

CHIBOK/DAPCHI SCHOOLGIRLS ABDUCTIONS: THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE OF NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This paper examined how in Nigeria, history does not only occur, it keeps repeating itself even in quick succession. For example, on April 14, 2014, about 200 schoolgirls were abducted in Government Girls' Secondary School, Chibok, in Borno State of Nigeria. Within four years that similar incident repeated itself in Dapchi area located in Busari Local Government Area of Yobe State of Nigeria on February 19, 2018. The area now known as Yobe state historically was before now part of Borno State. Since the deadly attack and abduction on Government Girls' Science and Technical College, Dapchi, about 110 school girls were abducted. There are obvious similarities in the two different abductions, but related incidents. Both occurred a year proceeding to general election. The two secondary schools were for girls only, and the two abductions were masterminded by Boko Haram insurgency. The security agencies did not arrest the situation or were probably not aware of it until much later, after blame game between the army and the police. It was said that the abductors, came in long trucks and military fatigues and rifles. Their victims in hundreds were carried to unknown destinations. Both Chibok and Dapchi school girls' abductions occurred almost in the dark hours of the day. In both incidents, some of the victims cleverly escaped and came back to narrate their bitter experience. Today, girl's abduction especially that of Dapchi has compounded the Chibok issue, both abductions were threats to national security and peace of the Nigerian state. The expectations are that the security agencies should be able to rescue them as quickly as possible. The study adopted the descriptive design. It drew upon primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include oral information and testimonies. Newspapers and magazines reports were also used in conjunction with official records in Government publications. Secondary sources include relevant books. The researcher also made use of direct observation method. All the information gathered were subjected to historical evaluation.

Keywords: Abductions, Boko Haram Insurgency, National Security, Secondary Education, Nigeria.

Introduction

The entire saga of Chibok/Dapchi schoolgirls' abductions by Boko Haram sect means that Nigerian security agencies hardly learn or profit from previous experience of history lessons. Many scholars and security experts did not know that after the horrendous abduction of hundreds of schoolgirls in Government Girls Secondary school, Chibok on April 14, 2014 in Borno State that a similar incident will be reenacted in Dapchi, Government Girls Science and Technical Secondary School at Yobe state where about 110 schoolgirls went missing. The

abduction was trailed by confusion, denials, blame game and utter helplessness. The tales narrated by escaped victims of the abduction were similar to those that escaped from Chibok incident. Both abductions were terrifying and horrible experience that one does not wish his enemy. They were traumatizing experiences from young teenage girls that went to school to learn and improve their lot in the society. These schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram insurgents were potential would-be mothers of tomorrow. Their abduction and abuse represent an affront on womanhood and girl-child education. It is a primitive, inhuman, and wicked attack on modernity and civilization. Both Chibok/Dapchi girls' abductions were monumental shame to Nigeria and the national security intelligence. It was a sorry national disaster in both cases; this was because in both cases there was failure of security and intelligence that was why some of the security agencies were shifting blames left, right and even centre, especially in the Dapchi episode. That was the reason Governor Gaidam (2018) insisted that the withdrawal of the military men from the area was responsible for the abduction of the schoolgirls. The attack on Dapchi came when the military withdrew the soldiers from there. Before then, Dapchi had been peaceful, there was never such incident. As Gaidam aptly pointed out, in 2013, a secondary school in Buni-Yadi was attacked a week after the military removed soldiers guarding the town, that led to death of 29 students. Therefore, the military must take blame for the attack on Dapchi schoolgirl's abduction. (Gaidam, 2018)

However, the main opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said, the presidency and the All Progressive Congress (APC) should come out clean on issues surrounding the missing girls. PDP in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Kola Ologbodiyan (2018) said the presidency has a lot of questions to answer regarding the allegation that security around the area was compromised before the kidnap, as well as the misleading reports that frustrated the immediate rescue of the abducted girls. Nigerians were shock over the revelations by the Yobe State Governor, Ibrahim Gaidam (2018) that the abduction was preceded by the withdrawal of the troops around Dapchi, thereby rendering the area defenceless and paving the way for insurgents to attack and abduct our girls. It demands to know who authorized the said withdrawal of troops from the area and for what purpose.

Meanwhile, on *DailySun*, Tuesday, February 27, 2018: 6, the military had denied claim by Governor Ibrahim Gaidam that the withdrawal of troops was responsible for the attack and abduction of female students. It said troop's movement from Dapchi was carried out in tandem with the exigencies of operations. According to Col. Onyema Nwachukwu (2018), Deputy Director, Public Relations, Theatre Command Operation Lafiya Dole, who made the clarification in a statement, troops earlier deployed to Dapchi were redeployed to reinforce troops at Kaduna following attacks on troops' location at Nigeria – Nigerien border. This was on the premise that Dapchi has been relatively calm and peaceful and security of Dapchi town was formally handed over to the Nigeria Police Division located in the town. Troop's redeployment was therefore done in tandem with the exigencies of operation and not as misconstrued. It is thus obligatory to state that the allegation reportedly attributed to the Governor of Yobe State is misleading and misinformation.

But in a swift reaction, the Yobe State Police Command denied the claim by the military, the Commissioner of Police, Somonu Abdulmaliki (2018), describe the claim by the military that it formally handed over Dapchi town to the Nigeria Police Division in Dapchi as incorrect and untrue. It claimed that there was no time the military informed the police of their withdrawal, consult or handed over their locations in Dapchi town to the police. Security

experts explain that it was lack of cooperation among security agencies in Dapchi that created lapses for the Boko Haram sect to abduct the 110 schoolgirls in Government Science and Technical College, Dapchi. The drive to rescue the schoolgirls was difficult because of the blame game, confusion and argument on who did what and who didn't do something among the security agencies. In the heat of the blame game, time and strategies ought to have been used to delay and arrest the movement of the abduction trucks and possibly rescue some of the girls.

Nevertheless, *DailySun*, March 22, 2018, reports that the hope of some parents of the abducted Dapchi schoolgirls to reunite with the children and wards was dashed with the sad news of the passing of five of them. According to one of the released girls, Khadija Grema, 12, a JSS 3, they died in the hands of Boko Haram as a result of exhaustion, stress and trauma amidst the euphoria that greeted the release of over 100 of the 110 abducted Dapchi schoolgirls and the deaths. According to Governor Fayose, "this appears like an arranged abduction and an arranged release, but we thank God that the innocent girls have returned home and we condole with parents of those that died". Furthermore, the Governor said "It was strange that the girls could be brought back to Dapchi by their abductors without the security agents known when they were returned and who returned them"

Security Challenges that ensured Chibok/Dapchi School Girls Abduction Debacle

Just as Nigerians and the security agencies were grasping with the Chibok girls' saga, came the Dapchi schoolgirl's abduction simultaneously. The episode in view exposed the shortcoming of the security lapses that were exploited by the Boko Haram insurgents in abducting these girls. As Col Tony Nyiam (Rtd) (2018) pointed out, the problem is that there were different levels of our national security failings which account for Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls abductions in the recent history of Nigeria. There is operation failure, there are policy making failures and there are constitutional failures. Under operational failures, immediately glaring is the failure of intelligence gathering. One of the major reasons for this is the inadequate manpower we have for human intelligence.

Secondly is the premature declaration of victory by government and the army over Boko Haram. This accounts for the false sense of security among the people who as it were, dropped their guards and security alertness for complacency. Also the premature claims of victory provoked the insurgents, each time the security agencies said to have defeated Boko Haram. They come out in full force to show that they are still around, strong and capable of unleashing mayhem. With these operational lapses, the withdrawal of guards, expose the long term security failures. This points to the danger of overstretched military power with attendant fatigue of military personnel. In the case of Dapchi, the military were moved as a battalion to another priority task. In effect, the military is overstretched. Some of the personnel are overstaying more than their tour of duty. Military do not stay more than six months in one beat, whereas some are staying even longer. These security issues need to be addressed to strengthen the military. On the other hand, the Nigerian police are also under police; this makes fighting against insurgent a challenge and problem. According to the Organisation for Economic and Capital Development (OECD) the number of people Nigeria has for her security is too low compared with her population, which is growing astronomically. Moreso, Nigeria has problem of youth unemployment, which in itself is a source of security challenge. One would have thought that the government should have been using them for national security duties, as they would also been trained in some professional skills. Every trained army and policeman supposes to have two duties or skills. It is important

to note that the failure to employ most of our youths for national security duties has weakened internal security operations that make the Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls' abductions easier. For example, our neighbouring countries have what they called "gendarmes". The "gendarmes" are an arm of the security forces that are dedicated to internal security operations. This allows their armed forces to concentrate on the defence of the national territorial integrity and external aggression while "gendarmes" deals with all kinds of internal security issue. So Nigeria needs to have an intermediate force between military power and civil power. The Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls want their governors to rescue them from Boko Haram sects, unfortunately, their governors have always been helpless as they are toothless bulldogs that can bark but cannot bite. This is because the governors lack the means. The State Governors cannot control the federal police and the army in their states. The Commissioner of Police in any state takes orders from the Inspector General of Police (IGP) from Abuja, likewise the army takes orders from the Army Chief of Staff, not the Governor. But with the formation and operation of State Guards and State Police they should be controlled by state Governors. And you now have at the centre a National Guard that is equipped with heavy weapons to step in the gap for the state Guard that is challenged. (Nyiam Tony, 2018)

Another security challenge that led to Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls, abductions debacle was the failure to review the 1999 Constitution; failure of this constitutional reforms, which makes a state governor, the chief security officer only in name is key. The establishment of state police is long overdue. We need to devolve civil power from the Federal Government to the federating units. It is unfortunate the President of Nigeria in the seat of power in Abuja control the Federal Police in the states and there is nothing the governors can do about it, as the governors are at the mercy and threats of the Inspector General of Police and the presidency. Had it been Governor Gaidam was chief of security of Yobe State in theory and practice (the police under his control) the Dapchi schoolgirls abduction by Boko Haram sect would not have happened or made easy the way it did. But as the police and army was out of the governor's control and command the security challenges ensure the Dapchi schoolgirls abduction debacle which witness defeat, devastation and disaster, as the 110 schoolgirls were stampede and abducted by the deathly Boko Haram sect. The schoolgirls, abduction was a grave loss, undoing and downfall of the national security of the Nigerian State. (Nyam Tony, 2018).

It has become obvious that Boko Haram abduction of Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls has threaten national security and peace of Buhari administration. By far, the area where president Buhari has sunk into the same pit as did his immediate predecessor Goodluck Jonathan is his inability to tame the bogey of insecurity haunting the nation. Buhari supporters felt Jonathan was a weak president because of his lack of bravery to crack down on Boko Haram terrorists. It was in the weakness of Jonathan that Boko Haram sect mushroomed from a rag-tag gang of goons to a regimented and organized army of ruthless and aggressive murderers. Unfortunately while Boko Haram waxed from strength to strength Jonathan declined and diminished in strength, popularity and control of power because of the abduction of the Chibok school girls. This made Jonathan not only weak, he was also naïve. He was the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces but didn't know how and when to command. His naivety was exemplified by the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls. First, he was stuck in the web of disbelief. He doubted the kidnap, allowing the abductors to escape further and deeper into the forest and fortress of Sambisa, then, he hurriedly released money, big money, to the military to acquire more arms forgetting that you do not wait until war has

started before you ready your troops. The best art of war is preemptive strike not reactionary strategy Jonathan's insurgency strategy containment stratagem was configured to fail and it did (Ugbechie Ken, 2018:43).

It was the weakness of Jonathan's administration that paved way for the election of Buhari to power in 2015 general election. When Buhari entered Aso-Rock, the seat of power in Nigeria, He accused the military under Jonathan of being weak. In his electioneering messages, he stopped short of taunting, insulting and ridiculing Jonathan. He did not only promise to rescue the Chibok schoolgirls, he gave a timeline when he would rout, defeat, and chase Boko Haram out of Sambisa forest. Buhari and the spokesman of his government Lai Mohammed talked as if they had the password to the innermost sanction of the insurgents. Today, four and a half years after, Boko Haram is still alive, active and causing harm and havoc. Buhari did not defeat Boko Haram. All the claims by Lai Mohammed, the mouthpiece of Buhari government, have turned out a choreograph piece of propaganda, media hype, and brainwashing of the citizenry. Both Buhari and Lai Mohammed deceived the people. Evidence of their deception was the recent abduction of 110 Dapchi schoolgirls in Yobe State by the same Boko Haram; Buhari claimed to the defeat of the sect was false. In reality, there has never been any defeat of the insurgents.

As it stands, there was no clear difference between Jonathan government and the Buhari administration. They are overwhelmed, confused, staggered and devastated by the Boko Haram insurgents. Buhari even scores worse in security matters because aside Boko Haram, his body language has triggered a surge in herdsmen attack on Nigerians such that some scholars even argue that the herdsmen have become more fatalistic, disastrous and deadly than Boko Haram. Under Buhari, Nigeria is facing a challenge of double-prong onslaught on the nation: bellicose Boko Haram and belligerent herdsmen. Both are dangerous, they bring no joy; they breed pain and death, which is a challenge to national security and peace of the country. It is unfortunate the military has not yet infiltrate the camp of Boko Haram otherwise the abduction of the Dapchi schoolgirls would not have happened. Attacking a school and successful bolting with 110 students was not an accident. It was a carefully planned operation which escaped the radar of the security agencies with all their trainings, with all their acquisition of more weapons, both infantry and aerial surveillance tools and with all their big budgets. What then is the difference between Jonathan and Buhari in the area of security of the nation? Nothing! Buhari has even offered more fears than Jonathan. This is because Nigerians believe Buhari was a tough soldier in his days. Nigerians had expected he would secure the nation more than Jonathan that was a civilian.

Meanwhile, Catholic Archbishop Emeritus of Lagos, Anthony Cardinal Okogie on *Vanguard*, Tuesday, March 20, 2018:8, has expressed fears of Nigerians entrusting their security in the government of President Muhammadu Buhari. Okogie (2018) said his fears were founded in president's admittance that he didn't know that the Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, flouted his order to remain in Benue in the wake of the New Year day killing by herdsmen that claimed 73 lives. In Nigeria's security architecture, the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, appoint and oversees all service chiefs, including the Inspector General of Police. They take orders from him. He (Buhari) assures us that he receives regular security briefings, but he has just made a candid admission that he is not in control of his service chiefs. Unfortunately, the Buhari government claims it acted faster to rescue the Dapchi schoolgirls than the Jonathan government during the Chibok schoolgirls' abduction. The many questions Nigerians are asking is that: "where were our security operatives when our innocent daughters were abducted first in Chibok, and then, in Dapchi?"

(Eyoboka Sam, 2018). This shows the expression of fears Nigerians have in entrusting their security in Buhari's government. When Chibok girls abduction happened, the government and security agencies played politics with it. Now, it is Dapchi schoolgirls' abduction and the government and security agencies are still painting the narrative in the dialectics of politics. This is real threats to national security and peace of Nigeria in the 21st century. The Dapchi schoolgirls' abduction shows that Buhari has failed. But he can still redeem himself, his reputation and the reputation of the military. At the moment many Nigerian parents and women are in fear and grieve for the country and the destiny of their children. Moreso, as life and property is not secure in Nigeria in the 21st century. It is important to note that the similarities of the Dapchi schoolgirls' abduction with that of Chibok are so uncanny, astonishing and extra ordinary – the timing, the political calendar, the doubts, initial confusion and the irresolute responses. In the prevailing condition which the Governor of Yobe State, Ibrahim Gaidam found himself, for instance, he could only depend on the military for accurate information in such a war condition. The army let him down by first informing him that the girls had been recovered and, later, that they had not. Some scholars have argued that the decision to withdraw the entire battalion was clearly a miscalculation, blunder, and underestimation of the deadly Boko Haram terrorists. Why was a platoon not left behind, 'just in case?' Indeed, a few as a dozen soldiers, properly, defensively emplaced round the school, would decidedly prevented the abduction.

In the recent history of Nigeria, if Chibok abductions were unacceptable, the Dapchi kidnapping were much worse, for it demonstrated that the Nigerian security agencies have not learnt from past experience. Dapchi was instantly recognized for what it was. Former President Jonathan was ridiculed for not being agile to rescue the Chibok girls. On the other hand, why did Buhari, a retired military general not rescue the Dapchi schoolgirls immediately? The recovery of the Dapchi girls was the minimum Nigerians expect from the Federal Government and the earlier the better. Nigerian parents and women cannot afford the same kind of shame and child abuse they endured as a country over the Chibok abductions. All the declaration about how victorious we have been with Boko Haram sects stands or falls with the Dapchi abduction which has demonstrated to the international community to see the shortcoming of our security, and the naivety of our intelligence. The suspicious that our security agencies are probably infiltrated by fifth columnist cannot be an excuse because it is to be expected and no military command should ignore such possibility and its risks and must provide counter-measures. After all, former President Goodluck Jonathan was overlooked when he confessed that he had Boko Haram supporters in his government, in the National Assembly and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, despite the release of the 104 Dapchi school girls out of the 110 abducted and five died in the hands of Bokoh Haram insurgents. The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has issued an ultimatum for the release of Leah Sharibu, the only Dapchi girl still in captivity. Reports from the other schoolgirls freed had it that the single Dapchi girl held back by the Boko Haram sect was held onto for refusing to deny her Christian faith. Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) President, Dr. Samson Supo Ayokunle (2018), declared that the holding back of Sharibu who is the only Christian had tinted the kidnapping act of the insurgents, making it clear that it is a war against Christians. According to Ayokunle (2018), it took years to secure the release of over 100 Chibok girls because a number of them were Christians while in the case of Dapchi girls, it took only 30 days for them to be set free because they are all Muslims while the only Christian girl among them was held back. (Okungbowa I., 2018). Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) perceives the abduction and release of the

girls as a thing that is partly religious driven. CAN president, even blamed the federal government and the security agencies for not being proactive and indicted the security agencies for abandoning their cardinal duty and now engaged in blame games. There is complicity in this matter and it is very bad image of the government and national security. Government has to do everything fast to redeem its image by rescuing Sharibu's release and the other Chibok girls that are still missing.

The Threat and Effect of Chibok/Dapchi School Girls Abductions on National Security and Peace of the Nigerian State

The easy abduction of the Chibok/Dapchi schoolgirls in the North East region of Nigeria by Boko Haram terrorist would make other terrorist organizations to ruthlessly and aggressively venture to commit their own act of aggression on Nigeria because of lapses of our national security agencies to check terrorist activities in the country. The easy abduction of the Chibok/Dapchi schoolgirls by Boko Haram sect has exposed the weaknesses and shortcoming of our national security agencies. It reduces them to a toothless bulldog that can bark but cannot bite. If Chibok abductions were unacceptable, the Dapchi abductions were much worse, for it demonstrated that our security agencies have not learnt from past experience. The both abductions of the schools girls really ridicule both President Goodluck Jonathan and President Buhari for not trying to rescue the school girls on time despite huge budgetary allocation to the military to secure arms in Nigeria to check the activities of terrorist groups like Boko Haram. Since Boko Haram menace came on board in the North East region of Nigeria, the government of Nigeria and the military have diplomatically approached our international friends, collaborators and neighbours in alliance and military cooperation to fight the Boko Haram terrorist group. But the easy abduction of the Chibok/Dapchi girls has ridiculed the military and her allies for not trying a hot pursuit within Nigeria and the West African sub region. It is a shame that Nigeria, Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon military strategy against Boko Haram is not fast yielding results as expected. Their security lapses are easily exploited by the Boko Haram insurgents in abducting these school girls. The problem is that their different levels of international and national security operations are failing; which makes Boko Haram terrorist group a threat to Nigeria and the West and Central African sub region.

The effect of the Chibok/Dapchi schoolgirl's abductions is distressing, painful, agonizing and miserable to girl-child education in Nigeria. The abductions are an open wound and shame to Nigeria's security agencies and the government and people of Nigeria. All the declarations about how successful the government have been with Boko Haram stand or fall with Dapchi incident which has demonstrated to the world to see the failure of our security and the failure of our intelligence. The effect of all these failures is that many parents may start a rethink of considering their children education and schooling out of Northern Nigeria to the Southern part of Nigeria and the wealthy parents may consider their ward education and schooling abroad to save them from Boko Haram menace, trauma, disturbance, injury, torture and upheaval. This is because parents are happy when their children are schooling in an area that is free from girl child abduction and abuse. It makes them feel relaxed, relieved, refreshed and calm.

The speculation, contemplation and risk that our security forces are probably infiltrated by Boko Haram supporters cannot be overlooked and no military command should ignore such possibility and such risk must provide counter measure. After all, former President Goodluck Jonathan was ignored when he confessed that he had Boko Haram

sympathizers in his government, in the National Assembly and elsewhere. Unfortunately, the military has yet to infiltrate the camp of Boko Haram otherwise the Dapchi school girls' abduction and abuse would not have happened. The Nigerian security agencies would have arrested and prosecute them. Chibok Schoolgirls abduction was one of the reason and causes that made former President Gooluck Jonathan to lost the 2015 General Election to President Buhari. The media used it negatively to portray Jonathan as a weak and clueless president Nigeria has ever got. The Chibok girls abduction happened in 2014, one year before the general election. Now, the very Buhari who used the Chibok schoolgirls abduction by Boko Haram against former President Goodluck Jonathan is similarly faced with Dapchi schoolgirls abductions debacle. Buhari, a retired civil war general and a former military ruler of Nigeria, seems to be helpless. The saga seems to dent the image of Buhari's re-election bid in the 2019 General Election. The schoolgirl's abduction also seems to encourage political and social instability in Buhari's government as there are a lot of lapses in the security agencies to rescue schoolgirls and even civilians.

Even though, on Monday, March 21, 2018, Boko Haram insurgents stormed Yobe town in a convoy to return about 104 of the abductees, 5 of the Dapchi schoolgirls died as Boko Haram frees them. Unfortunately, mixed reactions greeted the schoolgirls' freedom. Curiously, the same spirit or people who made sure that all military and police checkpoints in Dapchi and other surrounding towns were removed to pave way for the abduction of the girls also made sure that the girls were returned without any security agent seeing them. Governor Fayose reiterated his allegation on *DailySun*, Thursday, March 22, 2018:6, that Boko Haram insurgency had become a source of treasury looting and those benefiting from Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) scams, payment of ransom (in dollars) to free those abducted by Boko Haram insurgents, among others will never wish to see the end of the insurgency. However, the Chibok/Dapchi school girls abductions must be the catalyst for the government to ensure adequate protection of all schools in Northeast Nigeria so that this can never happen again. A pro-democracy organization, Human Rights Writer Association (HRIWA) has express shock at the news of the death of the five of the Dapchi schoolgirls even as it raised alarm that there could be more to the release that meets the eye. It looks like some persons now have the franchise of masquerading as Boko Haram terrorists or may be colluding with the real Boko Haram terrorists to play on the gullibility of Nigerians by staging choreographed abductions and releases of kidnapped hostages either with commercial or political benefits in mind or both. This game of deception must stop.

Strategies to Curb Schoolgirls Abduction in Nigeria by Boko Haram Terrorist Group

This paper has come forth with the following strategies to curb schoolgirls' abduction in Nigeria by Boko Haram terrorist group. They are:

- (1) The Federal Government should view the Chibok/Dapchi Schoolgirls abduction by Boko Haram as an opportunity to review its strategy and tactics in the war against Boko Haram.
- (2) It is high time the Federal Government change major guards and change of strategy and the replacement of the entire intelligence apparatus; after nine years, it is laughable to tell Nigerians every week as the government has done for three years that Boko Haram has now been "completely defeated" which is a false story.
- (3) The Federal Government should not be in a haste to make rash statements that Boko Haram is "completely defeated" where Boko Haram terrorist are increasingly

committing menace of schoolgirls abduction in Nigeria. More effort should be put to curb the menace of the terrorist by all the security agencies in the North.

- (4) Nigerian politicians are advised not to turn the abduction of schoolgirls into a partisan politics issue as it applies to Chibok and Dapchi girls' abduction, but should instead address the problem seriously; because what goes round comes round. For example, many historians recalled in our recent history how APC turned the abduction of Chibok schoolgirls in 2014, to a partisan tool to discredit the PDP led government, which led to APC winning the election for Buhari to win power. Today PDP is charging Buhari's government to "wage the magic wand it promised it to rescue the Dapchi schoolgirls, especially for people that claim to know so much, and "superior generals" like President Buhari. How do they found themselves to the extent that we have a repeat after the experience of the Chibok girls abductions, with that experience partisan politics should stay away from schoolgirls' abduction.
- (5) For the Nigerian military to withdraw from Dapchi area because they thought the area was safe reveals some level of incompetence. Wisdom demands and backs the calls from some quarters that the government should resign the service chiefs, so that the security agencies in Nigeria should be restructured, strengthened and modernized to fight terrorism in the country. The government should also demand to know deeper who authorized the said withdrawal of troops from the area and for what purpose.
- (6) Government girls schools in Northern Nigeria should be seriously guarded, watched, patrolled, protected, secured, safeguarded and shielded by security agencies all the time, so that our school girls are protected from the Boko Haram terror group. This is because girls abduction is a big bargain for terror groups to trade and negotiate with government for fat ransom and haggling.

Conclusion

The official reaction to the Dapchi school abduction is not quite different from the earlier Chibok school girls kidnapping. Therefore, wisdom demands the urgent need for a paradigm shift in the method and manner the war against terror is conceptualized and executed. The current fight, conceptual and methodological frameworks appears not to be giving positive desired result in the fight against terrorism in the recent history of Nigeria. A new method should be evolved, developed and unraveled for the security agencies to get the desired result in the prosecution of the terror war especially in the team spirit, and intelligence sharing among the security agencies fighting Boko Haram. Many Nigerians witnessed that lacking in the Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls abductions event. The government should accept the reality that the war against terror in Nigeria is not yet over, it is not yet "uhuru", they should keep propaganda and rash statements one corner that would continue to provoke the insurgent to continue the fight. This is one fact that government must come to terms with. The earlier the government comes to the strategy and mindset that the war is still on, the better for it. In term of military preparation and execution of the war on terror, living in empty propaganda and denial will be too dangerous. The earlier the government confront the reality of the situation, the better and earlier the war on terror will be contained. Since the cardinal objective of the government is to protect the citizens and their property, government should explore all tactics to curb the terror war. A government that continues to fail in its primary duty is unacceptable to the citizenry. The government should embrace dialogue and negotiation if necessary to curb terrorism in Nigeria. This is because since Boko Haram began its reign of terror, particularly in the North-East and neighbouring states, tens of thousands

of people have been killed, over two million displaced and thousands abducted. The abduction of 110 schoolgirls on February 19, 2018, from Dapchi was the biggest mass abduction since the Islamic group took more than 270 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok in 2014. The government and the security agencies should form a grand synergy in protecting the civilians from Boko Haram attacks.

Recommendations

This paper has come forth with the following recommendations to curb schoolgirls' abduction in Nigeria.

- (1) The government should strengthen the Nigeria police and army with modern training and equipment so that the fight against Boko Haram will be effective.
- (2) The government should do well to motivate and remunerate the police and the army so that they can perform their tasks and fight against Boko Haram optimally.
- (3) The government should ensure that the fight against Boko Haram by the Nigeria police must be for the protection of all the citizens in the society. The present method where political office holders and privileged and wealthy citizens are given high premium on security and the mass seemingly neglected is not the best practice. Schoolgirls should be given more police to guard them against Boko Haram abductors.
- (4) Non Governmental Organisations like the Bring Back-Our Girls (BBOGs) campaigners have enough jobs on their hands now with Chibok/Dapchi girls' abduction. They should not allow the governments at the concerned levels to rest until all of the school girls are released.
- (5) Government must assure the parents of the abducted school girls that it is seriously working hard to quickly affect their release from captivity. That is the minimum the Buhari administration is expected to do.
- (6) The government should continue to protect all girls schools in Northern Nigeria. Efforts must be put in place to prevent history repeating itself in Nigeria, especially incidents like schoolgirls abductions. It gives the government and Nigeria people bad name. (Obioha Roebert, 2018)
- (7) The government should ensure that all the security agencies in Nigeria maintain a coordinated synergy and intelligence sharing to defeat terrorism in Nigeria.

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