



An Insight into the Modus Operandi of the Dastardly Criminal Acts of the Cash Transit (CIT) Robbers in South Africa

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Abstract

The brutal and heartless way cash transit robbers operate in the South is a very frightening experience. Over the years it has become a serious course of concern for citizens. Most cash transit robbery is carried out by a group armed robber. Some of these robbers come from trained paramilitary background, in some instances are citizens from South Africa neighboring countries like Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Botswana. The military training commands of these named countries have either sacked or retrenched some of them from service in their home countries. Instead of reskilling themselves and reintegrate into society, they turn to crimes, utilizing the set skills gained from the army or armed forces to terrorise citizens. This research has three aims: first, to highlight the persistent imminent dangers faced by citizens when these CIT robberies are taking place. Second, to explore the modus operandi of CIT robbers. Third, to explore both short term and long-term solutions to the deadly violent criminal world of the CIT robbers. The findings are: first, South Africa porous border makes the country a very attractive and lucrative destination to perpetuate violent robberies. Second, more training and investment by law enforcement agencies to fight CIT robbers, essentially improved use of assisted technology, artificial intelligence like drones, robots and body worn cameras. Third, mandatory tougher sentencing by the courts for CIT robbers in South Africa needs to be put in place to reduce this dastardly criminal violence.

Keywords: *Robbery; Violence; Lethal Force; Money; Cash-In-Transit; Bank- Heist*

1. Introduction

The South African Assets-In-Transit (AIT) industry has grown significantly, reflecting global patterns. This growth has occurred parallel to the country's burgeoning economy and high crime rates. The industry's evolution indicates that risks associated with the flow of valuable assets and their transportation necessitated adjustments... The Private Security Industry Regulatory Act 56 of 2001 defines security services to mean, among others; protecting or safeguarding a person or property in any manner; giving advice on the protection or safeguarding of a person or property ... or on the use of security equipment and providing a reactive or response service in connection with the safeguarding of a person or property in any manner [1]

Cash-in-transit vans are an attractive target for robbers because they are lucrative [2]. A once-off-robbery guarantees a comfortable lifestyle for members of the criminal gang(s). Cash-in-transit robbers use their experience and attitude to the offence by approach to planning and use of violence to reduce the risks of things going wrong. The planning is carried out with elements strategic evaluation of the risks for been caught in the violent act. CIT is unarguably a premeditated crime carried out by organized criminals with a high level of paramilitary training and expertise [3] Robbery is the illegal and deliberate act of taking property (Cash) from its legal owner of custodian with violent force or coercion. The word Heist is associated with the act of committing robbery by a group of professionals with the intent of obtaining large scales of valuables like money [4].

The South African Police (SAPS, 2013) define Cash in transit robbery as the unlawful and intentional forceful removal and appropriation of money or containers for the conveyance of money, belonging to another while such money or containers for the conveyance of money are being transported by a security company on behalf of the owner thereof [5].

The author is persuaded for the arguments proposed by [6].

Technology that includes robotics and drones could also perform public safety surveillance, be integrated into overall public safety systems, and provide a safe alternative to putting police and the public in harm's way. Robotics and drones could also perform recovery, provide valuable intelligence, and augment criminal justice professionals in ways not yet contrived [7].

Police leaders need to be technological and data literate, so they don't see 'IT' as something that is done by one part of the organisation, but as a core part of everything the police do. And the police service needs to recruit those with expertise to help them make the most of the latest phase of the technological revolution [8].

2. Methodology

This study is qualitative research. The author carried out an extensive literature review related to the topic of Cash in Transit robberies. Themes and concepts related to the title were explored seeking out emergent themes following a thematic analysis approach. Case studies were introduced by the author to corroborate the dangers and risks of life of CIT incidents on citizens, in doing so substantiates the author's standpoint of the problem violence, fear and citizens confronting all citizens.

3. Results and Discussions

Research problem

Cash-in-transit robbery is one of the fastest growing forms of aggravated robbery in South Africa. It poses a significant threat to public safety and South Africa's economy. Particularly striking about these

robberies is the brazenness and callousness of the criminals involved, and the level of violence associated with it. Equally concerning is the apparent inability of the criminal justice system to stop them. Over the years in South Africa, cash-in-transit van robberies have been widely reported in the media. It is not carried out in secrecy but from the citizen's view. Citizens live in both conscious and subconscious perpetual psychological fear each time a cash transit van goes past in the street or in a shopping mall. The psychological state of anxiety and the effects of it is a worrisome experience. CIT robberies became popular in the early 1990s, where in 1997 criminals robbed SBV of 12 million rands in Pretoria. The mastermind behind most of the robberies was Mr. Collins Chauke. In another CIT robbery which amounted to a loss of 17 million rands in 1997, the robbers used steel spikes laid across the road on an attack of a CIT vehicle [9, 10]. Between March 2023 to October 2023, Fidelity lost 16 security guards, and many others have experienced life changing injuries due to these robberies [11].

According to one report relying on the South African Police Service statistics for Q4 2023/2024 and Q1 2024/2025 detailing scale, trends in violent robberies. It made the following findings:

Among reported cash reported cash-in transit robberies, the majority (57.5%) occurred during the armoured vehicles journey on the road. 16 of these robberies were cross pavement robberies. Perpetrators often come back to threaten their dispossessed victims (Security guards) while they returned to the armoured vehicles after collecting the money. Some of these incidents happened in parking lot areas of a busy mall or shopping complex. Robbers of commercial establishments are often considered to be an elite amongst offenders, respected for their daring raids against well-protected organizations that can afford to lose money [12].

According to Chief executive of Fidelity security Ltd, Wahl Bartmann who stated that private security is losing the war against cash-in-transit (CIT) heists in South Africa, with thefts becoming more frequent, and perpetrators more violent. With over 250 CIT heists have been recorded this year so far, criminals are turning into more violent means to get access to the money. CIT robbers appear to be highly organised, potentially ex-military, and are using armour-penetrating gunfire on top of bombings to execute the heists. Security guards are under constant threat – many of lost their lives, and many more have been injured – with little support from the South African Police Service. Instead, private security companies are now bearing the cost – both monetary and in life – of the activity, which is proving overwhelming [13].

Bartmann said the failures are compounded by the fact that the criminal justice system is not apprehending those involved. Many hijackers caught are repeat offenders who escaped justice through poorly handled investigations and prosecutions. The depth of the heists also imply that the criminals have police informants working with them – although Bartmann conceded that private security officials may also be involved. Bartmann alluded that to the fact that the war is being lost because CIT heists have become the norm in South Africa, and even with all the data and information at hand, there is no adequate support [14].

Modus operandi of CIT robbers

The modus operandi means the method of operation; it makes us understand the method used by CIT robbers to carry out their crimes. There are two main types of Cash-in-transit armed robberies. The first type is cross-pavement attacks, these take place outside of the vehicle transporting the money, and the guards/drivers are usually targeted while cash is in transition to the vehicle i.e., the second type of attack is a "heist in which the vehicle is attacked while moving [15]

The robbery of CIT is generally associated with multiple offenders planning the heist, armed with firearms and who are seeking large financial gain. Robberies of cash-in-transit vans principally took two

forms, either the van was stopped and raided, or money was stolen as it was being delivered or collected; interviewees spoke about twice as many raids of the second type than the rest. Robbing vans meant that robbers would have to confront individuals directly, and this always generates risks [16]

Sometimes people with skills were sought, such as driving acumen, or experience of weapons and explosives, ex-army and law enforcement background are often recruited to join the criminal gangs. Once a suitable target has been selected, accomplices need to be recruited and trained, a safe house that is a base near to the location of the robbery may need to be organized, cars may need to be stolen, and any special clothes/disguises and weapons obtained. The speed with which the robbery takes place often takes place for seconds and minutes hides what may be quite detailed work over weeks or even months. Ultimately, the success of robberies can depend on the amount of violence robbers are prepared to use. It does not matter how many lives are going to be lost during the incident [17].

Cash-in-transit robbers were prepared to be ruthless and most accepted that causing physical injury, usually in proportion to levels needed to get the job done, was a feature of their work. With respect to CIT robberies the gain is much higher than common robbery, but also the risks involved are much higher, all CIT robberies involve the use of illegal firearms as this increases the success rate of the heist [18].

Anelisse Burgess (2018) provided us with an excellent insight into the secrecy world of the cash in transit criminal gang in South Africa. She argued that:

‘Cash-in-transit heists are not crimes of passion committed in the heat of the moment, but require cool heads, professional skills and hard tools (men, vehicles, guns, explosives). Precision and nerve are necessary traits in this business. Burgess captures the modus operandi, the degree of planning and the level of organisation leading up to the event, and the mechanics now of execution of a heist’. [19].

The level of violence used by robbers to execute these dastardly acts sometimes re-enacts some contradictory excitement and public spectacle portrayed in the cinematic fictional legendary character ‘Robinhood of Loxley’ context. In doing so, it looks appealing to some citizens blinded to the nonsensical argument that CIT robbers do not harm the poor but the rich banking system as victims. The author takes umbrage with this kind of apologists and sympathisers for two reasons. First, the loss of lives cut short when bank cash transit vehicles are bombed with explosives and riddled with bullets, inside these vehicles are not upper-class citizens but security guards from a disadvantaged background are forced to take on jobs many would not dare do. Second, the secondary victims (children, wives, and relatives) of the security guard are not always properly catered for after the demise of their bread winner by CIT robbers. Anyone that is determined to take another person’s life to get rich quickly is a callous person that must be avoided at all costs. Following biblical allusion of the ten commandments that ‘thou shall not kill’ means CIT robbers will have some explanations to give our Supreme being at the appropriate and inevitable time.

While (Phillips, 2014) highlighted the key aspects of the CIT Modus Operandi as follows:

1. Explosives were used to access the cabin from the rear of the vehicle, whereupon the vault area was attacked.
2. Attacks on armoured vehicles: measures used to gain access to the vehicle: a. The use of petrol as an element of force b. after the AV had been brought to a standstill, petrol was poured over the vehicle, and it was set alight and the guard sustained serious injuries c. In 2006 (first in SA), the AV was set alight, and all the guards were killed as a result of the attack.
3. The use of law enforcement uniforms as well as blue lights a. to ensure no/minimal resistance from the guards b. speedy getaway c. employed to gain access to cash holding facilities

4. Gaining access to CIT premises under false pretences was also reported, with perpetrators posing as maintenance workers.
5. The use of explosives directed at either cash vans or cash holding facilities meticulous planning is involved in carrying out an attack of this nature.

In one incident of terror, security vans carrying money are rammed off busy daytime roads by deliberate attacks with vehicles, explosives are used to blow up the safe of these vans, with guards killed or set alight. Public display of AK-47 rifles with sporadic and indiscriminate sounds of the gun fills the air, citizens run for cover in any safe place they could find as CIT robbers offers no warning before exchanging bullets with vulnerable security guards [20]

The author argues that when one critically looks at the level of lethal violence associated with CIT robbery one can only draw the logical conclusion that CIT crime merits the government declaring a state of emergency and to jettison the security law enforcement agencies in South Africa to declare operation zero tolerance on CIT robbers. The author revisited one of the classical works of Shakespearean Julius Caesar' where the saying of 'as fire drives out fire, so pity pity'. This is literary analogy that when a small fire is burning, a large fire can be used to consume the fuel of the smaller fire, effectively extinguishing. The author advocates that it is high time in the South African government invest more of technology like drones, reorganize the current special South African Police Service air tactical units. More attack helicopters and lethal weapons must be deployed 24/7 to combat CIT robbers who have had menacing citizens for decades.

The banking industry needs to do more in terms of making resources available to fight crime. The banking industry must not delegate crime to the government and private security alone. The economy of the country is heavily dependent on the transportation of valuable assets, cash in particular. There is therefore an intrinsic reliance on AIT security service providers. Despite playing a significant role in the economy of South Africa, little is known about the AIT sector, save for the CIT heists which are pervasive in the count. The author argues about the weaknesses of such arrangements. The level of training, paramilitary experience and sophisticated weapons used by some of these CIT robbers do not match with private security guards. It is unfair to continue to place the lives of security guards at high risk and dangers. 80% of CIT security guards are black South Africans from a disadvantaged background save for black lives and every life matter. The author unapologetically argues that the current security arrangements to combat CIT robbers are inadequate then and now. It is lack of the preventative strategy put in place that encourages CIT robbers to ply their trade with impunity with the assurance that there is going to be little or no resistance. Bank, Government, law enforcement agencies and all stakeholders must come together and find a lasting solution to the CIT menace that is destroying South Africa economy [21]

There is a major gap as far as training standards are concerned, for example there is no clear training technique that can be applied in the hijacking of trucks that end up riddled with bullets. The assumption was that G4S, and others just throw technology at the problem, but this comes at a high premium. The author argues that the use of it still needs to be effectively rolled out so that officers are familiar with it operationally. CIT is causing mayhem in our streets and seriously affecting our economy. Not only monetary losses, but lives are also lost by security guards protecting the money. Investors who are familiar with this kind of volatile economy will not invest in that country. CIT robbers must be sent a notice to desist their dastardly act or face serious consequences. This time, the message should not be seen as mere political rhetoric, it must be backed up by the full implementation by our security cluster. While the author is not advocating for retributive justice alone, intelligence led policing has a vital part to play in combating CIT robbers in South Africa.

Reported Cash-in-transit incidents

In Pretoria around 25 February 2025, it was reported that ‘6 suspected CIT robbers were shot dead by the police in Laudium area of Pretoria West. This incident was confirmed by SAPS spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Mavela Masondo says the shoot-out happened in Laudium just after 17h00. “Police from Crime Intelligence received information about the suspects who were enroute to commit [a] CIT robbery in Atteridgeville and activated [a] team including SAPS Gauteng Tactical Response Team, SAPS Gauteng Anti-Gang Unit, Gauteng Traffic Police Airwing, CAP Specialised Operations and Tracker Connect to be on a look-out for the suspects.” Masondo says the team spotted the suspects, who were driving two vehicles – a BMW X1 and an Audi A4 – following a CIT van. When the suspects realised that the police were in the vicinity, they sped off, says Masondo. It is then that the police gave a chase. As they were stopped at Laudium, the suspects fired shots at the law enforcement officers, and a shoot-out ensued.” Six suspects were shot and killed, while another (22), who was not injured, was arrested. A few others escaped. According to Masondo, preliminary investigations suggest that the suspects are part of the gang that committed a CIT robbery in Atteridgeville recently, where four security guards were shot and injured. “They are also suspected of being involved in other CIT robberies in Gauteng and other provinces. “The suspects are facing charges that include conspiracy to commit robbery, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition, as well as attempted murder [23].

First, the author commends the intervention of law enforcement officers and their professionalism. Second, it is very worrying that some of the CIT are still able to escape during these incidents. With the number of resources deployed including tactical air units, no suspect should be able to still escape. When CIT robbers are made aware that a few of their gang members were not arrested or killed the impetus to try another become inevitable. One would logically follow the conclusion that an operational review, debrief and evaluation has been done to address relating to this incident to find out what went wrong leading to such preventable escapes from a shootout. The author calls for zero tolerance towards CIT robbers in South Africa. It is only through law enforcement operational actions that the message will become loud and clear enough is enough.

In one report, it stated that one person has died and 10 injured in a CIT heist on the N2 freeway near Durban on Tuesday. Three security guards were injured near the crash site, while three bus passengers were shot approximately 500m away. The entire N2 freeway was closed during the peak morning traffic as authorities conducted a thorough investigation. Within the last five years in South African, the city of Durban in Kwa Zulu Natal and its economic provincial hub has received a fair share of CIT robberies. With the usual trademark of millions of Rands, carted away, security guards killed, and CIT vans blown up with explosives [24].

According to one reporter named Akheel Sewsunker of Citizens media print captioned ‘CIT crimes in spotlight: Most dangerous criminals in South Africa’ it was reported that three high-stake CIT heists took place in KZN within week, with the aftermath of these crime scenes resembling an action movie, with burned cash vans, injured security guards and ammunition littering the ground. In one incident, an armoured vehicle crashed into someone’s yard on Tuesday morning in Folweni, south of Durban. On Friday morning, four suspects were killed in a shootout between SAPS and suspected CIT robbers at a house in KwaMashu. A 50-year-old man with alleged links to CIT robberies in KZN, was also arrested in the early hours of on Friday. What is happening in KZN is like the situation in Gauteng in 2018, with CIT heists taking place almost every week, sometimes with deadly consequences.

“CIT robbers are the most dangerous criminals in South Africa. They do not hesitate to take lives. They see the money that is being transported in the cash vans as their money. What distinguishes them from other criminals is that they do meticulous planning.”

“They plan between three and fourteen months to execute. They plan, plan and rehearse. It will never be the same group that rob twice, the group will always differ, I think that is where the SAPS misses the ball [25].

It was also reported that from the horror of the 2006 Villa Nora heist – where four security guards were burnt alive in their armoured vehicle after a ferocious fight-back against highly trained mercenaries – to the 2016 robbery of a cash centre in Witbank, where a gang made off with almost R104 million after impersonating police officers, some analysts have warned the incessant losses of large sums of money to CIT robbers could bring South Africa economically to its knees if nothing is done by law enforcement agencies[26].

In another separate incident a video clip of what appears to be a cash-in-transit heist in Boksburg went viral on Tuesday just as news came in of a second attempted heist during which a G4S security guard was shot and airlifted to hospital. In this video footage which is labelled as “another heist in Pretoria” appears to have been filmed by office workers who had a full view of the scene of the crime as the cash-in-transit heist unfolded. SAPS spokesperson Brenda Muridili, however, confirmed that the incident occurred in Atlas Road and that suspects had bombed the vehicle to get their hands on the loot. The suspects can be seen holding up a stationary cash-in-transit van and forcing the driver out of the vehicle and firing a shot. The suspects then climb to top of the cash-in-transit van. Other gang members can also be seen getting out of a white vehicle that is parked further down the road. The suspects appear to be heavily armed with rifles. The given scenario described above merits a declaration of a state of emergency in South Africa given law enforcement all powers at their disposal under the law to fight back the menace and the killing spree by CIT robbers [27].

“The South African Police Service recorded 60 CITs for the period April to June 2023, which is the same as for the same three months in 2022. SAPS recorded 237 CITs for the period April 2022 to March 2023 which is lower than the 238 recorded in 2021/22 annual stats (for period April 21 to March 22), possibly indicating some level of stabilization coming out.

In Limpopo Province, it was reported that “Four suspects sustained fatal gunshot wounds during the shoot-out. The suspects, two of whom are from Limpopo province, were found in possession of four firearms, an AK47 assault rifle, an R5 rifle and two pistols as well as numerous rounds of ammunition,”

In a period of six months, between January 2018 and June 2018, there has been at least 140 CIT robberies recorded nationally, the majority of which were coordinated in Gauteng Province [28]. I concur with the call in the request for the army to be brought in to clear up the potential high risks associated with CIT in South Africa. This should not be seen as a sign of weakness on the police part but as a multi-agency law enforcement strategy to reclaim back our streets that have been taken over by faceless hoodlums terrorizing the people of South Africa. According to Fidelity’s CEO Wahl Bartmann called on the military to fight cash-in-transit heist robbers. His call came after it took members of the SAPS to respond to a heist on the N12 in Johannesburg. Bartmann slammed the police for not responding to the scene on time.

The author takes the reader down memory lane and revisited some of the worst CIT robberies in South Africa over time where vast millions of Rands were lost to robbers. One such incident happened in the second half of 2001, at the then-Johannesburg International Airport, \$6.5m was stolen from a Swissair cargo plane, and almost \$10m from a KLM cargo plane.

R100 million

On March 25, 2006, a gang of 24 men armed with AK-47s stole R100m in cash from an SAA plane at OR Tambo International Airport. They held up police officers and guards after the flight landed and helped themselves to bags of currency flown in from Britain. It was later discovered that airport staff had helped plan it. After a six-year trial, seven suspects were tried and sentenced for their involvement in the heist.

R87 million

On the night of April 27, 2014, an armed gang overpowered and drugged security guards at an SBV cash centre in Witbank. They cut open a safe and stole R87m. The robbers left the four drugged guards on the Kromdraai Road. Seventeen people were arrested, among them a former Hawks captain, SBV employees, and a police reservist.

R43 million

A group of hackers spent New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in 2012 stealing R43m from the Post Bank system. They transferred the funds into various accounts. One of the men was nabbed in Welkom almost two months later. He pleaded guilty to fraud and was jailed for 15 years.

R31 million

In the biggest cash robbery in South Africa at the time, more than R31m was stolen from the SBV cash centre in Westmead, Pinetown, in August 1996. The gang stole three rifles, four guns, two cars, ammunition, and three video cameras. A guard opened the gate for the robbers, and another pretended to be held hostage while the security cameras were cut. Nineteen people, including policemen, SBV guards, a lawyer, and several women were arrested. Sixteen of them were convicted.

R8 million

Last month, six robbers stole jewellery worth R8m from a man shortly after he landed at Cape Town International Airport, despite having an escort of four private security guards. The victim had bought the jewellery at an auction in Johannesburg. He and his entourage were ambushed by men wearing balaclavas and armed with R4 and R5 rifles, shotguns, and pistols. A .38 special revolver belonging to one of the security guards was also stolen. Two stolen cars used in their escape were recovered on Airport Approach Road.

R3 million

In 2013, robbers hacked their way into a safe room at the FNB Stadium and stole R3m – the weekend cash takings following a Justin Bieber concert. They had spent several days chiseling through the safe room's double-thick walls and used ropes to lower themselves down a three-metre drop, officials believed [29].

FNB safety deposit boxes

On December 18, 2016, robbers overpowered a security guard and used a jackhammer to steal 360 safety deposit boxes from the FNB branch in Randburg, Johannesburg. On New Year's Eve 2016, thieves broke into the FNB branch in Parktown, Johannesburg, and stole valuables worth about R1.7m from 30

safety deposit boxes. Over a week later, 250 of the boxes were found in a veld near the FNB Stadium. Two men, Norman Moeli and Maredi Letsoalo, were arrested. Their case is being heard in the Randburg Magistrate's Court [30].

More CIT incidents

Corne Van Zyl (2001) that 18 Heist robbers killed in a hail of bullets. A notorious CIT gang responsible for many Cash-In-Transit (CIT) heists in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Gauteng provinces. This incident took place in Makhado in Limpopo. According to Brigadier Athlenda Mathe "ten vehicles, including several high-powered performance vehicles and seven automatic rifles, have been seized." a senior police officer attached to the DPCI was wounded during the shoot-out and is currently receiving medical care in a hospital. General Fannie Masemola led a delegation of senior police officers to the crime scene this afternoon and said police are clamping down on serious and violent crimes nationwide.

"We continue to heighten police visibility throughout the country. Many thanks to the team who has worked hard to stamp the authority of the state. We wish the injured member a speedy recovery. We do believe this syndicate has been involved in a number of CITs in this province, Mpumalanga and Gauteng

The author gives kudos and credit to the police when such is due. More proactive efforts are needed to fight CIT robbers. The private security guards cannot fight CIT robbers alone. Too many of them have been killed by these ruthless criminals. How do you relay the message to a child that the father went to work but did not return home because of CIT robbers to his life. Many children and families of the victims have become spontaneous orphans due to the fact that CIT robbers were baby sited for years in South Africa, they also took the police for granted. The author urges the police to use all powers at their disposal to end the CIT siege in South Africa once and for all [31].

In another CIT incident reported in 2023 at Gauteng Province, nine suspected cash-in-transit heist robbers were killed, and three were wounded during a shootout with the South African Police Service in Sebokeng, Gauteng. Police followed intelligence, which led them to the gang. The police went to arrest them when they opened fire. Eight of them died on the scene, while another died from his injuries at a hospital [32].

South Africa porous border

South Africa shares borders with several countries, including Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Lesotho and Mozambique. South Africa is a country than can be described as having a porous border [33]. The failure to secure these territorial borders of the Republic of South African have not only attracted hoodlums and criminal persons to come in out to perpetuate violent criminal acts like CIT, murder, rape, burglary, kidnapping, illegal mining exploration to mention but a few of these unlawful serious crimes. But have also made citizens to experience high wave of violent crimes committed by foreigners against them. Historically, multiple agencies and government departments shared the responsibilities of policing South Africa borders in the past but have failed woefully in doing so. There have been incidents of rampant and reckless corruption by some of these officials' allowing undesirables from neighboring countries to enter the country without proper documentation. The porousness of borders can pose a threat to national security, and it allows for free entry of individuals or groups linked to terrorism and criminal past coming into the country posing high risks to citizens. It is difficult to find many countries in the world that carelessly upon its borders for immigrants to do as they please [34].

In as much that as I consider myself as an African author from Pan-Africanist school of thought, I have some serious reservations about the call for a United States of Africa where people are allowed to move in and out of countries of their choice. A borderless Africa will create more security problems than the ones we currently face in Africa. African as a continent as it stands today do not have a common

integrated security systems put in place to accommodate such utopic dreams. The author is not against free trade within African countries for development but however concerned about social -economic challenges that goes with a borderless Africa. The author calls for caution and for more research into the wider security concerns. A call for all Africans not to be tunnel vision by economic gains alone as the legal concept of *Salus Populi Supreme ma Lex* remains paramount in this trajectory.

Use of technology in combating CIT robbers

The author recommends more use of Artificial Intelligence to fight crime. Artificial Intelligence is the ability of a machine to perceive and respond to its environment independently and perform tasks that would typically require human intelligence and decision-making processes, but without direct human intervention [35]. First, the AI technologies provide the capacity to overcome such human errors and to function as experts. Traditional software algorithms that assist humans are limited to predetermined features such as eye shape, eye color, and distance between eyes for facial recognition or demographics information for pattern analysis. Second, the discovery of pattern signatures in gunshot analysis offers another area in which to use AI algorithms. In one project, AI is used to analyze gunshot audio files from smartphones and smart devices “based on the observation that the content and quality of gunshot recordings are influenced by firearm and ammunition type, the scene geometry, and the recording device used... Using a well-defined mathematical model, the Cadre scientists are working to develop algorithms to detect gunshots, differentiate muzzle blasts from shock waves, determine shot-to-shot timings, determine the number of firearms present, and assign specific shots to firearms [36, 37].

Conclusion

South Africa economy remains one of the prosperous economies on the Africa continent yet unable to deal with CIT menace causing mayhem. The economy of the country is heavily dependent on the transportation of valuable assets, cash in particular, and relies on AIT security service providers. As a result, the flow of valuable assets and their transportation is a lucrative and at times dangerous element in South African society. For this vital, the South African government should reorganize its current security apparatus, and the government security forces should be at the forefront of confronting vicious hoodlums who places no value to the lives of victim they cut short. We must not turn our eyes away from the dangerous and volatile circumstances CIT robbers have put us in South Africa. Neither must the banking sector, public and private enterprises make any attempts to shift the burden of responsibilities.

This article is a clarion to all stakeholders and citizens to join hands together to fight, combat and eliminate CIT robbers by any means necessary. The author is not advocating for violence, but reasonable force and maximum force can be deployed, if necessary, when it comes to policing and protecting citizens. The issue of porous borders must be addressed, there nothing xenophobic in telling visitors get the necessary documentation before travelling to other countries, respect the territorial integrity of your country and other people’s countries. Do not travel to any country and start breaking the laws of your host countries. Respect the laws of land of your host countries.

The total number of illegal undocumented illegal immigrants in South Africa is unknown due to, too many illegal entry points into the country. For these reasons, I am opposed to the whole idea of a free travelling continent in Africa when no solid continental security systems were put in place or have been tried tested. The author argue that he does not want to be seen as hindrance to the lofty and idealistic ideas of a one Africa people and continent. But argued that several existing challenges like (cultural differences, language barrier, uneven economic development, tribalism, xenophobia, religious fanaticism, corruption, poverty, hunger, diseases, substandard education, health, lack of good roads and transport infrastructures, technology, military force, immigration, coup detat and counter revolutionary coups) must be addressed.

Conflict of interest

The author has no conflict of interest in relation to this article.

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Dedication

This article is dedicated to the men and women in uniform, security guards, law enforcement officers who risk their lives everyday to protect us in our communities especially to those who have lost their lives in serving and protecting us.

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