

# **Money Laundering And Its Threats To Financial Institutions**

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Criminals are now smarter than ever before in the twenty-first century technological age. Not only has Globalization brought the world into an ever changing interconnectedness, it has also brought technologically related crimes through networks of "*funds transfers*" among many nations in the world. Through this technological globalization, criminals have transferred millions of dollars in chains of illegal transactions with home and foreign financial institutions. These acts have left millions of people in unimaginable poverty as they have been robbed of their own money, which further had serious ramifications on other sectors of the economy.

Many governments, including the United States and other major world's organizations have staged measures to curb these schemes, however, there has not been a transparent path of preventive engagement to fully fight money laundering in the world financial systems as funds related to this crime have not been recovered and returned to their rightful countries.

This research will look principally at Nigeria as a case study to discuss the chains of money laundering, challenges faced during money recovering processes, the participants and agents, and how transparency and governance could effectively be used in fighting money laundering in Nigeria and other African nations. My principle sources will focus on past tried cases in Nigeria and scholarly researches on the

topic as a framework to trace and explain the stages and roles of institutions involved in it. I *hypothesize* that banks and government executives are most likely to commit money laundering due to greed for huge profits and wealth acquisition from illegal investments. Full exploration of these sources would provide better understanding of this crime on the health of Nigerian's financial sector (and its economy) during Sani Abacha's rule.