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TERRORISM IN NIGERIA

One crucial issue that has dominated discussions on television, on pages of newspapers,over the radio, formal and informal discussions and lectures is terrorism.Terrorism is a national concern.Many people have written articles expressing their views on this issue. I also want to express my own views.

Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use or threatened use of violence , instilling fear, against individuals in an attempt to intimidate societies or to gain control over a population. Terrorism involves the use of unlawful violence, secretive locations of residence,use of unlawful and assorted dangerous weapons and secretive membership recruitment. Their tactics include suicide bombing,abductions, assassinations and hijacking.Their targets are extermination of human lives and destruction of properties.These are achieved by attacking churches and mosques,schools,government buildings and installations and public squares.

Terrorism has led to the displacement of people, loss of lives and properties, anger and hatred as well as psychological and emotional trauma and general state of insecurity. The history of terrorism in Nigeria is traceable to the emergence of a group of Islamic militants called Boko Haram in 2002. Boko Haram means 'western education is evil'.Since the emergence of these terrorists,human lives have been lost to their attacks in thousands. These crises have heightened tensions and insecurity in Nigeria,Unless this situation is checked and reversed. Nigeria will remain dependent and underdeveloped perpetually.

One may ask:What are the reasons for terrorism? Many factors have been identified .These include Lack of quality education or training, desire for power, bad governance ,corruption and lack of social and basic amenities.Many youths lack quality education which leads them to engage in corruption. Politicians with bad intentions take advantage of these youths and use them for political thuggery. If such politicians get into positions of power,Bad governance becomes the order of the day.

Terrorism can cause ripple effects through the economy that have negative impacts.The major effect is the direct economic destruction of property and lives.The goal of terrorism is to destroy the public's sense of security in places most familiar to them.Terrorism indirectly affects the economy by creating market uncertainty, loss of tourism and increased insurance claims.There can also be wider socio- economic effects associated with terrorism, such as businesses closing and therefore an increase in poverty and unemployment.

Terrorism in Nigeria is retarding the economic and technological advancement of the country. Many Nigerians live everyday in tensions and suspicion. Many productive lives have been lost,available ones are displaced and live in constant fears and pain of the loss of their loved ones.Foreign investors are scared away from Nigeria. The nation's educational institutions are not spared either as institutions of learning are equally points of target and attacks of terrorists and other hoodlums.

Since the Boko Haram terrorist outburst in Nigeria, there has been increasing questions on the phenomenon in the country. There has not been any substantial analysis on the emergence of the Boko Haram group and its terrorist activities in Nigeria. To curb the activities of this terrorist group,I would suggest that the government provide more job opportunities for the youths, They should enforce human rights , Agencies should be set up for intelligence and surveillance, There should be provision of local security for the citizens and Enforce good target hardening on the police force.

It is with great hope that if all these measures are taken,terrorism will be reduced considerably and drastically and the citizens will enjoy good security and crime free nation.The economy will be better and foreign investment will be encouraged.

Thank you.