

**EFFECTS OF HIGH PREVALENCE OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GANGS ON
SECURITY IN KIAMBU COUNTY**

(A CASE OF RUIRU)

ISABELLAH ANUNDA

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ABSTRACT

This researcher carried out study in Ruiru town which focused on the factors that bring about formation of criminal gangs in Kenya especially in urban set up. Studies all over the world show that gangs emerge due to either political, socioeconomic factors, or state failure in provision of harsh legislation. However there is no clear outline of how these factors contribute to the upcoming of criminal gangs, and there are other factors which may contribute to the upcoming gang groups. Therefore, this study aimed at finding out what makes some criminal gangs thrive in most urban towns and why many persons especially youths join such groups. The objectives of this study was to find out factors that lead to formation of criminal gangs in urban centers in relation to increase of crime especially at Ruiru town, :-to analyze out the challenges experienced in curbing or preventing formation of criminal gangs in urban centre, :-to find out measures that can be taken to tackle criminal gangs in urban centers. This study is based on the theory of social disorganization. Primary data was obtained using questionnaires and informants interviews. A total of 100 respondents were interviewed and findings were analyzed using statistical data of social statistics, while content analysis done for qualitative data .The finding in this area indicate that social, political, and economic factors have very big impacts on coming up of criminal gangs in urban areas. It is also evident that implementing effective legislation reduces these gangs with 20% as indicated by state organs. Key recommendation arising from study is that, non violent prevent measures by security agents that aimed addressing underlying inequalities were adopted. This can bear fruit if persons are given self help groups or finances to start business. Success security campaigns should be characterized by the participation of adverse group of actors that include government agent, NGO's, and society at large.