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**THE EFFECT OF TERRORISM IN NORTHERN NIGERIA**

Terrorism is one of the major challenges being faced in Northern Nigeria. Ever since the first attack by the Boko Haram group the north has been unable to stand on her feet due to reoccurring attacks and the inability of the military to defeat these terrorists. Terrorism as defined by the Oxford dictionary is the unlawful use of violence and intimidation especially against civilians in the pursuit of political aims. The terrorist attacks is a nightmare that the people of Northern Nigeria are constantly seeking reprieve from. It has been ten years and these attacks have left significant effects on the lives of the inhabitants of the north.

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation the Boko Haram attacks have claimed tens of thousand of lives and displaced over 2.3 million residents. The loss of lives and properties have left the victims in turmoil. When the Boko Haram launches an attack they do not only kill and destroy properties they go even further to rape the women, kidnap young men who would serve as recruits as well as kidnap young girls who would be sold into slavery. As for those survivors who get to live in IDP camps, they also suffer tons of hardships: IDP camps are crowded, there is insufficient water supply, lack of food and quick transmission of diseases. They also suffer mentally from PTSD [ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder], lack of trust and continuous nightmares to mention a few. It is almost impossible for the victims to get back to their normal lives after experiencing such a cruel fate.

Furthermore,while destroying properties a lot of beneficial infrastructures such as; companies, schools, hotels, restaurants, churches, mosques,and parks are destroyed. This in turn affects the economy. Investor are already scared to set up businesses in such an insecure area, hence the destruction of already existing infrastructure would severely affect the economy of states involved. When there is a fall in the economy and reduction in infrastructure there would be a corresponding loss of jobs and means of livelihood. This with no doubt spells poverty.

In the same vein, crime rates in north have heightened considerably over the past years. It is no tale that one of the leading causes of crime is poverty. Social vices such as armed robbery, kidnap, rape and fraud to mention a few have become the order of the day. If it is not the terrorists attacking then it is the hungry and jobless youth who is trying to find a way to make it to the next day alive. The masses now lack trust in the government and military as countless promises to get rid of the Boko Haram have been made with no positive result. The north is indeed bleeding

The effect of terrorism in Northern Nigeria cannot be overemphasized and the government is not doing enough to take control of the situation. The media keeps covering news of the defeat of Boko Haram at the same time covering news of deaths by the same people. One can only wonder if the Nigerian government have not had enough or are just incapable of handling the situation. Ten years is enough time to put things in order, ten years is enough time to be living in fear. Is the Nigerian government waiting for the north to be wiped out[?]. The north has had enough and it is high time north heals and this cycle of vicious deaths is put to an end.