

ARMED BANDIT, KIDNAPING AND THE CHALLENGE OF NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Armed banditry and kidnapping are currently viewed as twin anti-social hazard currently threatening the security architecture, and corporate existence of Nigeria. At the earliest times, armed banditry was prompted by greed for materialism; and kidnapping became rampant during slave trade. However, recent studies have shown a remarkable shift of intent and focus. Armed banditry is now being funded by corporate bodies and prominent individuals who had set objectives which must be achieved through violence. It has become means to draw the attention of the government over perceived ills in the society, and conduit pipes of siphoning state money through ransom. The spate of banditry and kidnapping has continued to tilt, with major target being prominent individuals, government institutions and recently the vulnerable (School Children). This new trend has left psychological trauma on our students who have suffered kidnapping incidence. The heavy ransom paid for the students, and the fear of unknown have increased the fear of parents to retain their wards in school. Recently, some Northern States in Nigeria closed schools and demanded that students should vacate on compulsory holidays. This obviously has affected the growth of education to a region aptly referred to as less advantaged zone. As long as the trend persists with targeted attention on schools, the repercussion is better imagined. Considering the ages of the bandits, it is incumbent that Government should do more to arrest this situation by creating more job opportunities for the teeming youths who have found solace in such crime. The modus on how this could be achieved, the impact of kidnapping to the society, in addition to how the morals of the students could be boosted to return to school is what this paper has addressed.

Keyword: Greed, inordinate ambition, Ransom, Security and Unemployment

INTRODUCTION

The rising spate of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria has assumed alarming proportion. The multiplicity of these gang groups across ethnic spread has greatly exposed government weakness in creating job opportunities to her citizenries. Considering the age range of the people involved in this crime, it has further proved the general notion that, the government of Nigeria is anti-youths, and act of greed as being responsible. By extending, the spate of kidnapping to the Educational facilities, with the main targets on school children, the trend has taken a new turn, and the international Community is alarmed. The attack on schools, which firstly occurred in the South-Eastern Nigeria, has taken root in the North-Eastern part of the Country. The trend has spread further to the North-Central and North-West, with attendant effect adversely to Educational Sector. It should be noted, that no Country could survive Economically, Socially and even Politically, when greater number of her citizens had little or no access to formal Education, which of course is the bedrock to Nation Development.

Whereas the volume of banditry attacks is now increasing in the North, the focus has shifted from cattle rustling, to attacks on Educational Institutions. In effect, the psychological effects of these attacks are resonating beyond the confinement of destruction of Physical infrastructures, but death of teachers and the students. Presently, the students' enrolments are decreasing due to insecurity. The courageous ones in school now learn under psychological induced pressure and tension.

Due to incessant attacks on Educational facilities, records of high school dropouts are noticeable in most North-Eastern states. It should be stressed too, that lack of proactive measures by the government, in addition to sentiments, have exposed the Nation to these ugly trends, now it has become very difficult to attract students and teachers back to school in the epicentre, the North-East and West of Nigeria.

Meanwhile, not all hope is lost, as government could improve security through the involvement of the Military and the civil societies. Building people's confidence is equally important through thorough orientation on the value of formal education not only to the people, but also to the culprits through dialogue.

To this end, Government as a matter of urgency should improve teachers' remuneration to make the profession attractive. They should also rebuild the destroyed schools with modern facilities. This will not only erase trauma, it will also reposition the minds of the students and teachers to enthusiastically embrace government gesture by returning to school.

THE GENESIS OF ARMED BANDITRY AND KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

For us to proffer solution to the banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria, identifying the root cause will be of immense assistance. In that respect, the history of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria could only receive proper documentation and genesis ascertained, if the Socio-Political and Economic History of the people is thoroughly assessed through thorough research. In that regard, the paper has taken a periscopic study of the genesis of armed banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria. This has drawn a cursory recast to some aspect of the Societal Norms and belief systems, which tended to induce kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria Society. By leveraging on that, the research revealed that in the olden days, kidnapping and banditry were somehow supported by the societal norms and belief system, and the Economic benefit derivable when slaves became major article of trade-motivated kidnapping. However, it stopped, when its purposes dwindled due to modernity.

However, the rapidity of its resurgence in the modern times and the need to stop it, has received extended periscopic studies on foreign impact to the root cause of modern banditry. The genesis, which we have highlighted, as having been expanded following the initial contact with Europeans. In that respect, it is obvious that armed banditry has been as old as the emergence of human society, this is true, considering the nature of early man when it comes to point when the survival of the fittest becomes the norm, more so in his bid to master and to control his environment.

In effect, although the incidence of armed banditry is very old, but its motivation differs, and varies as well. The dynamism of the society informed the divergences in motivations. On the part of foreign influence, since the western world must look for a way to sell their newly improved weapons, creating unprovoked attacks among Africa has created war situations and unending social unrest through banditry and kidnapping. For instance, in olden days most inter-communal conflicts were incited by greed over possession of farmland, fishing right over ponds, squabbling over control of wild palm plantation farms etc. The weapons of warfare then included carved stone clubs and wooden materials. Following the highly improved Military weapons and its accessibility, these have created intermittent crises among the people. The act of banditries, which often received full backing of the community leaders and prominent individuals from the concerned society, meant that the channels of unprovoked attacks have remained opened.

Moreover, the emergence of organised trade however, altered everything. As banditry and kidnapping gradually transformed the main occupation of the outlawed groups, who are determined to take an undue advantage of others in a given society through such anti-social behaviours to announce their greed and inordinate ambition.

These organised, but outlawed groups were prominent during the trans-Saharan trade, when often times they attacked the caravan traders. They also engaged in kidnapping during the era of slave trade when the demand for slaves became very high in the New World. Currently, this group are involved as sea pirates, Pipeline vandals and cattle rustlers, with most recent attention now being attacks on Educational facilities. All these approaches are instigated by diverse motives.

During the Pre-historic era, banditry emerged due to quest instigated by expansionism. The motive for such expansionism had some elements of materialism and quest for Power. During that, time too, Economic and Political factors played dominant roles to the act of banditry and Kidnapping. In that regard, banditry became prominent following the emergence of powerful leaders who conquered with the aid of the new instruments of war, introduced by the white men in Africa. This development also contributed to the emergence and consolidation of Kingdoms and Empires of Africa. In that, “the coming of iron technology must indeed have brought about far-reaching changes in every branch of African life’

The advent of iron technology also aided agriculture as well as promoted wars and banditry. According to Sophie Oluwole, “the military also contributed to the expansionism of the empire” even as some turned bandits when there was no battle to fight. Nevertheless, the use of iron weapons in warfare during pre-colonial era, not only aided victory, but also contributed in expansion of such Kingdoms like the Oyo, Asante, Bini, Kwararafa etc. This is evidently, as all owed their greatness and strength to the use of the new technology of warfare. The large booty of spoil acquired by the victor could have enticed banditry. In addition, the efficacy of the new weapons of war, informed its abuse by the bandits who saw in it as useful instruments to the prosecution of kidnapping and banditry.

In fact, act of banditry and kidnapping in Africa became prominent during the slave trade, when bandits out of greed exploited the lucrative nature of the busy trade routes to raid for slaves. In effect, the focus of the early bandits was social and economic. Social, because women were kidnapped and sold away to re-populate areas devastated by war, in addition to increase civil population for war through procreation. Economical, because those kidnapped, were sold to make money, and to boost prestige of wealthy men in the society. In effect, when 'king Agajah wedged war against small coastal states of Whydah and Alada using the new weapons, 'his aim was to become a dominant power among the various Aja states'. This is a clear indication of the import of the new foreign weapons on warfare and banditry

The Old Oyo continued to wedge war and raids among other Yoruba states using the colonial weapon of warfare, when slave trade became a lucrative business. A clear indication is that some of the raids and kidnapping did receive the supports of the state. In fact, King Obiri Yebao of Oyoko clan in Ghana died in 1670 while wedging war of banditry against smaller neighbours. At that period too, some of the notorious bandits' leaders are known to be prominent people in the society. Some of them were even political leaders, whom in search of wealth and fame resorted to banditry. The attack points were focused on notable trade routes under the full knowledge of the traditional leaders. In order to derive maximum profit from European trade, all trade transactions in Dahomey were made to receive the approval of the Kings. During that time, slave raids received the support of the King who acted under severe pressure from the White buyers. In that respect, the period recorded increased volume of raid for slaves, because the demand from the white dealers also increased.

Banditry emerged due largely to high demand, because people have no high yielding substitute to slave trade. Those involved saw it as means of survival, and an avenue to boost fame. Large communities would raid smaller ones. The exercise of Power through might and victory thereof must have incited the ideology of survival of the fittest, which was the motivational factor of slave raids.

During the early years of Bini Empire, under the reign of Oba Ewuare the great, he was 'involved in many wars and brought about 201 towns and villages under Bini rule. These wars of conquest were motivated by greed for booty, tributes and fame. During the early 17th century, the Bini Obas continued to champion the act of raids and equally succeeded in extending their domain everywhere in the rainforest region, until in 1897 when the British invaded Bini and destroyed it.

It should also be recalled, that during trans-Saharan trade, the Arab caravans were often time waylaid by the indigenous Berbers armed bandits, whose knowledge of the desert terrain enabled them to rob with ease traders passing across the desert trade routes. The ferocity of these bandits often depended on weapon bought from the European traders. In that respect, while banditry soared during the slave trade, the newly acquired firearms from the European merchants aptly contributed to it. It is therefore appropriate to say that African contact with highly improved European firearms increased the incidence of banditry and kidnapping.

Meanwhile, with regard to the origin of banditry, it could be said that 'banditry gained origin, momentum and prominence as early as 1000 BC, when oxen, chariots, made the desert crossing and carts drawn by horses' and groups emerged with the weapons acquired from the white traders to lay ambush on traders for money and booties. Further research proved that, banditry across the Sahara however, peaked between 1490-1590, when the Songhay Empire under the Askias and the Bornu Empire under the Sefuwas, dominated the Sahara and Sudan.

During the period, the demand for European goods increased likewise the Europeans demand on Africans articles of trade notably slaves.

Banditry during this period popularly known as the golden age of trans-Saharan trade, saw the emergence of such striving trade routes like Agadir, Tangier, Tripoli, Algiers and Alexandria connecting with the southern Sudanic trade fair centres like, Kumbi Saleh, Katsina, Kano, Kukawa, Kubayh, El Obeid, and Sennar. There were other routes, like the one connecting the Sijilmasa-Walata-Timbuctu. In addition, the one that passed through the popular Salt City of Taghaza. In fact, due to the importance attached to the Salt City of Taghaza, and the booming trade therein, it would subsequently become very attractive spot to bandits, who often accosted, on several occasions traders along the routes.

Because of the increased incidences of banditry along the routes, traders often engaged the services of the local hunters who knew the terrain across the desert very well. Caravan movement therefore emerged for the security and profit of the traders.

From the account of notable travellers during the Saharan trade, the plundering and raiding activities of the Turks, the Taures, the Tibu and Awlad Sulyman constituted serious threat to the security on the routes. This submission also indicates that the bandits were well known to the people, and could have assumed a profession to the Arabs who constituted the majority during the Saharan trade. The number of groups involved in banditry across Sahara also informed the development of several trade routes, in addition to halting centres. The halting centres created by the traders, were aimed for refreshment and to re-strategies. In were in these halting centres that the bandits disguised as traders to monitor trade movement. In halting centres like Taghaza, Salah, Ghat and Agades, guards, guide and Carmel could be hired to facilitate free and easy movements. Of all the bandits, the Tauregs who lived in the desert are noted to have made a profession out of banditry. They equally controlled almost the Saharan trade routes, and are known to have served as guards and guide during the trade.

During the early trade across the Saharan, the Arab traders dominated the intermediaries' position. Their position became concretised, following the conquest of North Africa, in addition to, it subsequent occupation by the Arab traders and religious leaders.

The Hejira, which is among the five pillars of Islam, encourages Jihad, which is a holy war against perceived infidel. This tenet could as well have been abused by faithful, who saw nothing wrong in promoting constant raids and act of banditry against the native traders who were mostly non-Islamic converts. It is therefore not out of place too, to state categorically, that, the mood of Hejira could have informed the diversionary to banditry attacks (notably carried out by the Almoravids, Berbers and the Moors) on traders who frequented the Sahara trade centres from North Africa.

From the foregone, the connection of Kano, Katsina and Bornu to trans-Saharan trade invariably imported the act of Banditry to what would later become part of Nigeria. As noted above, the Almoravids and the Moors exploited the concept of religious purification to invade and sack flourishing states. Following the decline in Saharan trade, because of a shift to the coastal trader, more Saharan tribes became involved in banditry too, this time with attacks on livestock (Rustling) just to make a living.

The act of banditry and its exportation to West Africa by the Almoravids became prominent during the battle of Tondibi in which Songhay and other West African notable Empires were sacked. The constant raids by the Moors and the Almoravids were later exported to Kano, Katsina and Bornu in collaboration with the Fulani Religious leaders, most of who arrived

from the Saharan region through the Present day Senegal. From the Jihad wars of Uthman Dan Fodio emerged some unscrupulous indigenous elements who hijacked the motives and adjusted it officially to mark the genesis of armed banditry in Nigeria.

Presently some Northern State Governors hid under the Promotion of Sharia to perpetrate act of Banditry and Kidnapping. The discovery of Gold in Zamfara state of North West Nigeria has also prompted banditry. Those engaged as mine labourers by the mine owners have equally been trained as Private Militia. While fighting over the control of the Gold mine business on behalf their masters, they have been found to engage in the act of Cattle rustling and banditry in the North West.

THE ENCROACHMENT OF KIDNAPPERS AND ARMED BANDITS TO EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN NIGERIA, AND THE IMPLICATION.

Initially armed banditry was focused on traders across the Saharan routes to North African trade ports. The Native Berbers and the Tauregs of North Africa, who made occupation out of it, then initiated it. They hid under the gab of promoting religious injunctions of Islam to unleash mayhem on traders along the routes. Kidnapping followed suit, and increased during the slave trades in the New World, but drastically reduced when the slave trade was abolished in the early 19th century.

Recently, the focus of kidnapping and armed banditry has assumed divergent focus. It is on notice, that people are kidnapped now for ransom. Politicians could resort to weaken the Political morals of an opponent by nocturnally deploying loyalists to kidnap opponent supporters. Now ritualists do kidnap, and kill through their paid agents, for those seeking for political and religious power. People also engage in banditry and kidnapping on targeted institution for the sake of drawing attention of the public and the government alike on cherished ideology. This is the case with the Islamist insurgency group; Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Aswati Wal-Jihad (Boko Haram). This group, which emerged in 2009, had their key ideology on hostility toward secular education. According to some researchers, the group started as Political thugs of some prominent Politicians in the North-West, and later transformed to religious fanatics. It however gained Notoriety when it began repeated attacks on security formation, which was later extended to secondary schools and Universities. The attacks followed the Kidnapping of students, administrators and the teachers. From research the wide spread banditry in Nigeria has been linked to the presence of foreign collaborators like ISIS who are working hand in glove to frustrate Western Education in place of Islamic studies.

This is a replicate to similar event in the remote past. For instance, In West Africa, recorded evidence of kidnapping perpetrated by foreigners on Africa soil, took place mostly on Western coast of Africa. The Portuguese explorers initially inspired it. These explorers in 1441 kidnapped a few black people they met off the coast of Cape Blanco, and whisked them away as indentured servants to faraway Europe. Such activities had continued through the pre-colonial era, until the discovery of the New World when the cases of kidnapping grew in leaps and bounds due to rising demand of the black People in Americas.

The high demand of labourers in the New World informed the rising cases of kidnapping and enslavement in Africa, even as less punishable offences in the Communities began to attract rendition. Evidently, most of the slaves sold to early European to the slave merchants were kidnapped.

Meanwhile, kidnapping and banditry reduced during the colonial era when some traditional belief system became modernised. Cases of kidnapping picked up, on the eve to independence. During that time, kidnapping induced for ritual purposes emerged at alarming rate. However, most likely for the rise in ritual murder among the local politicians, is the belief that, by belonging to secret cults and engagement on some of its rituals involving human sacrifices, they would become successful Politicians.

In years gone, some Nationalists of consequence and callings have been initiated into Ekpe cult. Among them Chief Obafemi Awolowo leader of the Nigerian opposition party, and the then Premier of Eastern Region, Hon. Dr. Michael Okpara¹⁰, were once inducted members of the Ekpe Confraternity. By belonging to such native cults, the Politicians aspired to seek protection at all cost and by all means. They were thus willing to pay any price in order to retain power. Ekpe cult, it was reputed to have engaged in human sacrifices, with most of the victims being kidnapped. Until date, people still have the feelings of such evil about the Ekpe cult of Efik people. Other cults with such notoriety like Igwe kala and Ogboni still exist in Nigeria.

Although with no proven evidence there is also some feeling, being expressed, that cult groups are likely involved in the rampant cases of kidnapping and disappearance of people. In that respect, certain cases of Kidnapping and act banditry are motivated by selfish interest. The victims in most cases were never seen, thus pointing to the fact, that they were kidnapped for ritual purposes.

The Table below shows records from the Nigerian Police Force of kidnapped victims, in the early 1970s. These People were declared missing, and were never seen, thus:

NAME	AGE	PLACE	TIME
Victoria Olufemi	17	Benin City	July 1973
Cyprain Okugor	17	Benin City	July 1973
Evelyn	12	Benin City	July 1973
Casmir Simiri	23	Benin City	July 1973
Patience George	13	Benin City	July 1973
Izehuwa Okorie	0	Benin City	July 1973
Abureki Obalaye	0	Benin City	July 1973
Izegbuwa Ogbemudia	12	Benin City	July 1973
Akpan Umoh	18	Asaba	July 1973
George Gagarage	32	Ugheli	July 1973
Katumi Momoh .A.	14	Benin City	July 1973
Matthew Awosuana	23	Benin City	July 1973
Emmanuel Okiri	17	Benin City	July 1973
Rita Nwairu	12	Benin City	July 1973
Joseph Aizenabor	25	Benin City	Aug 1973
Onyesabuize Chidika	7	Asaba	Aug 1973
Aju Asagho	–	Warri	Aug 1973
Helen Asibor	16	Benin City	Aug 1973
Iyabo Olokodam	25	Warri	Aug 1973
Felicia Monday	16	Benin City	Aug 1973
Felix Okubor	117	Benin City	Aug 1973
Fineboy Osahariogiagian	112	Benin City	Aug 1973
Doris Ashimudiara	20	Benin City	Aug 1973
Janet Osadieye	–	Benin City	Aug 1973
Samuel Ogise	22	Benin City	Aug 1973
Jane Igbinehi	16	Benin City	Aug 1973
Johnson Ofoye	9	Benin City	Aug 1973
Michael Imochi	45	Benin City	September 1973
11 Justina Aghinam	–	Benin City	September 1973

From the table above, over 90 percent of the victims of the kidnap cases reported were perpetrated against children within Primary and Secondary school ages. This trend has not changed. More so because those engaged in banditry and their victims are mostly teenagers within school ages who had no regard to Western Education. The implication is that the number of youths and children involved in anti-social act of kidnapping and banditry has continued to affect the number of school enrolment.

After the return to second republic in 1979, kidnapping assumed Political undertone when Politicians resorted to the recruitment of thugs of school dropouts during their campaigns. With these troops of thugs, Politicians could now resort to kidnapping and maiming to weaken the moral of the opponents. For instance, this happened in Anambra State between the Ikemba Front organisation, who supported Ojukwu's NPN, and the NPP supporters in the 1980s Senatorial Election. During the clash, a number of People were reported maimed, with cases of disappearance recorded too.

Political opponents have also resorted to this measure to seek relevance and as opportune effort to negotiate for political settlements on failure to win the Election. This particular trend played out in Abia state of Nigeria, during the time of Gov. T.A. Orji, when the leader of his

Political thugs freely unleashed mayhem to the State. This terror king pin called, ‘the Osi ka Nkwu’ in his bid to sustain inordinate ambition, held the State in bondage over a period of time. The man at a point became very strong as to attract political patronage from desperate Politicians. This man, it was said, was a militant member of the Niger Delta Avenger of Rivers State, who foraged the creeks to vandalise oil pipelines. He left the group and re-located to Abia State to lead as Political thug.

The former Governor of Abia State, Mr. T.A. Orji, later hired him. Osi ka Nkwu was among the first bandits in Nigeria to have attacked an Educational institution, when on 20th of April 2012 his gang kidnapped a shuttle carrying the students of Emmanuel’s College, who were being conveyed to school in Aba, Abia State. Osi ka Nkwu, also known as Obioma Nwankwo later led a gang of robbers that terrorised Abia State until he was killed by joint security operative.

In the Northern Nigeria, Boko Haram, which has been terrorising the region, was to justify her name, “western education is forbidden”, and when in 2014 they struck Government Collage BuniYadi. The same year, they attacked Government Girls Secondary School Chibok in Borno State. In this attack, 276 Girls were abducted. The ripples created by the Chibok attack was yet to settle, when in February 19th 2018 Boko Haram abducted 111 Girls from the Government Girls Science and Technical College Dapchi Yobe State. At the peak of the attacks from 2013 to 2015, Boko Haram also used schools for various Military purposes including holding and executing captives, and as hideout. At that time too, the entire North-East of Nigeria was under the control of Boko Haram with such Town like Damboa, Damask, Dapchi, Buni Yadi, Chibok, Damaturu, Maiduguri etc being regularly visited by Boko Haram. As of September 2017, UNICEF reported that the conflict had destroyed or damaged an estimated 400 schools, denied over 600,000 children access to education in Borno State alone. By constantly attacking female schools, the number of female students’ enrolment have reduced. Apart from abduction of female students, the cases of sexual harassment have been reported. The abduction of teachers too, has resulted into massive migration of teaching staff away from the North-East from the now volatile region.

From the UN reports, Boko Haram has killed an estimated 2,295 teachers, and over 19,000 teachers have been displaced. The most painful of the Boko Haram’s attack on Educational Institution is subsequent conversion of the Schools as Barracks. Even the Military and Volunteer civilian forces have converted the school ‘as a Barracks and Detention centre’ With the Boko Haram and the Nigerian Military taking over number of schools as barracks and operation bases, school enrolments have continued to dwindle.

CONCLUSION

Onwudiwe in his submission opined, thus, ‘Violence leading to insecurity of countries always emanates from the failure of countries leaderships to provide adequately for their People’s Socio-Economic well-being. However, considering the rising spate of Kidnapping and Banditry in Nigeria, leadership failure has remained the albatross. In this regard, leadership failures permeate the religious, political, social and economic. The centre could not hold because the British government designed it to fail, ‘when different ethnic nationalities were arbitrarily brought together under one political umbrella, without taking into consideration their cultural and religious differences. This has indeed formed the fulcrum of the rising spate of insecurity in Nigeria.

On several occasions, religious divide between Muslims and Christians have resulted to wanton destruction of lives and properties. The animosity created by this has continued to develop to become a devastating monster threatening to eclipse the Nation.

In the Northern Nigeria, the history of religious fanaticism is not new. It has been exhibited through many guises, and on several occasions, but has always been curtailed by the sponsor for the fear of direct consequences. Meanwhile, in the early 1960s it was unleashed on Christians from the Southern Nigeria because of differences in religious ideology and ethnicity. The pogrom of 1966 that led to the Civil war is a clear case of break down on religious understanding and ethnic intolerance among the Ethnic groups. In the 1980s, there was a religious uprising in Maiduguri, this one was spearheaded by a religious sect called Maitatsine.

From 1980, this group wreak havoc in Yan-Awaki where over 4000 people were killed. The Crises generated spread to Bullumkutu, Dobeli, Jimate and Pantami. When this group emerged, the leadership hesitated to prevent the development of these fanatics until it became a National problem.

Politically, by developing cool feet and partnership, leadership failure has contributed to the recent upsurge in banditry and Kidnapping in Nigeria. Such took place when the Christians were alarmed to learn in 1986 that General Babangida who, at the time, was the country's military head of state had unilaterally and secretly enrolled Nigeria into the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. This is in disregard to multi-religious composition of the Country. In the early 2000, some states in the North adopted sharia legal system and enforced it on Christian inhabitants.

By empowering the Islamic adherents through the enactment and approval of Islamic law, in disregard to the multi-religious nature of the Nation, an ideology of superiority was enthroned. The consequences is emerging modern Jihad in the Southern Kaduna, where Christian communities have suffered severe act of banditry and kidnapping.

The build up to the present crises is traceable to Colonialism.

When the British Colonialists lumped together the moieties that had little or no cultural affinity together, the difficulties of marrying together the divergent ideologies created a setback. Prior to the independence, leaders from Northern and Southern Nigeria had different periods of ending foreign rule in the Country. For example, while Southern leaders were aggressively demanding Independence now, their Northern Counterparts showed no readiness or willingness. Northern leaders, on the other hand, claimed that the North was not ready and prepared for self-governance now. This singular act endeared them to the British, who reciprocated when leaving to hand the mantle of leadership to the North. This opportunity was well utilised by the North, as fear of Southern domination informed the Kick against Decree 34 (Unitary system of Government) by Gen. Ironsi. This too, informed the sit tight leadership of the North, who have resorted to such Political sentiment, toward promoting their agenda. The divide and rule policy planted by the British is indirectly responsible for our present challenge.

Another imperfect and divisive institution that fuelled group violence, insecurity and the destabilization of Nigeria is religious fanaticism. From the time of Usman Dan Fodio, brought Islamic religion to Nigeria his intent had been the Islamization of the Country. The re-enforcement of it, in a multi-religious society like Nigeria, is the basis of current spate of

banditry and kidnapping, some of which are specifically targeted on the Educational Institutions.

The attacks on Educational facilities in Nigeria is now wide spread all over the North with the attendant effect drawing ripples across the Nation. This is not abating soon. Political and Religious leaders appeared hapless; even as no serious efforts have been made to cushion it. It is thus, imperative to educate the Jihadists on the usefulness of Western Education, which they kicked against to human development.

It is therefore incumbent to have a meaningful engagement between the Government and the Islamic leaders to see Western Education as an augmented effort to educate the people more on the usefulness of healthy social interaction to Nation Building, not as rival or substitute. This has become necessary because wrong teaching has been the basis of religious induced attacks in Nigerian Educational facilities. It is also appropriate that Nomadic Education initiated by former President, Good luck Jonathan should be resuscitated with reviewed curriculum that will Promote National Development and Unity.

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