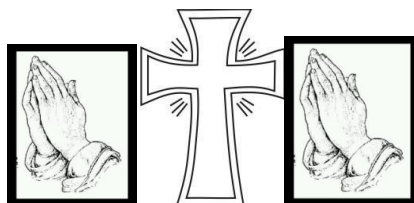


**CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM MOVEMENT CHURCH WORLDWIDE
HEADQUARTERS, DAKIBIYU DISTRICT, ABUJA**



**LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR/WORKSHOP FOR
CHURCH LEADERS, BRANCH SECRETARIES AND
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (2012)**

Coordinated By: Apos. George Omange

CHAIRMAN/GENERAL LEADER: Sp. Apostle A.A. BODUNRIN

Held @ CHURCH AUDITORIUM on SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 2012

THEME:
NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA

CONTENT

Workshop Objectives	2
National Security and the Church in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects	3
Security Challenges and Mitigation in the Church, Home and Office	13
Report of the Seminar on National Security and the Church in Nigeria	27

SPECIAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR/WORKSHOP FOR CHURCH LEADERS, BRANCH SECRETARIES AND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

THEME:

NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- a) To have a critical overview and appreciate the current security concerns in Nigeria
- b) To assess the impact of current national security situation on the Church, the Home and the Office
- c) To proffer remedial measures and chart a way forward for mitigating current national security issues
- d) To educate participants on measures to checkmate and prevent security threats in our daily activities
- e) To adopt common framework as a Church that will assist Security Agencies to collectively mitigate the current national security concerns in Nigeria
- f) To have an overview of the Need, Benefits and Challenges of Monitoring Exercises and Visitations of the District Chairman and chart a Way Forward for grater Effectiveness

NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

Yinka Adesanya

INTRODUCTION

1. Let me express my thanks to Mr Kayode Ojo, who thought it wise to involve me in this thought provoking well chosen topic: National Security and the Church in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects. This topic is very apt at this point in time especially for the church leadership and other important functionaries in view of the nature of the asymmetric warfare that Nigeria found herself in recent times.

2. Well, you will agree with me that 45 minutes will not be adequate for a vast topic like this; however, I shall strive to cover what I consider relevant for the improvement of our knowledge in it. In order to make this topic interesting, I have chosen to follow the designed workshop objectives tenaciously with slight modification. This I believe will make our question and answer session interesting

3. The United States faces a wide range of national security threats, ranging from the deployment of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) to the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) by her perceived enemies all over the world¹. In the same vein, the Nigerian Government has increasingly witnessed national security threat from economic sabotage in form of crude oil pipe line vandalization, Kidnapping of foreign business men residing within the country, there have been evidences of crimes perpetrated against state and individuals. Recently, the 'Church' in Nigeria has recorded various attacks in form of suicide bombing to direct killing of church members using small arms.

4. The recent spree of carnage unleashed against the church by members of the Islamic sect named BOKO HARAM has introduced a serious dimension to the hitherto known terrorist behaviours – which was to fight the government directly and not a segment of the society. It is with this in mind that the paper will examine National Security and the Church in Nigeria; Issues and Prospects. Attempt would therefore be made to conceptualize the key terms in the topic.

5. The main objectives of this paper is to have a critical overview and appreciate the current security concern in Nigeria, it will also assess the impact of current national security situation on the church, the home and the office. The paper will proffer remedial measures and chart a way forward for mitigating current national insecurity while participants are educated on measures to checkmate and prevent security threats in our churches.

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS

6. This paper shall give conceptual definitions of the variables: National Security, the Church and Religion. I shall later establish the relationship between them.

NATIONAL SECURITY

7. The National Defence College in Canada construes National Security as

“The preservation of a way of life acceptable to the people including freedom from military attacks or coercion, freedom from the erosion of the political, economic and social values such as is essential to the quality of life”²

8. Harold Brooch, United States Secretary of Defence in the Jimmy Carter administration from 1977 to 1981 also defined National Security as

“The ability to preserve the nation’s physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relation with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution and government from destruction from outside; and to control its borders”³.

The definition is adopted for this paper because it underscores the preservations of the institution and government from destruction from any form of criminal attacks from within and outside. It also advocates the physical unity of various ethnic and religious groups within the country while ensuring the maintenance of economic relations with the rest of the world.

THE CHURCH

9. The Oxford English Mini Dictionary defines ‘Church’ as

“A building for public Christians worship; a religious service in this building; Christians collectively; a particular group of these”⁴.

To buttress this definition, Google on the internet described Church as

“A building for Christian worship”⁵.

It was explained further that the earlier western churches were based on the plan of the Roman basilica. In Constantinople, Anatolia, and Eastern Europe, the Orthodox churches adopted the symmetrical Greek-cross plan, which had four wings of equal size projecting from a central, square, domed area. It went further to say that the late 11th century saw increased complexity in ‘Cathedrals’, but the innovative ‘hall church’ did not establish itself until the mid 20th century.

10. The Holy bible (New International Version) says that

“The true church is composed of regenerated person who differ from other human beings in that they have a superior kind of life impacted on them at the time of their inward renewal”⁶

From the above definition of church, it is obvious that the bible’s description seems to conform to the historical and present growth of the place of worship and the people therein. It is therefore apt for this paper and shall be adopted.

RELIGION

11. The description of church will be incomplete without defining religion. Therefore, religion as espoused in the Britannica.com, said

“In Christian doctrine, the religious community as a whole is an organized body of believers adhering to one sects teaching. The word church translates the Greek ‘ekklesia’, used in the New Testament for the body of faithful and the local congregation. Christian established congregation modelled in the ‘synagogue’ and a system of governance centred on the ‘Bishop’. The Nicene Creed characterized the church as one (unified), holy (created by the Holy Spirit), Catholic (universal), and apostolic (historically continuous with the apostles)”⁷.

From the foregoing, there seems to be a synergy between religion as believed in the Christian realm and the exclusive place of worship called Church. In this regards, the description of ‘Religion’ in this paper will mean its content in the quotation above and shall be use throughout the paper.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY, THE CHURCH AND RELIGION

12. The incessant attacks on members of the Christian religion in the post independence era of the great nation called Nigeria brings to the fore the national security challenges witnessed. The recent escapades on Christian individual by members of other religious (Islam) sects within the community especially in the Northern part of the nation gradually increased its dimension until it grew to the level of organized suicide bombing. More and more churches are attacked by the day with lives lost and properties of the Christian religion destroyed. The claim of the dastardly act by the Islamic sects called BOKO HARAM pose danger to the unity and co-existence of Nigeria. So far, efforts of the security outfits in Nigeria have not been seen to be enough to protect the churches and members of the Christian religion. Therefore, it is obvious that there is a direct relationship between the religion, the Church and National Security

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AS IT AFFECT THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA

13. **Military involvement in governance.** For the better part of the 52 years of Nigeria as a nation, the country was under military administration resulting from military takeover of the democratic and constitutional structure of the state. The military in power, you will agree with me was an aberration and its taking over the governance of the country was obviously a security breach. Apart from military coups and counter coups, there were other security issues that have challenged and rattled the democratic political system of Nigeria. It was observed that there were civil or organized rebellion that impinge on the social-political development in form of ethnic / religious disagreement and national resource contentions⁸. The civil Nigeria war of 1967-1970 is an example of such security breakdown resulting from failure to manage ethnic, religious and social problems of the time.

14. **Political Intolerance.** The transition to democratic government in this country in 1999 was a welcome development by the people. The joy in the new system of government was to be the interplay of various interest groups in form of political parties and pressure groups that could adhere to fundamental principles like tolerance, freedom of expression, freedom of choice of political parties and equitable distribution of national wealth.

15. Unfortunately, the activities and conducts of past and present participants in the Nigerian democratic space have failed to adhere to the key principles since 1999. In other words, we have observed desperate, intolerant and ruthless contest among political parties.

There had been massive hiring of political thugs that are equipped with small arms and heavy caliber guns. The political leaders and their followers have often resulted in violence against their opponent, security breaches, killings and destruction were order of the day. Against this backdrop, the deadly and veracious group was born and named “Jama’atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda’awati Wal-Jihad” popularly called BOKO HARAM in the North Eastern part of Nigeria in 2007 but gained notoriety in September 2009 when it launched a major attack in Maiduguri, Borno state killing 10 people⁹.

16. **Religious Conflicts.** There have been several ethno-religious conflicts in the history of Nigeria, it could be recalled that tension was high on Fridays which is the Jumat Service for our Muslim brothers in some part of the country as at then. However, in recent times, the problems have escalated to an intolerable scale as the negative activities of the Boko Haram (BH) are in high esteem against the nation, the people of Nigeria and the church in particular. The foregoing problems and criminal activities of the Islamic sects individually and collectively create insecurity and breach of peace. The BH activities have destroyed the socio-political economy of the country with the attendant fear created in the minds of Christians and investors alike. The recent killing of the Briton and Italian nationals taken hostage by the sect confirmed the fears in other nationals transacting their legitimate businesses in Nigeria. Since December 2011 till date, BH has attacked about 50 churches using small arms; it has equally bombed churches in Borno, Niger, Yobe, Kano, Plateau states and employed suicide vehicle bombers against some churches while the United Nations Headquarters Building, Abuja and the Police Headquarters, Abuja were destroyed using Suicide Bombers. In all, high number of death and wounded were recorded.

17. From the available journal titled ‘Boko Haram Inciting Messages of intolerance against Christians’, the attack of the sects were felt in areas like Kaduna(Zangon kataf), City of Bauchi, Villages and towns of Plateau state/ Jos metropolis ,North Eastern city of Maiduguri, the town of Suleja in Niger state, FCT Abuja and Sabon Gari in Kano State. Certainly, these locations attacked are the economic nerve centers of the mentioned places. Invariably, these are the areas the non-indigenes and non-Muslim but successful business people reside.

18. It then becomes clearer that this group called BH is interested in the dominance of the choice places under the disguise of fighting a Jihad war. It could be recalled that other well meaning recognized Muslim Nigerians have denied this claim by BH that the Muslims are fighting a religious war. The involvement of BH in the serial elimination of other tribes of this nation particularly the other members of Christian religion remains one of the major challenges of national security to this country which has so far defied solutions from government security agencies.

IMPACT OF CURRENT NATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION ON THE CHURCH, THE HOME AND THE OFFICE

19. In recent times, the nature of attack in various locations in Nigeria since June 2011 is that anyone can be a victim. The apparently random target is not random per se but it appears as random causing public anxiety, fear and change in behavior, which is exactly what BH wants to accomplish. BH has adopted various tactics of attack ranging from the

killing of their victims using cutlasses, to diverse use of small arms on unsuspecting innocent people.

20. Recently, the sect has developed the act of strategically choosing targets that have symbolic value and or economic value for destruction or total elimination. For instance, Louis Edet House, Police Headquarters, Abuja was bombed on 16th June 2011, killing two people and injuring many people; with a lot of cars damaged. Similarly, the Mammy market of Sani Abacha Barrack, United Nation building on the 25th August 2011, killing 25, with 13 injured and the Catholic Church in Mandala bombing killed 37 and wounded 57 on Christmas day of 2011. Other targets have been total wiped out of villages in Birom land of Plateau state to the serial killing of Policemen on road check points.

21. In the first quarter of 2012, it is speculated that over 15 churches have been torched by the sporadic attacks and their members across the Northern states of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. From the foregoing, it is rife to believe that BH goal is set to achieve the following:

- a) **Create Fear in members of the Church:** It could be recalled that during the course of delivering this paper, I had mentioned that BH is set to instil fear in the people through the perpetration of violent attack in order to disunite members of the church and perhaps making members renounce their membership and finally abandoning the house of worship in order to dominate the juicy part of their lands which they could not achieve politically. Therefore, the choice of church and Christians as target is to get at larger crowd which in most cases are non-indigenes of the localities where they worship, reside or work. So, the objective act of terrorism of BH is committed in order for them to get the church members displaced or surrender their landed properties for future use by the financier of the sect. It will also force the local Chiefs, local government, state government or Federal government to negotiate and perhaps recognize the terrorist's right to the juicy part of the localities. This was similar to what happened in 1966 during the massive killings of the Igbo race.
- b) **Disenchantment of Church Members:** There is no gain saying that the BH recognizes the fact that they could achieve their desired goal through the use of violence. The incessant violence has eroded the confidence of members of Christian organizations so they are already disillusioned about their continued attendance of church service or church functions. This is as a result of the killing of their relatives, associate members or total destruction of their places of worship. The BH sect is already gaining ground especially in Plateau State where massive wipe out have taken place so far. The impact of this is the massive relocation of the living and healthy members of the Christian groups in the affected church to a more peaceful place of the country or better still right to their villages. One cannot but mention the agony of the loss of loved ones, the loss of what one has laboured for in his home or office throughout his life and the pains of relocating to a new unknown and unpredictable place.
- c) **Destroying Peaceful coexistence of the nation:** According to the Punch news paper of September 22, 2011, vol.17 No 20,973, it was averred that "Following the high level of insecurity in the North, governors from the 19 Northern states rose from their meeting in Abuja on Wednesday September 21, with a resolution to dissolve all militia groups in their respective states" The writer of the article; 'Northern governors vow to dissolve

militia groups' emphasized that one Aliyu Tishau in his interview with the African Independent Television (AIT) confirmed that politicians were responsible for the emergence of BH. Aliyu Tishau said further that "The truth is that politicians are the root cause of this BH problem. For instance, in Borno state, the governor sponsors a group of armed youths known as "ECOMOG". From the foregoing, one can deduce the undertone of the genesis of the formation of political thugs by political masters to undermine one another in the context of political rivalry. It could therefore be seen that political thugs who were hitherto used against rival groups in Borno later grew to a recognizable level that became a national security challenge today. The impact of the use of force to get to political office at all cost is what metamorphosed into violent sect when the election was over. This by its implication has made the jobless thugs turned their guns on innocent citizens, targeting vulnerable points like Churches, attempting to pitch Christians against Muslims with a view to destabilizing the nation. This situation threatens the coexistence of the people of Nigeria while the economy suffers.

- d) **Undermining the present administration:** It will interest this audience to hear about the utterance of the former head of the sect, Mohammed Yusuf who said "Just as the Prophet of Allah said, even if it's a slave that is crowned a leader over you, if he's going to lead you through the teaching of the Quran follow him even if he is going to cheat you, but without Quran he does not have the authority. That is why we will not listen or adhere or submit to the leadership and authority of the present government"¹⁰. You will agree with me that this statement is inciting. It has generated bad blood amongst the citizens of the country. The secularism of Nigeria is duly enshrined in the 1999 constitution as amended. From the above quoted phrase, there is no gain saying that the emergence of the use of violence against the state and the people there in is undermining the political power of the present administration. The state has been ungovernable as its socio economic development is disrupted.

REMEDIAL MEASURES AGAINST NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN CHURCHES

22. The BH crisis has remained one of the contemporary national security challenges in Nigeria. The strong believer of the sects in the Holy Quran as its constitution to my mind infringes on the sovereignty of Nigeria that practices modern democracy which recognizes the right of all citizens irrespective of tribe, sex, religion or belief. In this case, every Muslim and Christian believer has equal opportunity and right to propagate his faith within the tolerable stand as permitted by the 1999 constitution of this great nation.

23. However, I am aware that well meaning Nigerians both Christians and Muslims have made appeal to the sect leaders to bury their hatchets in the name of the same God worshiped by both religious organizations yet to no avail. In view of the massive innocent people's blood spilled sporadically to no end, it will be pertinent for churches and their members in Nigeria to take some precautionary measures to forestall loss of lives and properties. The following remedial measures are suggested:

- a) **Church Members to avoid unsolicited Gift or Parcel when attending Church activities:** This is a serious advice to the general public and more importantly the Christian members of churches. It is necessary to remind us that the objects called 'BOMB' are in various sizes and shapes. Let me take you through the memory lane that the simple parcel of envelope collected by late Mr. Dele Giwa erstwhile CEO of Newswatch on the

19th of October 1986 saw him to his grave. Therefore, it is advisable that the receipt of parcels or envelopes could mean doom to you, other members of your family and the church in particular. You are to avoid receiving parcels or envelopes as you come to the church premises, even in your home and office. Similarly, I wish to plead to members of churches and Christian organizations all over the country to equally shun wrapped gift items as such gift could portend danger to you anywhere, home, office or the church areas.

- b) **Collections, Donations and cash gifts:** As mentioned above, it is important that same problems of parcel bomb could be introduced into the church collection trays by infiltrators that are BH members in disguise. Therefore, all cash gift, donations and collections by envelopes should be opened in designated secured areas far from the church building but within the premises. This is to reduce the effect of such bomb explosion should there be any incident of such on the larger congregation and the church facilities.
- c) **Use of Barricades:** The fortification of church perimeter fence is necessary in view of the BH tactics of employing Suicide Bombers to cause havoc on the structure and people of the church. Heavy barricades that can withstand the stoppage of vehicles to be used in conjunction with sharp nail iron barriers. These will prevent the surprise achieved by the bombers to gain access to the general area of worship. It will certainly prevent heavy casualties as being recorded daily presently.
- d) **Installation of church surveillance cameras:** The installation of close circuit cameras at the perimeter areas of the church will complement the limited protection provided by the barricades and sharp nail iron barrier. Additionally, the cameras when strategically sited will help to detect, identify and document the perpetrators of the dastardly acts of bombing or carrying out attacks on the church. It could also deter those yet to commit these crimes.
- e) **Christians to be more united:** With the spate of attacks, killing and destruction of lives and properties by the BH sects, it becomes very necessary that Christians all over Nigeria unite, more than ever before, in a bid to put an end to the incessant national security challenges of BH. To this end, I am not advocating a faceoff with the sect as that might be a difficult task to accomplish in view of the tactics of the sect, but in unison, the joint condemnation of the sects will be desirable.
- f) **Vetting of Members:** The vetting of members using hand held or outright placement of metal detectors at the entrance of the church cannot be over emphasized in view of the sophistication of the BH tactics. It is possible that anybody (members or non members) could be co-opted to cause damage to the church and perhaps kill or maim innocent Christian members. On church activities days, no bags or suit cases should be allowed into the premises. The slogan to members is 'church members and their bibles only'. This will reduce or eliminate the detonation of unsuspected miniature bombs hidden from security operators. The boots, bonnets and the passenger area of vehicles should be properly screened. All passengers should be scanned before gaining entrance into Church premises.

WAY FORWARD OF CURRENT NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

24. In modern times in Nigeria, there are so many factions of the Christian religious with the common belief in one God just as it in the Islamic religion. In all, the sovereign state of Nigeria ruled by the constitution allows for freedom of worship and freedom of association

by Christians and Muslims without prejudice to the law of the country. These are few suggested way forward:

25. Team Up with the Larger Body of Islamic Religion to Fight Boko Haram Sect: With the spate of attack, killing and destruction of lives and properties by the BH sect, it is necessary once again to reiterate that Christians all over Nigeria become more united to put up a front in a bid to put an end to the incessant national challenges of BH. To this end, I am not advocating a faceoff with the sect members as this might be difficult and costly task to accomplish in view of their tactic of selecting targets here and there. In this regard, I wish to suggest that the more united Christian should woo other Islamic organizations who are not in support of the violent act of BH, to form a larger body jointly challenging the BH on a wider front. With this cooperation in place, there will be likelihood of identifying the king pin and financier of the sect. The strength of fighting by the members of the sect shall wane when the sect is isolated from the larger society.

26. Establishment of Security Committee: The establishment of joint security committee at National level under the monitor and supervision of CAN is appropriate at this point in time. In the same vein, there should be sub- committee at Regional level that reports to the National Committee on security matters while members are to be representative of all the churches in Nigeria. The Security Committee is to monitor, coordinate and report any issue that infringes on national security to the appropriate security agencies on time for immediate action.

27. Objective Reporting on Incidents: There have been almost daily reports on the activities of the BH by almost all the daily news papers in Nigeria. There is no doubt that much information is disseminated to the larger society on the deadly nature of BH. But then, you will agree with me that over information on the sect have boosted their image to undue prominence. Please permit me to say that I am not here casting aspersion on any organization or person but to wish that information on mild incidences is not made public. This is to stem down on the activities of the sect, reducing them to near non essential outfit while making the public maintain their cool blood pressure. I am aware that this strategic thinking might generate furore during the questions and answers session, I plead that this issue be looked at critically with a view to arriving at logical consensus on the prominence the sect enjoyed presently.

28. As Christians, know that these things were foretold. We need to be united and strong. Fear not.

Turn with me to these Bible verses.

- a. Luke 12(22-34). ___ Do not worry.
- b. John 15 (18-27) and 16(1-4)
- c. 2 Timothy 3 (11-15) Paul's Charge to Timothy.
- d. Luke 12:52-56, End Time
- e. Romans 8:14-18
- f. John 15: 15:17-25, Love One Another, Fulfilment of scripture.

MEASURES TO CHECKMATE AND PREVENT SECURITY THREATS IN OUR DAILY ACTIVITIES

29. There are measures to checkmate and prevent security threats in the course of our routine duties as church leaders, secretaries and district members. Let me start this discussion with the common measures to everybody in the church irrespective of your status:

- a) **Refuse to be a fifth columnist:** It could be recalled that when Jesus selected His disciples, little did any member know that Judas Iscariot was a fifth columnist until he betrayed Jesus in fulfilling the confirmation of the scripture. Well, in this recent security challenges the Church found itself, it might not be out of point if there is/are member(s) of the attacked church who doubles as BH agent(s) divulging vital information of the church. This act which could be for whatever gains is not acceptable to God. Remember that whatever a man does in the dark will be revealed in the open later, therefore, it is imperative that each and every member of the church must purge himself of any act that is capable of bloodletting of innocent soul and destruction to the church. It is similar to rejecting our Lord Jesus Christ, which comes with its recompense. John 3:36
- b) **Avoid Inciting Speeches:** The constitution of Nigeria allows freedom of worship, association and speech, as dictated by the law. To this end, everybody should be mindful of what you say, when, where is said and to which audience. It is important that the Bible is not misinterpreted or misrepresented any time and at all times. If you do, you could be inciting your listeners against other religion thereby fomenting trouble. This behavior will infringe on the natural law of the nation and tantamount to national security challenges.
- c) **Report suspected security breaches:** As the slogan goes, "Security is everybody's business", this is a statement of fact that must be taken seriously. It is imperative that all suspected security breaches must be reported immediately to the appropriate security agencies. This is to assist the concerned agencies to nip the bud at the earliest stage of the act. This will save life and properties.

CONCLUSION

30. Employment of political thugs by their masters to outwit opponents in the quest for offices in the northern states of Nigeria saw the emergence of an Islamic sect named the "Jama'tu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad" popularly called BOKO HARAM in September 2007 and became prominent after a major attack on innocent citizens of Nigeria in 2009. The activities of this dastardly sect were turned to members of other religions especially Christians and their places of worship turned into battle fields for killing, maiming and destruction of properties in recent times. This Boko Haram's act which has defied solutions by the national security agencies but attracted condemnation by other Islamic sects that are not towing BH line necessitated choice of today's topic titled National Security and the Church in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects.

31. In a bid to find remedial solution to the act of terrorism of the BH, it was suggested that the leadership of CAN needs to close ranks with other Islamic sects in Nigeria so as to isolate the King pin and financier of BH with a view to weakening her strength. Additionally,

the prominence enjoyed by the sect was observed to be as a result of the excessive publicity of the negative activities of the sect by the media. This issue, be as it may, the Christian and the churches in Nigeria are to provide passive limited security measures in terms of barricades supported by spikes that can prevent or reduce the impact of suicide bomber in their domain. As a precursor to this, members are advised to shun unsolicited parcels or wrapped gifts.

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SECURITY CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION IN THE CHURCH, HOME AND OFFICE

Snr Apos BT Oginni, GSS DSS psc(+) plsc(+) Msc CMLT MNIM

“Be vigilant, report strange objects, faces and suspicious activities to the police and other Security Agencies”

INTRODUCTION

1. No nation becomes great (politically, socially and economically) in the absence of peace, insecurity of lives and property. This explains why a peaceful, stable and secured environment is considered very essential and one of the basic needs of every society which can only be achieved in a tranquil situation devoid of terrorism, kidnapping, hostage taking, armed robbery etc that are threats to lives and property.
2. Other threats mitigation confronting Nigeria as a nation include environmental degradation, desert encroachment, economic meltdown, religious intolerance, boundary disputes and political gangsterism to mention but a few. However, amongst these threats, terrorism i.e. bombings by Boko Haram Sect and other indiscriminate bombing and killing as occurred daily in IRAQ, PAKISTAN and few other countries like LIBYA and SYRIA has drawn the attention of the world.
3. Terrorism is not a new phenomenon and not a sole preserve of any class, clan, religion or race. Terrorism dates back to the era of the Roman Empire when Roman Emperors used terrorism to control domestic dissents and eliminate suspected enemies. In the First Century AD, the Scarii, referred to as “Dagger Men” employed terrorism to oppose Roman domination of the land of Judea. In the eleventh and twelfth Centuries, “Hashasheen”, a terrorist group in Northern Iraq, systemically assassinated Muslim and Christian leaders. Terrorism gained prominence in the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror (1793-1794) where government ruled through violence and fear. State terrorism as exhibited in France, “also formed part of domestic terrorism when state actors (police, military, etc) resort to acts of terror against their own nationals”.
4. In 1894, Auguste Vaillant threw a bomb into the Chambers of Deputies in Paris, an action which led to his execution in same 1894. The execution of Auguste was avenged a week later with the explosion of a bomb in a Paris café wounding 20 people, one of whom later died. The President of France, Sadi Carnot, was also assassinated later the same year, in reaction to the execution of Auguste.
5. The assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Rabin, in Tel Aviv on 4 November 1995, was an act of domestic terrorism. The assassination was aimed at stopping the Israeli’s peace process with Palestine because the assassin said that he did not approve the conceding of Israeli land to Arabs, especially settlements like Gaza Strip.

6. In Africa, there have been incidences of terrorism in one form or another. For example, the October 2004 bomb blasts at Egyptian tourist resorts, that killed 28 people; the August 1998 bombings of the United States of America's embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed hundreds; and the October 2002 Soweto bombings by the White Supremacist Boeremag Organization in South Africa, to mention but a few.

7. Nigeria today is under serious threat of domestic terrorism emanating from the restive youths of the Niger Delta. The youths before the amnesty resorted to disruption of oil production, pipelines vandalism, hostage-taking, kidnapping, assault and bombing of oil installations in order to fight for the perceived injustice in the distribution of oil wealth. The hostage-taking and kidnapping of foreigners in the Niger Delta region made the Federal Government to lose about N570 billion (\$4.4b) in revenue in 2006. Also in 2006, more than 60 foreigners, mostly oil workers, were kidnapped but later released. Recently, a German and Briton expatriates were killed by the Boko Haram Sect in Sokoto after indefinite kidnapping.

8. The hostage-taking and kidnapping in the Niger Delta later spread to other parts of the country. For instance, In the South-East, Pa Simeon Soludo (father of the former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) was kidnapped on 27 October, 2009 in Anambra State. Pete Edochie, a foremost Nollywood actor, was kidnapped in August 2009. Nkem Owoh, also a popular Nollywood actor, was kidnapped along Enugu-Port Harcourt road in November 2009. In the North West, the Secretary to the Government of Kaduna State, Mr. Waje Yayok, was kidnapped on Monday 21 September 2009.

9. It is generally believed that "national security is development, and development is national security". The desire to have a conducive and peaceful atmosphere for people to worship in churches sleep and wake up peacefully in their homes as well as going to their offices and working places without fear of kidnapping, maiming and killing by suicide bombers, coupled with the quest to proffer lasting solutions to the contemporary challenges of insecurity prompted or motivated me to research and present this paper titled "Security Challenges and mitigation in the church, Home and Offices"

AIM

10. To promote security awareness among C&S Movt Church members both in the church, home and the office.

SCOPE

11. This presentation will cover the following:

- a) Conceptual clarifications.
- b) Relationship between security awareness and national security.
- c) Nature and Causes of domestic terrorism in Nigeria.
- d) An overview of security threats in Nigeria.
- e) Impact of security awareness on national security.
- f) Impact of current national security situation on the church, the home and office.
- g) Strategies to mitigate security challenges of terrorism and kidnapping in Nigeria.
- h) Other measures adopted by the Government to check Boko Haram activities.
- i) Suggested solutions to security challenges in the church, home and the office.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

12. **Concept of Security:** The word security is an ambiguous term that defies a universal definition. This is because it is possible to apply the term to a range of ideas that operate at many levels of analysis and because judgments of relative levels of security vary from the objective to the subjective. According to Gallie, security is an essentially contested concept in that there is no agreement as to its meaning and this lack of agreement constitutes a widely recognized ground for philosophical inquiry.¹ Nonetheless, a brief consideration of various definitions of security will assist in setting the scene for the examination of its changing meaning.

13. According to Imobighe, “security is freedom from danger; a condition of being protected from or not being exposed to danger.”² This definition highlights security as the absence of danger and protection from same. However, it lacks a broad conceptualization that would encompass other views. Similarly, Wolfer asserts that “...security, in an objective sense, measures the absence of threats to acquired values, in a subjective sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked.” Although this definition points out the importance of perceptions within the meaning of security, it also failed to articulate a comprehensive view that would accommodate most other views.

14. McNamara posits that, “security is not military force, though it may involve it; security is not military activity, though it may include it; security is development and without development there can be no security.” This definition brings out the development dimension which is relevant in the current discourse on security; but it also lacks the depth to accommodate broader views. Are defines security as meaning safety or freedom from anxiety or danger in such a manner that one’s future can be certain and guaranteed. Muktar views security as a state of being or existence that is free from danger, fear, threat, anxiety and uncertainty. These definitions are almost synonymous, but they also appear to be narrow conceptions of the term. Deriving from the key elements in these various definitions, therefore, this paper would define security as a tranquil state of being of an individual, group, community or nation living together in harmony; free from danger, fear, anxiety and threats from want or hindrance in the exercise of their legitimate rights to pursue their individual and group goals. This definition is considered broad enough to cater for the diversity of views on the subject and, therefore, satisfies the purpose of this study.

15. **Mitigation:** The Oxford Learner’s Dictionary defines mitigation as a situation which is considered less unpleasant, harmful or serious. It is a situation in which someone’s crime or mistake is considered less serious or shows that they were not completely responsible. This implies that, as Christians, the activities of the kidnappers, suicide bombers (Boko Haram Sects) and others should be considered less serious. However, with powerful vigil service prayers, the Lord would change their mind, for them to see wisdom and reason that it does not pay to maim or kill fellow human being. According to tenets of the Holy Bible, revenge is evil while God says vengeance is mine. Furthermore, one of the Christians’ posters says “The most powerful weapon of warfare of Christians is prayers” Others include loin of truth, shield of faith, gospel of peace and sword of the spirit (word of God). Therefore, despite the security challenges facing Nigerians especially the bombing of churches and killings of innocent people on the streets and market places by the Boko Haram Sect, the lessons of

the concept of mitigation is that Christians should remain steadfast in their prayers and preach peace to their fellow Christians, remain vigilant and provide useful information to the Police, Military, the SSS, Civil Defence Corps and other security agencies, surely we shall overcome these problems of insecurity both in the church, home and our offices.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECURITY AWARENESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

16. According to Dunmoye in his book titled “The Elements of State Power”, he posits that the security awareness of citizens could have very significant bearings on national security. He observes that:

The psychological preparedness of the citizens whether artificially induced by propaganda or otherwise attained, the morale of the population, in form of national cohesion and support for political leadership is a vital element of national power for the maintenance of national security.

This assertion holds true, whether the country is in relative peace, in conflict with an adversary, or on a post-conflict peace building process.

17. In peacetime, a high level of security awareness among citizens could be an important element in the management of national security. The more citizens understand their role in the national security framework, the greater the tendency for them to voluntarily enlist in or partner with security agencies in achieving the goals of national security. Citizens, who are properly informed on the threats to the security of their nation, may be better able to contribute to public debate towards improving national security arrangements, including the funding and reform of national security agencies. Citizens who are alert to security trends and developments in their environment could prove of great value to the police and other security agencies in preventing, detecting and investigating crimes, and in prosecuting criminals. Such citizens could also establish private security companies, organise community or neighbourhood vigilante groups and form security-focused non-governmental organisations, all of which contribute to the strengthening of internal security.

18. Furthermore, a high level of security awareness among citizens could play an important part in the management of disasters and in curbing various acts of economic sabotage, particularly the vandalism of strategic installations like petroleum pipelines and electrical power infrastructure. In these ways, citizens’ security awareness could contribute significantly to the maintenance of internal security and by extension external security.

19. Security awareness plays an even more critical role in national security when countries are at war with an external adversary. Citizens with a high degree of security awareness can play an important role in monitoring the day-to-day movements of foreigners in their midst, and their observations and reports to security agencies could help in thwarting the adversary’s espionage activities. Such citizens can also be more easily mobilized to render various forms of support to the war effort. For instance, during the Nigerian Civil War, among the factors that enabled the Biafran secession to withstand the might of Nigerian forces for almost 3 years was her propaganda machinery. This

machinery created a high degree of security awareness among the Biafrans, which facilitated their total mobilisation for the war effort. As secessionist radio jingles constantly exhorted that “the price of liberty is eternal vigilance” and that “*Onye ndi iro gbara gburu gburu na eche ndu ya nche.*” This means “he that is surrounded by enemies must remain alert to save his life.” Many citizens voluntarily enlisted in the Biafran Army or willingly rendered whatever other services they thought necessary to sustain the war effort. Similar experiences can be found in and during wars in various parts of the world, including Adolf Hitler’s Germany during the Second World War.

20. In countries that are emerging from war, security awareness among citizens could also be crucial to the post-war efforts at strengthening national security. For instance, public awareness of the security implications of weapons remaining in unauthorised hands could facilitate disarmament programmes. Citizens who are aware that such uncontrolled weapons could lead to future renewal of armed conflict or aggravate criminal violence are likely to report to relevant authorities where such arms are hidden to facilitate their recovery. In cases where landmines have been used extensively in the conflict, mine awareness as an aspect of security awareness among citizens, could be crucial to the protection of lives and the restoration of economic activities. In sum, therefore, security awareness has significant relationship with national security in all countries, regardless of where each country stands on the peace-to-conflict spectrum.

NATURE AND CAUSES OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM IN NIGERIA

21. The causes of terrorist act in Nigeria, especially hostage-taking/kidnapping could be discussed under psychology, economy and political discrepancies or grievances among certain group of people in the Nigerian Society. Apart from the causes, advent of Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) and proliferation of small arms facilitate hostage-taking/kidnapping.

PSYCHOLOGY

22. Relative deprivations in the social, economic or political spheres experienced by a group of people for a long time could lead to frustration/aggression syndrome. When this occurs, the aggrieved persons vent their anger on the perceived enemy as evidenced in the Niger Delta Crisis. The Niger Delta region has been the economic life wire of the Nigerian State since the 1960s. In spite of the fact that Nigeria economically depend on the oil produced from the Region, the area is largely underdeveloped, neglected and marginalized by both the Federal Government and the multinational oil companies operating in the region. This gave rise to agitation in the Region for fair treatment both from the Federal Government and the multinational oil companies. Furthermore, the show of affluence by the wealthy ones has psychological effect on the youths. In agreeing with this assertion, Alkali in an interview alluded to the fact that affluent show-off drives the down-trodden into kidnapping “in order to get their own share of the national cake.”

ECONOMY

23. Economic imbalances, deprivation and its attendant consequences like inflation and poverty provide a breeding ground for terrorism. The high rate of unemployment with affluence living by the wealthy, are also responsible for kidnapping in Nigeria. The CP Abia, in an interview, sees poverty, unemployment and show of affluence by the wealthy as

factors facilitating kidnapping in the State. In the South-East, kidnapping for ransom is ubiquitous and commercialized. The Commissioner of Police Anambra State, in agreeing with this said that “unnecessary display of affluence and get rich-quick syndrome” are some of the causes of kidnapping in the State. He also attributed the cause of kidnapping to lack of infrastructure such as electricity, water, adequate transportation system and recreational facilities. The Director of State Security Services (SSS) in the State also agreed with the CP. According to him, the attitude of the people to readily pay ransom encourages kidnappings. He further said that kidnappers now move to China with money made and bring in spare parts. The CP Imo also attributed the spate of kidnapping to the readiness of the relatives of kidnap victims to pay ransom. Hostage-taking/Kidnapping is motivated by economic opportunism.

POLITICS

24. The perceived feeling of domination, marginalization, oppression, deprivation, neglect and bad governance provoked violence and crisis in the polity. The aggrieved resort to acts of terrorism such as hostage-taking/kidnapping and other violent crimes, to redress their grievances. In Nigeria, this has given rise to militancy in the South-South and South East geopolitical zones of the Country. For instance, in the South-South the cause of Niger Delta is championed by militant groups such as NDVF, MEND and NDV through hostage-taking and kidnapping of the foreigners and the destruction of the oil pipelines.

25. In the South East, the MASSOB is at the forefront for the actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra. This group also engage in the act of hostage-taking/kidnapping to create fear and insecurity in the South-East. The table reveals the effort put by the Police in Anambra to curb kidnapping through foiling the attempt, arresting and charging the kidnappers to court or killing them during confrontation. In 2008, 30 cases were reported, 31 victims affected, 17 cases charged to court and 47 persons convicted. In 2009, 132 cases were reported, 135 victims affected, 17 cases charged to court and 47 persons convicted. The statistics shows progressive increase cases of kidnapping in the State. A careful study of the statistics shows that there were increases in the reported cases of kidnapping without corresponding number of convictions. This situation will encourage more kidnapping as the un-convicted ones are back to the society to continue with crime thereby constituting more threat to the society. The administration of Justice in the state should therefore be strengthened by ensuring that all the stakeholders such as the Police, the Court and the Prisons are alive to their duties.

26. Apart from the above mentioned causes, there are factors that facilitate hostage-taking/kidnapping. These factors include advent of Global System for Mobile Communication and proliferation of small arms as well as poverty.

PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS

27. Proliferation of small arms leads to quick and easy access to firearms by kidnappers. Such arms are used in carrying out their nefarious activities. The Secretary to Kaduna State Government, who was kidnapped on 21 September 2009, confirmed in an interview that his kidnappers were in possession of arms. The Governor of Anambra State in an interview stated that “the issue of amnesty in the Niger Delta led to the spate of kidnapping in his state as small arms the ‘working tools’ for kidnapping in Niger Delta found their way to Anambra State”. He sees kidnapping as a recent phenomenon in the state. The proliferation

of small arms therefore impinges on the security of lives and property of the citizenry thereby impacting adversely on Nigeria's national security.

AN OVERVIEW OF SECURITY THREATS IN NIGERIA

28. Threat to Nigeria's security comes from internal and external domains. Internal threats are dominated by corruption, religious intolerance, poverty, diseases, ignorance unemployment, agitation for resource control and other threats to life and property. The external threats emanate from Nigeria's porous borders that lead to arms, drugs and human trafficking, smuggling and cross-border banditry. Additionally, cybercrime, terrorism and other crimes among others are other sources of external threats. An understanding of these threats by all components of the Nigerian society would assist in the management of national security.

29. **Source of Manpower for Security Agencies:** The citizens contribute to Nigeria's national security by providing the pool of manpower from which the military and security agencies recruit their personnel. This presupposes that there would always be motivated citizens who are ready to enlist in the services. In countries where the number of motivated citizens is low, military services are compelled to adopt conscription policies in meeting their manpower requirements. In Nigeria, however, there is no conscription policy; therefore, there must be sufficient numbers of citizens who are adequately aware of the nation's security interests and individually motivated to offer themselves voluntarily for service in the security agencies.

30. **Providing Information to Security Agencies:** Citizens assist in maintaining law and order by providing accurate security information to the statutory security agencies. According to Mohammed, "while the security agencies are conventionally responsible for the assessment of threats, inputs are also made into the intelligence gathering process by other agencies, governments and even the citizenry." In relation to the police specifically, Onovo explains that "a very vibrant and supportive public will help achieve the cause of effective policing in the society, by assisting the police with useful information on criminals and their activities in the society." The import of these is that the citizens are major sources of information and intelligence gathering and mediums of dissemination of government policies.

31. **Organising Private and Community Security Arrangements:** Citizens also have an important role to play in organising and practically helping to secure corporate establishments and the communities in which they live. There are statutory provisions allowing individuals to establish and operate private security agencies, after due registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission. Divisional Police commands also allow for the organisation of neighbourhood vigilante groups to monitor criminal or other suspicious activities, particularly in areas that are prone to high rates of crime. Thus, Onovo again observes that by "participating actively in the policing of the environment through neighbourhood watch or vigilante activities", members of the public can contribute to "boosting police crime prevention capabilities."

32. **Influencing the Reform of Security Agencies:** The citizens, through the aggregate of their public opinion, can play an important role in influencing the funding and

administration of security agencies. They can lobby and persuade the legislature to adequately fund and equip the security agencies to perform their security functions effectively. Conversely, where the preponderance of opinion among citizens is against increased funding of security agencies, the legislature may be unwilling to approve any increased outlay for such agencies. Therefore, citizens have a role in influencing how the security agencies are funded, administered and deployed, in order to ensure that these agencies perform their constitutional roles optimally. Furthermore, through the power of public opinion supported by advocacy of relevant civil society organisations (CSOs), citizens can influence the government to reform the security sector and make it perform better in their assigned functions. A classical example is the current security sector reforms embarked upon by Nigeria.

IMPACT OF SECURITY AWARENESS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

33. Security awareness among citizens could have significant impacts on national security. In Nigeria, these impacts may be evaluated in 3 major areas namely: Combating crime, countering foreign espionage and preventing the sabotage of strategic installations.

34. **Combating Crime:** Security awareness among citizens has had some impact on the prevention and detection of crime, and the apprehension of offenders. In many cases, it was on the basis of information offered to the police by members of the public that crimes have been prevented and offenders apprehended. Security awareness and consequent alertness among citizens has also enabled certain citizens to themselves apprehend criminals and subsequently hand them over to the police. However, there is still a considerable disconnection between the security awareness of citizens and their attitudes towards the police and other security agencies in promoting national security. Due to the general distrust of security agents by members of the public, even those that obtain information about imminent security threats often do not volunteer such information to the police. Others who are aware of security breaches are sometimes reluctant to report to the police. Worst of all, even citizens who are aware of statutory avenues for dealing with crime incidents, sometimes disregard such avenues and take the laws into their hands. Some of the people interviewed claim that when reports are made, the police often either inform the criminals who reported them or turn around and harass the informants. Consequently, these people apply jungle justice on offenders by summarily lynching them; they not only become liable for extra-judicial killings themselves, but also deny the police valuable sources of crucial information towards apprehending other criminals. Thus, despite some citizens' degree of security knowledge, their attitudes towards security personnel may sometimes undermine internal security.

35. **Countering Foreign Espionage:** The citizens' security awareness could play an important role in thwarting espionage or other hostile intelligence gathering activities that threaten national security. However, in Nigeria, the role of citizens in this regard has made very limited contribution to national security. Some citizens assume that expatriates in Nigeria are performing legitimate functions and hardly associate these foreigners with espionage and spying activities. Experience has shown that some of them engage in activities that undermine Nigeria's economic interests with adverse consequence on her national security. Such citizens, including highly placed public servants, ignorantly or deliberately compromise Nigeria's national security by giving out sensitive security

information. Also, citizens hardly monitor the movements and activities of foreigners, so as to report any suspicious developments to security agencies. Thus, in terms of countering espionage, citizens' security awareness has not impacted optimally on national security in Nigeria. A recent example is the arrest of a Nigerian, Danjuma Saidu, a Nigerian-American Dr Judith Asuni and 2 Germans Florian Orpitz and Andy Lehmann over espionage and breaches of security in October 2007 in the Niger Delta. Although, they were found not to be spies, the circumstances of their arrests were of security concern.

36. Preventing Sabotage of Strategic Installations: A notable threat facing Nigeria's national security including terrorism (bombing by Boko Haram Sect) and sabotage of strategic installations, particularly the vandalisation of petroleum pipelines and theft of electric power cables and pylons. Statistics provided by the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC), between 2000 and 2007, showed that the country recorded 12,770 cases of pipeline vandalisation, with the consequent loss of N150.5 billion revenue. This high number of incidents suggests that citizens' security awareness has not had a constructive impact on national security in terms of security of strategic installations. Indeed, the situation regarding the security of the installations again underscores the disconnection between citizens' awareness on the one hand and their attitudes on the other. Most citizens know that it is a criminal offence to tamper with strategic national installations, and that they in fact have a duty to report any violations of the security of such facilities. However, they fail to perform this duty due to certain factors, ranging from personal to political.

IMPACT OF CURRENT NATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION ON THE CHURCH THE HOME AND OFFICE

37. The impact of the current national security situation on the church, the home and the office include the following:

- a. It created fear and uncertainty in the minds of citizens.
- b. People's freedom of worship in churches and going to work has been negatively affected.
- c. Tourism and foreign partnership in businesses and pleasure visits has been affected.
- d. Inhabits foreign investment in Nigeria, thus affecting socio-economic development of Nigeria.
- e. Nigerian's image has been dented among committee of nations.
- f. It has created unwarranted suspicion among colleagues in the office. This is because terrorism is not a sole preserve of any class, clan, religion or race.
- g. The road blocks and check points created to checkmate the terrorist's movement in the cities created inconveniences for people going to and from their working place.

STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE SECURITY CHALLENGES OF TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

38. Strategies to mitigate operational, command and control and public confidence challenges include effective check on small arms proliferation, provision of sophisticated

electronic/communication equipment, adequate funding, effective control of GSM, establishment of synergy in crime control among the security agents and enlightenment and sensitization of the public.

39. **Check on Small Arms Proliferation:** Proliferation of small arms cannot be divorced from the porous nature of the Nigerian land and coastal borders. These arms find their way into the Country through these borders. To check this, the Federal Government needs to empower adequately the Customs, Immigration, Police, Marine Police, the Navy, the Army and other relevant agencies in order to effectively man the borders so as to reduce the incidence of small arms proliferation. Also the law on illegal possession of firearms which stipulates N20,000.00 fine or not less than 10 years imprisonment needs to be reviewed for the imposition of a stiffer penalty.

40. **Provision of Sophisticated Electronic/Communication Equipment:** Effective communication is an essential prerequisite for any successful security system. The absence of effective communication in any security system will be counter-productive. In order to coordinate the efforts of security agents in combating domestic terrorism, modern and sophisticated electronic/communication equipment is very essential. The equipment include electronic tracking device, radio/base stations, CCTV cameras, to mention but few. There is therefore need for the Federal Government to purchase these desired equipment and also ensure that stakeholders invest in this as security is a collective responsibility.

41. **Adequate Funding:** Security is the pillar upon which other sectors stand. To combat domestic terrorism, there is need for adequate funding of the NPF and other security agencies by the Federal Government through increase in defense and security budget. Collective responsibility is also necessary hence, the need for the review of the status of the Police Equipment Fund (PEF). The Federal Government should set up a committee to reorganize the PEF with a view to making it function better and provide adequate funding and equipment for the NPF.

42. **Effective Control of Global System Mobile for Communication Services:** The none registration of GSM Subscriber Identity Module cards has encouraged kidnapping in Nigeria. This is because kidnappers use GSM phones to negotiate for ransom after which the SIM Cards are discarded and there arrest very difficult. The registration of SIM cards on purchase with the purchaser's International Passport, National Identity Card or National Driving License for easy identification as done in civilized countries is necessary. The National Assembly should therefore ensure that the bill for the registration of Subscriber Identity Module cards before her be urgently passed.

43. **Establishment of Synergy in Crime Control among the Security Agents:** Information and intelligence gathering are effective tools of investigation. The fight against crime is the responsibility of all security agencies in any nation and to fight crime, the agencies should share information and intelligence to succeed. There is need for the NPF and the SSS to share information and intelligence in crime control, kidnapping inclusive. This is necessary because these criminals have networks of cells all over the country and beyond. There is need for regular security meeting of the stakeholders both at the State and Federal levels

where operational guidelines for sharing information and intelligence in crime prevention, detection and control are discussed and appraised.

44. **Enlightenment and Sensitization of the Public:** Lack of confidence and trust in the police and other security agencies could be attributed to the non cooperative attitude towards security operatives in cases of kidnap. The members of the public need to be made to change their perception of security agencies, by the agencies themselves, through change of attitude to duty. Coupled with this, the public should be enlightened and sensitized on the danger of the failure to adhere to the advice of security agents. They should be made to understand that payment of ransom to kidnappers is encouraging kidnapping and thereby escalating the incidence. The Federal Ministry of Information and Communications should carryout enlightenment and sensitization campaign on the subject matter through the National Orientation Agency (NOA), electronic and print media, churches/mosques, schools, traditional rulers and community leaders. This could last for about 4 months after which a review is made.

OTHER MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CHECK BOKO HARAM ACTIVITIES

45. The Federal Government in her efforts to check the menace of the Boko Haram activities and ensure safety of lives and property, has empowered the military and the security agencies i.e. The SSS, Police, Civil Defence amongst others to adopt the following measures:

- a. Establishment of road blocks along major roads.
- b. Cordon and search in order to smoke out the suicide bombers from their hideouts.
- c. Establishment of check points i.e. stop and search.
- d. Quick response patrols on land and air.
- e. Arrests and detention of sect members.
- f. Acquisition of sophisticated bomb and explosive detectors.

All these proactive measures adopted by the military and other security agencies were aimed at winning the hearts and mind of our people whether while in the church, home or in their offices.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS TO SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE CHURCH, HOME AND OFFICE

46. Security experts have proffered several solutions to the security challenges facing Nigerians either in the church, home office or public places. Some of the solutions suggested include:

- a. Creation of employment and poverty reduction.
- b. Sincere war (fight) against corruption to avoid elite capital phenomenon.
- c. Provision of infrastructural facilities i.e. electricity, good roads, water etc.
- d. The FGN effectively check the proliferation of small and high weapons in the country.
- e. Provision of qualitative education and good health care services.

- f. Sincerity and transparency of the govt.
- g. Encouragement of public-private partnership to ensure greater development.
- h. Enlightenment campaign of the populace to report any suspicious activities to the police and other law enforcement agents.
- i. Timely and adequate information and intelligence gathering and sharing among security agencies for effective crime control.

CONCLUSION

47. The paper has vividly examined the current security concerns in Nigeria and its impact on the church, the home and the office. It further identified the nature and causes of domestic terrorism in Nigeria and proffered strategies to mitigate the challenges.

48. In the course of research, it was discovered that foreign countries like Iraq, Pakistan, Libya, Syria, France and Britain have had similar experience of terrorism which could be attributed to political, psychological and economic reasons. However in Nigeria, domestic terrorism particular hostage taking and kidnapping began in Niger Della where restive you this resorted to kidnapping of expatriate oil workers for reason. But in the Northern part of Nigeria especially in Maiduguri, Kano, Yobe, Gombe, Suleja and Abuja we here witnessed series of suicide bombing thus leading to the maiming and killing of innocent people.

49. They study further examined the nature and causes of terrorism in Nigeria, made an overview of the current security threats and its impact on the churches, homes and our offices. It further proffered strategies to mitigate the security challenges by suggesting solutions to the problem. Some of the solutions proffered include effective checking of proliferation of light and small weapons in the country, sincerity and transparency on the part of the government, creation of employment and reduce unemployment and poverty among the youths and adequate information gathering and sharing among security agencies in order to reduce crime.

RECOMMENDATIONS

50. It is recommended that:

- a. The Federal Government should check the proliferation of light and small weapons as well as explosive devices entering the country through our porous borders.
- b. The Fed government should improve basic infrastructures and create more employment for the youths and reduce poverty.
- c. Public should be enlightened to provide timely and adequate information to the security agencies.
- d. There is need for cooperation, adequate and timely gathering and sharing of information by the security agencies.
- e. People should remain vigilant in the churches, home, offices and public places by reporting suspicious activities to security agencies. Security is everybody business.

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