**Introduction**

Criminal justice system is defined as “a system in which crime and criminals are detected, detained, tried and punished”. A system is an interactive, interrelated, interdependent, group of elements performing related functions that make up a complex whole. The criminal justice system consists of the agencies of government charged with enforcing law, adjudicating crime, and correcting criminal conduct. These agencies include police, courts and correctional institutions. Hence, the criminal justice system is a loose confederation of agencies that perform different functions and are independently funded, managed and operated. Despite their independence, criminal justice agencies are related because what one agency does, affects all the others. If, for example, the police arrest more people, the courts will have to process more cases, the prison will have to manage more prisoners and the correctional institutions will have more people to rehabilitate. It is essentially an instrument of social control. Society maintains other types of informal social control, such as parental and school discipline, but these are designed to deal with moral, not legal, misbehavior. Only the criminal justice system maintains the power to control crime, punish those who violate the law and also rehabilitate the offenders to make them law abiding citizens.

**3.2 Goals of criminal justice system**

The primary goals of criminal justice system are as follows;

* To detect criminals
* To control crime
* To rehabilitate criminals
* To protect the rights of suspects, defendants and convicted offenders
* To protect the rights of victims
* To enforce the criminal law economically

Criminal justice system serves all the goals listed above. The goals range from public interest to private interest.