

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SECURITY THREAT CAUSED BY CRIMINAL GANGS IN  
KENYA AND ITS IMPACTS ON THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY: A CASE STUDY OF  
MANDERA COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

Terrorism has both direct and indirect effects on business. It could be noted that as government spends much on the security in the country, businesses have become vulnerable to terrorist targets, with important implications for the operations and performance of multinational firms. This study aims to assess the security threat caused by criminal gangs in Kenya and its impacts on the business community in Mandera County. The study focused on the effects of insecurity on business in Kenya, availability of security personnel for the business community and the impact of government responsiveness to security alerts on the business community. The identification of the effects of insecurity and terrorism in Kenya enables the country to develop proper mechanisms to counter the effects of terrorism on the economy. This leads to reduced negative effect and minimisation of losses. This will in turn provide a base line for policy interventions by the state agencies, development partners and non-governmental organization seeking to mitigate the effects of insecurity on business. This research adopted descriptive case study research design which seeks to describe a unit in detail, in context and holistically because a descriptive study is undertaken to describe the characteristics of the variables of interest in a situation. Secondary data was collected from the reviewed literature whereas primary data was collected from the target population. Questionnaires were used to collect qualitative and quantitative primary data. The study used Stratified random sampling technique and 39 respondents were involved in the study. The data was analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) as well as Microsoft Excel. It was then represented in tables, graphs, pie-charts and cross tabulations. The study concluded that the businesses in this region had been adversely affected by terrorist activities. Majority of the respondents also felt that security personnel were not available for them when needed and they therefore indicated that the presence of security personnel in the area would help to improve their businesses. Recommendations to deal with the challenges were made in the study.