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DENTISTRY

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RELIGIOS CONFLICTS

Religious conflicts arise as followers of one religion take to the extreme and impose their religious beliefs on others with different religions. This issue has been traced back to the year 1953, today religious conflicts is headed by the Boko Haram insurgency in order to establish an Islamic State in Nigeria. It can also be referred to as religious war, religious intolerance.

Since the restoration of democracy in 1999, Christian governments have dominated the country at the federal level, while the Muslim-dominated Northern Nigerian states have implemented strict Sharia law. Religious conflict between Muslims and Christians has erupted several times since 2000 for various reasons, often causing riots with several thousands of victims on both sides. Since 2009, the Islamist movement Boko Haram has fought an armed rebellion against the Nigerian military, sacking villages and towns and taking thousands of lives in battles and massacres against Christians, students and others deemed enemies of Islam. The events of Abuja in 2000 and Jos in 2001 were riots between Christians and Muslims in Jos, Nigeria about the appointment of a Muslim politician, Alhaji Muktar Mohammed, as local coordinator of the federal programme to fight poverty. Another such riot killed over 100 people in October 2001 in Kano State.

The factors which cause conflict in Africa are ethnicity, tribalism, poor leadership, mediocrity, lack of accountability, exploitation of national resources by nationals and foreigners without giving back to the society what they deserved, looting of national coffers and asserts. This has led to the destruction of human life and property as well as natural resources. He further indicates that the absence of conflict engenders mental calmness and harmonious existence of law, order and well-being in all relationships in life which brings development.

Religious conflict has caused a lot of damages to the country both seen and unseen. It is very rare to see people of both religions getting marriage or even being acquaintances. Muslims don’t want to get involved with Christians and vice versa. The issue of Boko Haram has made it worse, because most Hausas are considered Muslims so if you see a group of young boys loitering around the first thing people say is they are messengers from Boko Haram which is very stereotypical.

Hopefully in years to come the Christians and the Muslim/Islam would be able to sit comfortably on the same table to make good decisions concerning the wellbeing of the country.