# Insecurity as the Bane of Scholarship in Nigeria

**By**

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**Abstract.**

A safe and serene environment is needed in any facet of life. For proper achievement and progress to take place, peace and security of life are prerequisite. If security of life and property is remove, one finds anarchy, chaos, man`s inhumanity to man. Power becomes might, survival of the fittest, and a jungle. In like manner, for education to thrive, it needs a conducive atmosphere, devoid of threat to life, persecution, forced labour, no freedom of movement and assembly. The problem of insecurity has been seen as a threat to scholarship in Nigeria. This has been an `endemic ill-health` that has eaten deep to the fabrics of our educational life. The Paper used Historical and Phenomenological methods in unveiling the phenomenon. The Paper found out that many pupils, students, teachers and lecturers have, either have been killed, or kidnapped; some displaced and some have stopped going to school. The Paper recommends that the Powers that be should do everything possible to stop this menace; fight the perpetrators of these nefarious activities; place security Agents to schools, an fence the schools to ward off these dare-devil men.

**Key Words: Insecurity, Bane, Scholarship, Power, Conducive Atmosphere.**

## Introduction

One of the purposes of government is security of life and property. This was the view Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, the Minister of Interior when he addressed the security agencies. In his words, "At the back of our mind, we must never forget, above all things, that our main purpose is to serve the people by strengthening internal security and give all the people resident in the country the peace of mind they deserve...." (Umahi, 2021, p.,14) In other words, it is the duty of Nigeria government to secure the life and property of the citizens. It has been made clear that Nigeria is third terrorized country in the world for the sixth consecutive year. "In the 2020 global terrorism index released recently by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Nigeria only came behind Afghanistan and Iraq which came first and second respectively." (Uke, 2020, p.,11). From all indications, nobody is safe in Nigeria because of insecurity. This has led the Rivers state Governor, Nyesom Wike to say that "...Nigeria is on life support because of the large scale intractable insecurity that has overwhelmed the All Progressive Congress (APC) led Federal Government." (John,

2021,p.,8) It is because of this that Job Osazuwa concluded that "...insecurity has been the bane of the country." (20021,p.14.) Nobody is sure when this insurgence will end. According to former Army Chief of Staff, Turkur Buratai, "...they may not be won in the next 20 years." (Itua, 2021, p.,6) Due to this menace, corporate and private individuals have appealed to the government to tackle this. One of such individuals was Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama, who "...appealed to the Federal Government to tackle the rising insecurity across the country as it is gradually taking away peace and joy from Nigerians." (Eze, 2021, p., 28)

To the government, insurgency has been defeated tactically. But what is obvious is that, it is ever present with us. It has been everyday`s occurrence. In fact, it has become normal to us. Each day, the Media are rife with such news. The federal government has as one of her campaign promises, to put a stop to insurgence. But today, such promise is a mirage. "In fact, whenever government says that criminals would be tamed, these undesirable elements operate with more fury and impunity. The criminals strike, succeed and get away with it. (Ukeh. 2021, p.,30) One can say without contradiction that

> Except for the civil war, our nation has never witnessed the kind of wide spread macabre, evil, wanton destruction and murderous blood-letting. Life has never been so cheap, nor has Nigeria ever been at the stage we are now. Deaths in the hands of kidnappers, killer herdsmen, bandit, terrorist groups have made Nigeria the most terrorised country in the world. We are now one of most dangerous places to be born. Everywhere you turn, funerals have become our daily menu. The abductions of school children have presented us with the prospects of a traumatised generation of young students. ( Samson, Uzoaru, 2021,p.,30)

As a result of terrorism in the nation, the President was called upon to sack the Service Chiefs. The National Assemblies called for it, which he lately did, and even invited the President to appear before them. All to no avail. The killing and kidnapping of students were also condemned by United Kingdom. According to Aidoghie Paulinus, "The United Kingdom (UK) government has condemned the kidnap of students of the Government Science Secondary School, Kankara, Katsina State. British High Commission in Abuja, in a message on its Facebook page, said all children have the right to a safe education devoid of violence....education must be protected from attack." (Paulinus, 2020,p.,28) The consequences of insurgency in Nigeria cannot be over-estimated. Onuaha Ukeh writes:

> Insurgency and banditry have seriously affected the livelihoods of many Nigerians. Millions of Nigerians are also being displaced as a result of the rising crisis. Reports on the activities of the bandits in Zamfara state, between June 2011 and May 2019, indicated that 4, 983 women were widowed, 25,050 children orphaned, and 190,340 persons displaced. During the same period, about 2,015 cattle, 141 sheep and goats, 2,600 donkeys, and camels were also lost to rustlers, while 147,800 vehicles, motorcycles and others were burnt at different times and locations within the period. the intensity of attacks and casualty rate must have gone up given the effrontery of the criminals and the sophistication of their strategies. Farmers can no longer go to farms for fear of their lives, resulting to high cost of food items. It has also affected investments as manifested in firms exiting Nigeria for other countries where their safety is guaranteed. (2021, p.,11)

This is the situation Nigeria has found herself.

**Definition of Key Words**

**Insecurity:** The act of "...feeling unsafe; without protection...." (Hornby, 1974,p.,447) Vocapture defines as "A lack of security; uncertainty....The state of being subject to danger; vulnerability. (Vocapture)

**Bane: "**...Poison...cause of ruin or trouble." (Hornby, p., 60) In the same vein, it is defined as "A cause of misery or death; an affliction or curse...poison...." (Vocapture)

**Scholarship:** This is given as **"**...learning or knowledge obtained by study...." (Hornby,774) To Vocapture, it is "The sum of knowledge accrued by scholars; the realm of refined learning."

The thrust of the Paper is to unveil that this learning obtained through learning, which is refined, insecurity which is tantamount to being unsafe, no protection, makes this lovely ideal turn into misery, becomes a source of death, curse and even affliction. In other words, this lack of safety and protection in Nigeria, have made learning become a source of worry and death-trap to students and their teachers. So, instead of being a source of delight and joy, it has turned the situation to be sour.

**Measures Taken To Combat Insecurity:** Even though insecurity is here with us, several measures have been taken to reduce it to the barest minimum. These include the following:-

***Imposition of Curfew*:** one of the measures to combat insecurity was the imposition of curfew in some States. One of the states was Benue. This came on the heels of the murder of Tekura Suswam, the elder brother to former governor of Benue state, Gabriel Suswam. "...the curfew would run between 6pm and 6am...." (Ejembi, 2021, p.,27)

***Self-Defence***: It was found in most places and times, that the security agencies were handicapped to defend the civilian populace, hence the call for self-defence. Civilians will not stay and see themselves being brutally murdered in cold-blood without defence. This was made known by former Chief of Army Staff, Tukur Buratai. He "...told Nigerians to defend themselves against attacks from bandits." ( Itua, p.6) In other words, civilians should not fold their arms and be at the mercy of the evil men.

***Closure of Schools*:** Most attacks are mostly targeted at schools, which the bandits have seen as soft targets. Based on this, some states have closed some schools, especially those at isolated places. The one that comes to mind is Adamawa state, where the "...State Government has closed 30 out of 34 Junior Boarding Secondary Schools in the state over insecurity...the action was a proactive measure to ensure the safety of students in view of the insecurity bedevilling the country." ( *f:Vanguard News,* 2021, p.,14)

***The Use of Juju***: This was reportedly being used by the Police in order to `safeguard` themselves. The war, they realised that it is beyond their power, hence they resorted to juju. Okeh Sampson gave the revelation. He writes:

> The Nigerian police in Abia have adopted an unconventional method of fighting crime by placing a diety-like object (juju) at a checkpoint in Umuahia, the state capital. The object was placed on St. Finbarr`s/Bende Road Junction, adjacent to the Central Police Station (CPC), Umuahia...a policeman was seen posing with the juju as other policemen, armed to the teeth, were seen stationed strategically around the junction. Investigations revealed that unknown gunmen who, of late, have been burning police formations and killing policemen, were reported to be wearing juju bracelets, popularly known as `Odeshi` in the local parlance, on their waist, which allegedly prevent bullets from piercing their bodies. It was,

> perhaps, in an effort to neutralise the perceived efficacy of the unknown gunmen`s odeshi that the police acquired theirs. (Sampson, 2021, p.,.28)

***Ban of the use of Motor-cycles and Tricycles:*** Motor- and Tricycles were used by the hoodlums to access their targets. Based on this information, the use of motor-cycles and Tricycles was banned. This was done to `paralyse` the movements of the hoodlums.. Benue State kick started it. According to Uja Emmanuel, Benue state, "Worried by the worsening security conditions of Ukum and Katsina-Ala local governments...the security council has banned the use of motorcycles, popularly called Okada, till further notice...the council also banned the use of tricycles (keke)." (Emmanuel, 2020, p.,**7)**

***No Negotiation With Bandits***: This is the brain-child of Kaduna state. It has vowed not to negotiate with the bandits for ransom; and also to prosecute any person who does that. This measure was taken to make kidnapping not to be `attractive` for the bandits. This however has not abated the onslaught. The order was given by the State Governor, Nasir El-Rufia. He ordered "...the arrest, prosecution of anyone caught negotiating with bandits on behalf of his government." (Ebije, 2021,p.,26)

**Attacks On Education: Western Education Is Evil.**

One may ask, why the attacks on students and educational Institutions? The reason is not far-fetched. The major reason Boko Haram is fighting against Western Education with enthusiasm, is that it is seen as being evil, and as such, should be rooted out, killed and destroyed. To them, it should not be heard, not to talk of seeing it. When Kankara students were released, Boko Haram released their video in which they claim that they were responsible for the kidnapping. In it also, "The group reiterated its strange ideology that Western education is a sin." (Ukeh, 2020,p.,11) In another report, it is said also that Boko Haram is using "...religion as a pedestal to launch its extreme ideology that Western education is forbidden." (Ukeh, 2021, p.,11)

One then sees the reason Boko Haram is voracious about the termination of Western education. In fact, the twin brothers who were kidnapped during the Kankara School`s invasion by the sect, said while they were in the sect`s den, that the sect told them "...repeatedly that they were ready to carry out more attacks on all boarding schools in the northern part of Nigeria so as to disrupt western education." (Bello, 2020, p., 21) This is the opinion of Paul Azebeyi Johnson. To him, one of the reasons the students of UniAbuja were abducted by Boko Haram was "...a continuation of their long term interest or agenda to destroy education...." ( Azebeyi, 2021,p., 12) One may equally say, except recently, this `heritage` is being inherited from their forebears. Emmanuel A. S. Egbunu says that "...in

the eyes of the traditional Muslim leaders, modern education represented the scourge of infidel Christians, and it was approached with the greatest defiance or reluctance." (2020, p.,2) With such foundation, the result is what we are seeing today.

The irony is that this sect, not only benefits from Western education it is fighting against, by ways of her weaponry, mobility, dresses, but also needs this education. This was revealed by Sheikh Ahmed Mahmoud Gummi. Gummi has been their `friend` who has been negotiating for ransom for them, and advocating that they should be granted amnesty. From his interactions with them he said: "But what we understand is that majority of them are illiterates who need proper education and enlightenment...." (Ikpefan, 2021, p.,26)

**Insecurity among Students, Teachers, Lecturers**

Students and their teachers were respected in the past. They were seen as sacred cows, and accorded respect. The Institutions were seen as `Hallowed Chambers`. But today, such is history because of insurgency in Nigeria. Teachers and students are under attacks and threats. Education now is under direct attack. This could be the reason "The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has urged President Muhamadu Buhari to declare bandists kidnapping students in the northern part of country as terrorists." ( Ediare, 2021, p.,28)

The attacks on students which attracted wide publicity started with the attack on Chibok Girls. Later, it went to Dapchi Girls. This is buttressed by this write-up:

> Attacks on schools started in April 2014 with the abduction of 276 schoolgirls from their school in Chibok, Borno State by Boko Haram insurgents. Between October 2016 and May 2017, over 100 of these girls were released by the terrorists....Many of the girls are still in captivity. In February 2018, the terrorists invaded the Government Secondary School in Dapchi, Yobe State and kidnapped 110 schoolgirls. They eventually released 105 of these girls as four of them had earlier died in custody, while one, Leah Sharibu, is still held captive. (Ukeh, 2021, p.,11)

Since then, it has become a trend, a normal thing, a culture, where the kidnapping of students is expected, any time, day or night. The kidnappers find schools "...a safe platform where a large number of people can be easily abducted." ( Itua, 2021,p., 28)

The following lines will unveil some of the attacks on students, Institutions. These attacks, some resulted in kidnapping, death and destruction of institutions.

The first one to report here, not in order of occurrences, but as a matter of choice. This was that of the Pupils of Government Science Secondary School Kankara. Here, 333 pupils were abducted, including three staff of the school and their 12 family members. (Okezie, and Gbade, 2020. p.,5) Even the attack on University of Abuja, the Lecturers and their families were not spared. They were taken away by the Bandits.( Ezeh, 2021, p., 14)

We remember the abduction of the students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. The Management of the Institution said that "...nine of its students ...by gunmen have been set free by their kidnappers." (Itua, 2020, p.,5)

The incident that led to the death of Dowen College student is fresh in our minds. Sylvester Oromoni, it was alleged, was killed by his fellow students because he refused to join their cult. He came to learn, but

> Sadly he lost the battle before the bugle blew. He lost before he could even test the battle, not because he was unwilling but because he was ambushed by the vagaries of acquiring education in Nigeria, an otherwise enjoyable activity that has become arduous due to the festering influence of cultism, a monster that has crept into our school system and is fast eroding the value of education....Nigeria kills its own by inept acts. (Iwuoma, 2021, p.,17) Similar incidences of cultism in school has led the Ebonyi Government to close a school in Ezza South Local Government. According Governor Dave Umahi, the school should "...remain closed." (NA, 2020, p., 4) Following this is the killing of a student of Rivers State University. His "...killing was sequel to a battle for territorial supremacy between Vikingsband Ku Klux Klan (KKK) cult groups." (Nyisi, 2021, p., 3)

There was the death of six students who were kidnapped from Islamic school in Tegina in Niger state, in May 2021. They died out of illness before ransom could be paid.(Emmanuel, 2021,p.,6) Added to the above is the death of 3 UniJos students, who were used to by the public to `console` themselves of an attack that rocked Angwan Rukuba Road in Jos North Local Government Area of the State. The Institution through Dr. Maigoro said that "...students and staff of the institution were always attacked and killed by members of the

university community even during crisis that did not concern them." (Bere, 2021, p.,6) We know these because they were made public. There are myriads of such unreported.

What of the student of Deeper Life High School Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Master Don-Davies Archibong, who was sexually abused while in the school? The mother of the 11-year old boy, demanded N100 million to enable her fly her son abroad for medical treatment. He came to learn and be sane for the society, the aftermath was the case at hand. (Anthony,2021, p.,4)

The kidnapping of students and their teachers from Federal Government College Birnin-Yauri, in Kebbi State, cannot be easily be forgotten. In this attack, a Police officer was killed, five teachers were abducted, and some students were injured and some were abducted. (Lawal, Raheem, 2021, p., 5) In the same vein, two Nursery pupils of the same parents were also kidnapped. Their mother who brought them from school, left them in her vehicle at their gate, to open the gate. When she returned to take them in, the children were nowhere to be found. Gunmen had abducted them. (Johnson, 2021, p.,6)

The same story of abduction could be told of abduction two female pupils of Glory Group of Schools in Igarra, Akoko-Edo Council of Edo State. They were abducted while they were returning from school in the company of other pupils. The abductors demanded N100 million in ransom. (Olaniyi, 2021, p.,5) Following the above is the kidnapping of four students of Delta State University. The kidnappers were also demanding N5m ransom to free them. (Olayemi, 2021,p., 3) A follow up is that of Zamfara, where over 300 students of Government Girls Secondary School, Jangebe were kidnapped. (Nasir, Ediare, Obogo, 2021,p.,6) Another abduction of students occurred at Government Technical College Pandogeri which is in the Local Government Area with Kangara in Niger State. "The boys were abducted at about 2:00pm on Saturday while playing football in the school premises." (Adams, 2021, p.,7) That of 30 students of Federal Government Forestry College, Ikara, Kaduna State, is another mind-blowing incident. In the same area, attempt to abduct about 307 of Government Science Secondary School was foiled by the Nigerian Army and Nigerian Air Force. (Erunke, Hassan, 2021, p.,5) Included in the list of abduction of students, will include that of four students of Calvary Ministries, known as CAPRO, in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State. They were kidnapped when they were sleeping. The attackers broke into the school premises through the fence. (Bere, 2021,p.,5) In another development, on April 24, 2021, when Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi had her 23to 25 combined convocation, in the night while the students were reading in a Lecture Hall. Campuses and Secondary School premises around her, were also attacked. (Ejembi, 2021, p., 8) In furtherance of the list is this one from

Kaduna State –Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnics. This particular one was the third attack. In this case, two academic staff and eight students were abducted, while a student was killed. (Dike, 2021,p., 4) In the same Kaduna, this time, it was Greenfield University. Five students were murdered. This led Wole Soyinka who mourned for the loss of such people to say, " ...endless martyrdom of the youth in the country." (Ukek. 2021, p.,11)

**Advantages of Education.**

> Education is generally regarded as a tool of empowerment and enlightenment by an individual or groups. It is the total of value re-orientation that is required to transform an individual and to move people from one point to the other in terms of exposure and increase in the sense of self-worth. In this context, it is about western and book-based education often within the walls of a classroom and school setting. (Dahiru. 2021, p., 21)

With this in our minds, we look for other benefits of western education. Education is the `light` of every nation. It is the `eye` through which the nation sees. It is the foundation upon which every civilization is laid, the bedrock of development and civilization. Remove education from any nation, such nation is doomed, will be in `darkness` and will remain backward in progress. This fact made Governor Masari of Katsina State to make education a priority. According to Abdu Labaran Malumfashi, "It is an incontrovertible truth that no society can develop above the level of the education of its citizens. This is why for Governor Masari, education remains `the first, second and third priority` of his administration." (2021, p.,18)

Education is the beginning of success of any nation. The President, Mohamadu Buhari made this known. According to him, "...no one can succeed without sound eduation...anybody who misses education has missed everything...education is the starting point for success ....`You can`t succeed outside your educational qualification....Nigerians are acutely aware of the priority of education, and parents are making sacrifices to ensure that their children and wards get educated." (Taiwo-Obalonye, 2021, p.,8) Such benefit will elude Nigerians with the current situation of attacks on education.

Mallam Shehu Usman Abubakar, the National President of the Nigeria`s Muslims Society of Nigeria, lent his voice on the goodness of education. He said that "...education is the major source of strength and power to every nation and community in the world...." (Lawal, 2021, p.26) Any nation without it is more or less `powerless`.

To say that education is the key to success, is to say the obvious. Our parents who were not educated, are lamenting because of that. One will wonder what one will do today without education. A nation with education is quite different from others in all ramifications of enlightenment. Yahuza Yahaya has this to say: "...education [is] a key to success, it is also a process whereby an individual gets training and acquire experience...any society that is educated is on the track of development; and for sure, that society must be quite different from a society that is uneducated." (2020, p.,16) If our leaders today did not attend school, will we be talking about President Trump of America, Nnamdi Azikiwe, the world Inventors, Vice Chancellors? The story would have been different today. These students who are attacked today, are leaders of tomorrow. And if we embrace `darkness` today, then tomorrow will be bleak and full of darkness. This is why any sane person should be an advocate of quality education, than destroying it. This is because, such an attack "...is an attack on Nigeria`s fundamental development...[because] education remains a critical contributor to national development." (Itua, 2021, p.,6) Education is the gateway to secure the future of any nation.

**Disadvantages of Attack of Education in Nigeria.**

The aim of this paper is to show that insecurity is a bane on education in Nigeria. The following will give us some of the damages this has caused to education in Nigeria.

***Trauma:*** **"**An emotional shock that has a damaging and lasting effect on mental life." (Watkins, Watkins, 1992, p.,733) One of the adverse effects of attack on the students is that they are traumatized. They are put off. When some of the students of Baptist school who were kidnapped and were released, the President of Nigerian Baptist Convention, described the state of the students and traumatic. Sola Ojo said that he handed over "...traumatized students over to their parents...." (2021., p.5) President Mohamed Buhari confirmed this. He said:

...fear of abduction and the attendant trauma on school children who have been victims of kidnapping have forced many children of school age to stay out of school...the fear and trauma created by having their fellow students and friends attacked, has impacted negatively on the quality of schooling as concentration and attention span for learning in such conditions have certainly waned....`There are more than 12 million children currently traumatized and afraid of going to school, especially the girl-child. (Eze, 2021, p.,26) Adesina Adedipe writes concerning the abduction of students: "Something should be done urgently because the abductions and the trauma they cause have great psychological effects on the young boys and girls and this may last for many years." (2021, p.,16) Concentration in the class is lost. Not only the students. Parent are not left in this scenario.

They are also traumatized. "Time and again, parents and guardians are pathetically distressed and perennially disturbed by the looping and looming of these terrorists threatening the lives of their wards every now and then" (Ige, 2021, p.,12)

***Suspension of Academic Activities***: If a school is attacked, the natural thing is to close the school or suspend its academic activities. This has happened in many places. When UniJos was attacked, what followed was the closure of the school and suspension of academic activities. These according to Dr Maigoro "...would pose a serious setback to the students` academic sojourn." (Bere, 2021, p.,6) Of course, in such a situation, no form of productive academic activity can be carried out because of fear. Dr Kasim Umar of Uniabuja was right when he said that "...lecturers [of the University] have stopped going to classrooms because of the incident [abduction of students and lecturers] which has traumatized them." (Ikpefan, 2021, p.,5) The same University suspended her second semester examination, 2019/2020. This time, not because of kidnapping in the school, but because of series of killing in Plateau state. The situation led the state government to impose 24-hour curfew in the state. (Bere, 2021, p.,28) A similar situation took place during the EndSARS era. National Examination Council (NECO) rescheduled her examination date because of insecurity. It was supposed to take place on Monday February 1 to Wednesday, February 3. But was shifted to Monday, February 8 and Wednesday, March 10, 2021. The adverse effects of such postponement to students, are better imagined than felt. (Adams, 2021, p., 3)

***Non completion of Education:*** How many students will go back to continue studying who were attacked and kidnapped, or their colleagues? It takes a person with lion heart to do that. Many have stopped schooling intentionally. Some forced to stop because of their new location-Internally Displaced Camps. Tanko Sununu who represents Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency of Kebbi state confessed that "...children... in his constituency can no longer go to school...as a result of insecurity." (Lawal, Orji, 2021, p.,6) UNICEF Chief of Maiduguri Field Office in Borno State, Phuong Nguyen, collaborated with the Law maker. He said that "...poor attendance of schools in Northeastern Nigeria was exacerbated by armed conflicts and insurgency." (Bere, 2021, p.,5) Abubakar and Umar, the twin brothers who were kidnapped during the Kankara school invasion, said that "...they were not keen on returning to complete their studies in the school." (Bello, 2020, p.,21)

***Evacuation of Students:*** Any serious government will not allow her students stay in a crisis-ridden area. This was exactly what happened when UniJos was in crisis. Some States evacuated students from their states. One of such states was Abia. About 200 students were

evacuated. The students were stranded, helpless because of the situation. Such students who were evacuated, who knows whether they would go back to the University to complete their studies. (Bere, 2021, p.,6)

***Closure/Fear to live in Boarding School:*** To live in boarding school is seen as an ideal way to develop one`s academic trait, learn how to live a communal live, and how to live an orderly life. All these will help to develop our future leaders. However, all these aspirations are almost slaughtered at the altar of insecurity. Many students and parents are afraid concerning Boarding school. Some states, one of them is Niger, has closed their Boarding schools for fear of abduction. (Adams, 2021, p.,7) The next is Adamawa. It has closed 30 out of 34 Junior Boarding Secondary Schools. (NA, 2021, p.,14)

There are other negative aspects of insecurity on the part of education. These students who are kidnapped, apart from the trauma, were beaten. An example is that of Federal Government Forestry students in Kaduna, where in a video released by their captors, "The abducted students were seen being beaten by their captors, as they pleaded with government to rescue them." (Erunke, Hassan, 2021, p.,41). This is a threat to their human right as human beings. They were treated as animals. Such will impart negative tendencies in their lives.

We will not forget in a hurry that abduction of students and their teachers has made the standard of education to suffer irretrievably. Foreign Exchange Programmes between Nigerian University and Overseas counterparts, have been thrown to the winds because of insurgency. One may not be totally wrong if one says that abduction of students and their teachers is a deliberate action to cripple the national development which education is the key. No wonder Simon Ejembi of Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi said that "...the current spate of students and staff abduction can only suggest there is a siege on the educational system which apparently targets a complete crippling of the major organ of national development." (Ejembi, 2021, p.,8)

Before these students would be released, ransom would be paid, ranging to millions of Naira. This would been used for economic ventures by the payer to develop the economy of the nation. Or being used to further the educational pursuit of the students. But behold, it is given to `thin` air with no economic value. Innocent citizens who went to improve themselves and the society, are being harassed by people whose conscience is dead. "It is a rape on their innocence, a tragedy." (Igbokwe, 2021, p.,31) The implication is that the future of our future leaders is not safe, not guaranteed. With the situation so far, one can say that education especially in the North is bowing to the whims and caprices of the

hoodlums. Their target to stamp out Western education, is fast being actualized. Majeed Dahira saw this also. To him, "Nigeria`s education has been forced to surrender by a marauding gang of terror groups operating in different parts of the country...." (2021, p.,21) The system of placing students from one school to another by the government because of abduction of students, is good for now. The long-time effects of it cannot be quantified. For example, Adamawa State decided that "All students from the affected schools are to be placed in the nearest public junior secondary schools within their catchment or domicile areas. Stakeholders, PTA, ANCOPS and others are to ensure compliance with this government policy." (NA, 2021, p.,14) These students, when will they acclimatize with the new environment and its academic works? This will adversely affect them psychologically. Education needs sound mind. It is not Fire Brigade approach. It will surely affect the academic pursuit of students. For some years now, Nigeria has been trying to improve its education. The current spate of insurgency, is a reversal of the efforts, a draw back. The attacks are worse with the female students who are raped, maltreated and sometimes, married out against their will. Leah Sharibu is one instance who has born children to her abductors. This is a girl who would have been either an Engineer, Doctor, Pilot, Governor, or even President of this nation. Such dream is shattered because her country could not protect her and her future.

It is my prayer that these hoodlums will come back to their senses and know the effects of their actions to the individuals, families, states and the nation at large. General Abdulsalami Abubakar (retd) joined in the same plea. He said, "These people don`t know what they are doing, their actions have taken education, especially in the northern parts of the country 20 years back, I hope they will realize this and stop what they are doing...." (Adams, 2021, p.,6)

**Recommendations.**

One of the things to be done is to fence all the schools that are prone to attacks. It is discovered that most of the schools attacked, are not properly fenced. For example, some of these schools have porous entrance without complete perimeter fence. These include, Government Secondary School Karshi, Federal Government College, Kwali and Federal Government College, Bwari. (Itua, 2021,p.,7) Not only perimeter fence, but Iron gates should be fixed at the entrance. This will reduced the free for all movement into the schools.

Covid-19 era brought innovations that helped the public. One of them is e-learning. This could be replicated in this `un-conducive` period of insecurity in schools.

In our communities, and especially in our schools, security warning system to alert security agents of the presence of the bandits, should be in place. Security Cameras (CCTV) should also be installed in these `soft` areas and on the streets to forestall attacks. Drones could equally be used to gather information to help the security agents. The government should stop the idea of negotiating with the bandits for this `empowers` them. She should have the political will to stamp out insurgency no matter whose ox is gored. Apart from this, what we are seeing today is child`s play. The culprits should be brought to book. Some terrorists are sacred cows, while others are meant to be persecuted, will not allow the nation to win the war. The question arises: why is it that some of these terrorists are treated with kid`s glove and deodorant, while others are treated with scorpions and insecticides? The implication is that the will-power is not yet there. Even if there will be negotiation with the terrorists, it should from the point of strength on the side of the government. It should not be left in the hand of the terrorists to detect conditions. In fact, they should be the ones begging, the reverse should not be the case. The mentality that amnesty should be granted to the terrorists should not be mentioned. It is out of the way.

Community policing or State Police, as a matter of urgency, should be put in place. If there is a time it should be instituted, it is now. Federal security agents are overwhelmed, who only obey the power that detects the tune. Such mechanism will not augur well in this dispensation. Such Community Police Force or Vigilantes, should be trained so as to know their roles in crime prevention and control. These people should not only to be recruited, they should be equipped, together with the Federal Security Agents. It is learnt that these terrorists have more sophisticated weapons than them. They have anti air-craft weapon that can bring aircraft down. Of course, it has been done before. In all, communities should be security conscious. security is for everybody, not only for the government.

There should be constant Meetings between the government with the Traditional Rulers, Youth Groups, Town Unions, and any other group within the communities, to get information concerning security situation. Through these, information will be desceminated in the local languages to inform residents concerning the security situation. If possible, in the Electronic media. At the same time, the Federal Government can equally partner with neighbouring Countries in this fight. If possible, hire foreign mercenaries in order to save the life of the citizens. Pride should be jettisoned out of the way now. Life of citizens is of paramount importance.

Sabotage is a very strong weapon that brings failure of any project such as the one Nigeria is engaged now. Time and time again, terrorists are informed of the movements of the security agents. This often times, put our military men into the hands of their enemies.

Governor Zulum has been attacked at least twice with his convoy. How did the enemies know about the movements? The work of saboteurs. Another act that tantamount to sabotage is when the military is nor properly informed. Most times, they are not given proper information. This has made their enemies gain the upper hand. Part of this: who supplies the terrorists weapons, food, domestic servants and ladies who serve them as `wives`? They are Nigerians who gain through this `troubled` water.

The government should find ways to lift the scourge of poverty in the nation. It is a known maxim that poverty leads to stealing and corruption. Some of the youths who have joined the terrorist groups, joined in order to have the body and soul together. Employment of qualified youths by the government, should be a priority. Improvement in the economy should also be given a fair treatment. When the economy is good, government and individuals will employ the youths. This will reduce the rate of banditry and terrorism.

Drug abuse is another `tonic` to terrorism. Some of these drugs that make the users unaware of the dangers of their actions, should be banned. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) should step up her efforts to curb this menace. According to Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers state, "As government is fighting insurgency, rape, banditry, kidnapping and other security challenges, we must not look away from drug abuse as root cause, and if we succeed in cutting down the supply of illicit drugs, we would have substantially solved the problem of insecurity in the country...." (Paulinus, 2021, p.,5) The students who were kidnapped, released by their abductors, and back to school, and those who may not like to go to school, should be rehabilitated. Psychologists should be engaged who will do thorough work on their psyche. The reason is that, if they are not properly rehabilitated, their tomorrow`s sound mind will not be granted. "Their return to school is not sufficient enough. Left unaddressed, the traumatic effect of their horrors will haunt them for a long time. Tomorrow` parents, top security men and women, Governors, Senators, and Ministers will come from today`s pool of traumatized children." (Ebije, 2021, p., 6)

Those students whose stock in trade is to bully their fellow students, should not be left scot-free no matter their ages, whether a juvenile or not. If possible, the school where such is done, should be closed to serve as a deterrent to others.

The government should rise against this challenge of insecurity. She should know that prevention is better than cure. Commiserating with the bereaved families is not enough. She should be proactive in her actions in this context. The war against insurgence should be taken to their dens, and not the other way round.

The place of prayer will not be forgotten. Nigeria is a religious nation. God can do the impossible if we call upon Him to save us from this quagmire.

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