessed also provide another piece of rare information about the punishment of Native Authority officials through the court and judicial prosecution. The indirect rule system adopted to govern the colony employed natives in the administration of the protectorate, provinces and districts under the Native Treasury, Native Authority and the Native Courts. However, there were cases of crimes among the officials, indiscipline among the officials which the British and Native colonial officers of the Native Authority Police and the Court discipline members who are guilty of these offences. Table 7 provides a list of Native Authority officials prosecuted in the courts in 1954

Table 7: The List of Native Authority (N.A) officials prosecuted in the courts in 1954

C.R. Nos.	Name	Employment	Offence	Court	Date
127/54-55	J. A. Akodudu	Health Dept.	Riding in the Emir's market at the prohibited hours	Grade 'D' Alikali's court Ilorin	29/09/54
138/54-55	Adetiba Illale	Village Head of Illale	Negligent of Duty	Emir's Court Ilorin	18/10/54
139/54-55	Joseph Kolawole	Native Court Clerk Ekan	Issuing and signed a Remand Warrant against Kolawole.	Emir's Court Ilorin	18/10/54
452/54-55	Ekan Ogundeji	N. A P.W.D Department Ilorin	1. Stealing Motor Tyres. 2. Unlawful possession. 3. Attempts to commit suicide. 4. False accounting by public officer against Joseph Ogundeji.	A. T	
481/54-55	Momodu Bale Agbele	Village Head Agbele	1. Official corruption. 2. Murder.	A. T.	
502/54-55	Adetiba Illale	Village Head of Illale	Official corruption against village head Illale.	Emir's Court Ilorin	18/10/54
503/54-55	Adetiba Illale	Village Head of Illale	Official corruption against village head Illale.	Emir's Court Ilorin	18/10/54
504/54-55	Adetiba Illale	Village Head of Illale	Official corruption against village head Illale.	Emir's Court Ilorin	18/10/54
505/54-55	Adetiba Illale	Village Head of Illale	Official corruption against village head Illale.	Emir's Court Ilorin	18/10/54

Source: ILORPROF/3454 Crime Statistic, Administration Department.

Conclusion

The paper examined the crime, policing and judicial prosecution in colonial Ilorin, North Central Nigeria. The papers examined policing and the court system in the pre-colonial Ilorin Emirate through the use of *Dogari* institutions and *Alkali* in the prosecution of the crime perpetrators. The pre-colonial policing arrangement in Ilorin Emirate was highly formalised and organised. The Dogari not only performed policing functions but also administrative functions such as collecting tributes, taxes and representatives of the Emir. However, the incursions of the British colonialist witnessed an overhauling of the pre-colonial policing and court system. The British colonial officials through the indirect rule system were able to use existing indigenous policing, established courts and traditional rulers to maintain law and order in colonial Ilorin. During the colonial period, crime and criminal activities were rampant ranging from murder, attempted murder, child stealing, armed robbery, burglary, stealing, coining offences, and illegal distillation among others. From the above statistical data gathered from the National Archive Kaduna, colonial officials through the Native Police, Native Court were able to prosecute offenders and administer justice among the colonial subjects and native administrators during colonial rule.

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