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Cultism and Islamism as Impediment to the Growth of Christianity in Nigeria

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Cultism and Islamism as Impediment to the Growth of Christianity in Nigeria

Dr. Nenty J. Nenty

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I. Introduction

There is revealing truth in the statement that cultism and Islamism impede the growth of Christianity. The two human generated cultural impediments have been politically manipulated in Nigeria to create disunity, conflicts, violence and deaths. Birthed into a politically ill-conceived contraption called a country with ethno-trado-cult groups and Islam strongly entrenched, Christianity as an addition has become an unwanted stubborn thud. It therefore merits resistance by all means.

a) Cultism

Cultism to the common man is the devotion to the doctrine or practices of a cult group or secret cult or a religious zeal or willingness to serve God. It borders on fanaticism. Its concept implies any activities of secret cults when only participants know about methods and members of such organizations. Cultists declare their allegiance and follow all the orders that seniors give them.

Cultism can be defined as the practice or activities of a group of people who have extreme religious beliefs that are considered severe. It is a social crime which is rampant within the school system and in the larger society. At the very heart of cultism lies a violent repudiation of constituted authority and peace. Cultism always carries the experience' of rituals. Cultists have common ideological ideas.

b) Islamism

Islam is a religion (a way of worship and belief) founded by Mohammed, the prophet in the 7th century. Believers of Islam (Muslims) form 23% of the world population of 1.57 billion. Muslims consider the Quran as their holy book. Islam, the religion is not dangerous. Islamism, the political ideology (radical Islam) as opposed to the simple belief in Islam is the arm of trouble. Islamism is the political ideology that holds deeply or highly that wherever Islam is it must dominate. The parochial implementation of Islam is the reason for the world wide Islamic insurgency.

c) Christianity

This is Abrahamic monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and its practices. Its adherents known as Christians, believed that Jesus is the Christ, who's coming as the Messiah was prophesised in the Hebrew Bible, called the Old Testament in Christianity and Chronicled in the New Testament. Nigeria's south is predominantly Christians of various denominations and doctrines.

II. Reasons for Cultism

a) Causal patronage of cultism

In Nigeria, many reasons ranging from the political, poor leadership, insecurity, poverty and weak parenting amongst others treated below have forced youths into cults.

i. The use of cultists by politicians to campaign during pre-voting period, during voting to snatch ballot boxes and materials and their wicked assignments to intimidate opponent and for their personal* security.
ii. Young people searching for protection (physical and spiritual) often run to cultists, cult-groups and cultic altars for security and assumed invincibility.
iii. In the quest for social identity and relevance young people run to cult- groups. This a times exposes them to unnecessary notoriety and danger.
iv. Poor parental training: Youths that have been solidly socialized at home would scarcely betray their home training. They would not only respect their parents but would also fear God. The reverse could be the case.
v. Peer Group Influence: Where parental socialization was weak, peer group influence would have the upper hand in winning the youth into cult group.
vi. Revenge: A good number of youths join cult groups 'to revenge the treatment or death of a loved one in the hand of cultist (but in most cases, they too are taken in as well (killed).
vii. Emotional Instability: Parents have to properly bring up their wards to become emotionally stable

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personalities. Abnormal behaviour is acceptable to cult groups. e.g. Bullies like cult alignment.

viii. Drug Abuse: Especially the use of weeds, codeine, cocaine, etc, encourage youths into heroic adventures that cult groups give opening for display.

ix. Poverty and financial hardship: Inability to pay fees, buy text books, meal vouchers, attend parties, etc, can force innocent and inexperienced youths in schools into the hands/groups of cultists that register them as members.

x. Loneliness: Lack of friends expose youths to whoever comes up.

b) Effects of Cultism on Nigeria/Youths

In the late 90[s], when the Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria was serious about curbing the spread of cultism, it set up a panel on it that toured local governments, tertiary institutions and important occasions to speak against cultism. This quotation was made at Ikot Ekpene town hall by a member of the team, Sir Amos Etim;

> "Secret Cult is a monster that breeds anarchy and threat to life. It promotes proliferation of arms and destroys physical and spiritual lives. It promotes laziness, erodes manpower base, decreases manpower production. It frustrates and receives frustrated people to protect and finish them off. It is raised by a rotten society and holds freedom in trust for its members. One's background and socialization contribute greatly to people's vulnerability to joining cult".
>
> The Exam Ethics Project lobby group has estimated that one hundred and fifteen students and teachers had been killed in cult related clashes between 1993 and 2003. and in 2002, more than 250 people were reported killed in campus cult related murders in the previous ten years.

The Supreme Vikings Confraternity, Rivers State had warned in Now Video on November 12, 2018 that twelve (12) members of the Rivers State House of Assembly were cult members. This revelation is the same in almost all Houses of Assembly in Nigeria.

In a listed form, we have the following negative impacts on our youths.

i. *Untimely death:* Very few cult foot soldiers live normal lives and many of them (the hitmen) die young.

ii. *Loss of moral values:* Low sense of right or wrong, good or bad, societal approval or societal un-approval.

iii. *Incomplete Education:* Many drop out of school because of one crime or the other committed during membership in their groups.

iv. *Drug/substance Abuse and addiction:* Most of the criminal acts engaged in by cults are boosted by drugs and with time the danger of addiction manifests and takes complete control of the person's life. Drug addicts are pathetic individuals.

v. *Behaviour Disorder:* Many cultists prefer to be on their own (business men). At the highest level of commitment, the only serious things on their mind is maintaining their membership, rank, avoiding being killed or being arrested. They cannot perform jobs and therefore cannot be kept without disastrous effect on their jobs and on their organizations.

Some cult men do not value human life. On September 5, 2018, a little village in Essien Udim Local Government of Akwa Ibom State woke up to a ritual horror. One of her youths manifested an unusual behaviour disorder-ritualism. He turned his ancestral home into ritual abattoir, laboratory and mortuary where innocent lives were terminated, bloodshed and body parts harvested for sale. Till today he has not been arrested.

vi. *Unrealized Life Ambition:* Very promising young men truncate their professional aspirations and end up as deranged intellectuals unfit for hiring or destitute because of their life and activities e.g. mad students, Newsmen, academics, etc.

vii. *Mental illness:* Drug addiction a times result in mental illnesses. Imagine a promising young man coming back mad to a family that had a lot of hope on him.

viii. *Spiritual Problem:* Cult group initiation is fetish; their means of protection also is. The use of blood in oath taking, tarry night at cemetery, use of charms, marks (tattoos) on the body; usher youths into satanic covenants they cannot easily get out off. Some because of the number of lives they have destroyed live in continuous trauma. Some have even killed their wives, girlfriends, family members or cause them to be killed, arrested tried in law courts and imprisoned. The guilt of these rests with them.

ix. *Possible loss of family members:* During revenge attacks on homes of cult hitmen, innocent neighbours and family members lose their lives while guilty cultists escape.

c) Islamism

There are two distinct Schools of Thought on Nigeria's politico-religious altercations. One believes that Nigeria's problem is simply Islamism versus Christianity while the other maintains that it is Jihadism and conquest to the sea which of course goes with the land the Jihadists pass through. Gundu (2018) has openly observed that the Fulani want land by force. Since 1840, Muhammed had established the Guinea Caliphate that covered the whole of West Africa. This was even in pre-colonial time. In Guinea, the Fulani are not allowed to rule. They have no serious political root.

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In Nigeria, we have yet got three Fulani rulers in quick succession (Ibrahim Babangida, Musa Y'Ardua, and Muhammadu Buhari who have gradually through secret scheming encouraged Fulani migration in great numbers into Nigeria from Niger and Chad with all amount of excuses. They come in to fight for land having been displaced from their original home land. The British Amalgamation gave the Fulani privileges over the other groups, even the Hausas have been swallowed up by the more audacious Fulani. (Channel TV, 26 June 2018).

During the Constitutional Conference before Independence in 1960, ONE vital issue for discussion was a National Ideology. This should specify the character of the nation and its system of governance. An all-inclusive ideology would be the best as it would guarantee Justice, Equity and Fairness for all Nigerians since it is multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural in nature. Liberal Democracy was thought the best National Ideology. BUT the Muslim north wanted a system of governance with Islamic law as essential ingredient. SINCE then, the Muslim north has been busy scheming, covertly subverting Liberal Democracy, so that Sharia can become National Ideology.

In 1960, at Independence, the Sardauna of Sokoto, late Sir Ahmadu Bello was quoted (Parrot Newspaper October 12, 1960) as saying:

> The new nation called Nigeria should be an estate of our great grandfather, Othman Dan Fodio.
>
> We must ruthlessly prevent a change of power.
>
> We must use the minorities in the north as willing tools and the south as a conquered territory and never allow them to rule over us and never allow them to have control over their future.

In 2012, Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram in one of his audio releases said:

> This war is not political. It is religious.
>
> It is between Muslims and unbelievers (arna)
>
> It will stop when Islamic religion is the determinant in governance in Nigeria or in the alternative when all fighters are annihilated and no one is left to continue the fight.

Look at the semblance between this speech by Abubakar Shekau in 2012 and the one Sir Ahmadu Bello made in 1960, 52 years back. The mission statement is the same. The heat has increased. The Islamists are religiously following their blue print to subdue Christians and Christianity.

In Turkey, Christianity had existed for about 1023 years and had taken roots. The seven churches Jesus referred to in Rev. 2 & 3 (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea) existed in Turkey. It was in Turkey (Antioch) that the disciples were first called Christians.

But the country was founded in 1923. Before; the entities lived as Turkish seen many populations exchanges due to many wars fought and different states established.

i. From the Byzan tine Empire - Christian.
ii. Ottoman Empire - multinational state where Muslims enjoyed privileges of life over non-Muslims.
iii. After Turkish war of Independence, non-Muslims in Turkey were exchanged with Muslims from Greece. With population exchange in a large scale a Muslim dominated Turkey was achieved. (Dec. 3, 2017 Tigit Koseoglu,)

Today Islam is deeply rooted in Turkey making it a Muslim state. Any lesson?

Legal systems worldwide are classified into four main jurisdictions, namely: - Civil law practiced by 88 nations Common law practiced by 88 nations.

Civil law and sharia jurisdiction, practiced by 14 nations.

Common law and Sharia practiced by 5 nations.

Nigeria used to belong to common law jurisdiction.

i. *Strategies of Islamism*

Military heads of state in Nigeria, most of whom were strategized to be Muslims from the north worked surreptitiously to turn Nigeria into an Islamic state.

In 1986, General Ibrahim Babangida smuggled Nigeria into the Organization of Islamic countries (OIC). In 1996, Sultan Dasuki accepted before Pope John Paul II that Nigeria was a full member of OIC. In 1999, General Abdulsalam Abubakar smuggled Sharia Ideology into the country's constitution thereby creating A DUAL CONFLICTING IDEOLOGY in the constitution.

The constitution of Nigeria is supreme. It guarantees freedom of worship. The same constitution stipulate death if you convert from Islam. This is the dual ideology. The past three Fulani rulers have, using their Hausa cohorts in the Nigeria Army carpentered a constitution that has been partially written to favour Muslims when Nigeria is a secular state.

Apart from Nigeria's secrete registration in OIC, the rulers of Nigeria have since then been vigorously pursuing steps to turn Africa into an Islamic continent. The OIC Conference at Abuja in November 1989 empowered the Islam in Africa Organization (IAO) to:

a. Eradicate in all its forms and ramifications all non-Muslim religions in member nations, such religions shall include Christianity.
b. Ensure that only Muslims are elected to all political posts of member nations.
c. Ensure the appointment of ONLY Muslims into strategic national and international post of members nations.
d. Ensure the ultimate replacement of all western forms of legal and judicial systems with the Sharia.

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In 1990, February 5, the Islam in Africa Organization (IAO) thanked Nigeria for donating $21 billion to the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to facilitate the spread of Islam in Nigeria and Africa. Question is yet to be asked whether such donation was also made to any Christian body in Nigeria or Africa {NCEF, 2018).

ii. *The Ethnic Nationalities of Nigeria*

Nigeria is occupied by two races that are composed of 389 ethnic nationalities:

a. The Negro race (native or indigenous African ethnic nationalities), are the Bachanas, Birams, Ebira, Efik, Gbagis, Ibibios, Ibos, Igala, Jukuns, Kalabari, Okrika, Nupe, Ogoni, Yoruba.etc.
b. The Negroid (Fulani's, Hausa and Kanuri's) are of the Arab descent and different from indigenous African ethnic nationalities. They have tried and are still trying in every possible way to impose Arabian culture, lifestyle and religion on the remaining 386 indigenous African ethnic nationalities. Islam and Islamism are being used as a machinery to drive the process.

Nigeria's numerous challenges can be traced to Islamism (political Islam or radical/activist Islam). This is practiced everywhere; there is no exclusivity.

i. The doctrine of hate taught in the various Mosques,
ii. Islamic madrasas in Northern Nigeria and
iii. the Fulani supremacist ideology are continuous exercises. Moreover, Islamism demands that,

a. Any existing structure must be reconstructed in line with the religious principles and ideals of Islam.
b. The modern secular state must be replaced by Islamic state where religious principles and authority have super intendency of political principles and authority.
c. The West and Western values are corrupt and corrupting, justifying the deployment of a Jihad against them.

All the global Islamic Terrorists Organizations (Taliban, ISIS, Al Qaeda, Al Shabab, Boko Haram, Al Sahwarni, Fulani herdsmen) are foot soldiers of Islamism. The problem of Christians (ity) is Islamism.

Conventional Jihad (Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, the compromised security units, conversion of Christian leaders through political offices and financial inducements) are agents for sustaining the 1804 Jihad. National Intelligence, Law Enforcement and Security leadership in Nigeria have all been taken over by the Islamists as part of the Jihad. The Islamists are in control of the Presidency, Legislature, Judiciary, Education and for emphasis, all security units.

Stealth Jihadism (indirect manipulation of situation) is also employed and this include: -

i. Whittling down of the chapter in Nigerian constitution on Human Rights by excessive provisions to bring it to conformity with Sharia which gives all rights to Allah not human beings.
ii. Creation of states and local government areas skewed in favour of the Muslim North and Muslim Local government areas.
iii. The numerous provisions in the constitution for Sharia and Sharia related issues without corresponding provision for Christianity and Christian issues.

The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has these glaring intrusions which are against the Liberal Democracy ideology Nigeria settled for at independence.

Sharia appears in the constitution 73 times

Islam appears in the constitution 28 times

Grand Khadi appears in the constitution 54 times.

Muslim appears in the constitution 10 times.

Christ --no single mention.

Christianity no single mention.

Christian no single mention.

These intrusions in the constitution makes it Islamic yet Christian delegates were present at the presentation and adoption of this document during the first democratic era.

Section 162 (2) of the Constitution on Public Revenue is skewed in favour of Muslim north - in the consideration of land mass (an asset that is even used to fetch the owners more revenue).

d) Illogicality of military decrees becoming the constitution.

Most recently employed strategies of Jihadism is revealed in this alert by Bishop Olaniyon Oyedepo, Founder of Living Faith Church in mid-2016 from God to warn Christians about modern Jihadism:

> Christianity in Nigeria is under siege, spiritually and physically. From revelation I had, local military groups have been formed and trained for forceful spread of fundamentalism in Nigeria. There is an army already recruited, trained armed and in position right now in different parts of Nigeria. This plan is not co-ordinated by Nigerians alone but by others outside. The plan is not just being carried out physically but so much spiritual (demonic sacrifices are involved and ongoing in many government seats. The aim of the spiritual angle is to keep flooding the minds of the people and leaders with evil clouds of worldliness in all its forms, prayerlessness, disunity, immorality and distractions through politics.

In the past three years of President Muhammadu Buhari's regime, every key and sensitive position in National security is held by Muslims from the North (in trust for Islamist to use in championing their cause) in violation of Section 14(3) of the 1999 Constitution.

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See some list of appointment below:

1.	The Chief of Staff (Nigerian Army)	Gen. T. Y. Buratai
2.	The Inspector General of Police	Mr. Ibrahim Idris
3.	The Chief of Air Force	Commodore Sadiq Abubakar
4.	Minister of Defence	Mansur Dan Ali
5.	Minister of Interior	Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau
6.	Chief of Defence Intelligence	AM Mohammed Saliu Usman
7.	Controller General of Prisons	Alhaji Ja'afaru Ahmed
8.	Head of Customs Col.	Hameed Ali (Rtd)
9.	The D.G. SSS	Yusuf Magaji Bichi
10.	The comptroller General of Immigration	Mohammed Babandede
11.	Head of Nigeria Ports Authority	Hadiza Bala Usman
12.	The Head. Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC)	Mr. Muhammed Umar
13.	The Civil Defence Head	Mr. Abdullahi Muhammadu
14.	The D G. National Intelligence Agency	Mr. Rafiu Abubakar
15.	Chief of Staff to President	Alhaji Umaru Gambari
16.	National Security Adviser	Maj Gen. Babagana Mungumo
17.	Minister for Justice	Mr. Abubakar Malami

Uwem Bernard @ ConoisseurCom.ng made this observation on what the Nigerian government is planning against Christians, Christian states, Christian local governments and institutions.

The National Security architecture has been firmly and deceitfully put in the hands of Northern Muslims (Hausa-Fulani) alone to the exclusion of all other ethnic blocks in Nigeria. This is a time bomb waiting to consume Christians. It means any security meeting on the fate of Nigeria means a gathering of Fulani deciding over the fate of other Nigerians as it pleases them.

i. *The Nigerian Ports Authority scenario:*

South West:	Eniola Williams (Lagos) Corporate & Strategic Planning.
South South;	Usoro Elisha Benedict (AKS). Public Private Partnership
	Authority Ikoye (Delta) Chief Fire Officer
South East:	Obumneme Onuenyenwa (Anambra) Information Comm.
	Ugo Madubuike (Abia) Regulatory Technologist Services Akpa Christiana (Ebonyi) Medical
North West:	Musa Shehu Yaro (Kaduna) Procurement
	Isa Savaid (Kano) GM Superannuation
	Alhmed Yusuf (Kano) Land & Asset Administration
	Umar Abubakar Garba (Zamfara) Billing
	(Zamfara) Security
	Abbas Rafindadi (Katsina) Seaview Properties
North Eastern:	Umar Gambane (Taraba) Legal Services
	Chinwe Abama (Taraba) MD's Office
	Kabir Edward Dauda (Adamawa) Abuja Liaison Officer Hariratu Mohammed (Adamawa) Servicom
	Kolo Muhammed Kabin (Borno) Audit
	Bukar Yahaya Gona (Yobe) Human Resources
	Jerome Angyunue (Taraba) Marine & Operations
	Umar Ahmed Mohammed (Taraba) Accounts
North Central:	Adama Jatto (Kogi) Corporate & Strategic Comm
	Muhammed Ahmend Rugai (Niger) Engineering
	Josephine Moltox (Plateau) AGM, Head NPA's Over sea's Office

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ii. *Executive Management Team:*

Hadiza Bala Usman (Katsina) Managing Director
Mohammed Bello Koko (Kebbi) Executive Director Finance and Administration.
Abubakar Idris (Bauchi) Executive Director, Engineering and Technology.
Onaxi Brown (Rivers) Executive Director, Marine Operation

Summary:

	Zone	Number
North (20)	North central	04
	North East	08
	North West	08
		20
South (7)	South East	03
	South West	01
	South South	03
		07

The Fulani north has no single sea shore nor harbour but controls all Yoruba south-west ports, The Apapa Wharf, Tri Can Island, and the South-South Seaports. The above analysed Nigerian Ports Authority, while the Nigerian Customs Services are all Fulani controlled and the southern revenue is used to colonize the South.

Another nauseating multitrillion establishment of the south firmly used for Islamisation by the Fulani's is the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) also renamed Northern Nigerian Petroleum Company is dominated by the Hausa- Fulani's as follows:

1. Mele Kyari — Group Managing Director
2. Umar Ajuja — Chief Operating Officer
3. Yusuf Usman — Chief Operating Officer
4. Farouk Garba Said- — Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services
5. Mustapha Yakubu — COO, Refineries & Petrochemicals
6. Hadiza Coomassie — Corporate Secretary/Legal Services
7. Omar Ibrahim — GGM, International Energy Relations
8. Kalanu Abdullahi — GGM, Renewable Energy
9. Ibrahim Birma — GGM, Governance Risk & Compliance
10. Bala Wunti — GGM, NAPIMS
11. Inuwa Waya — MD, NNPC Shipping
12. Musa Lawan — MD, Pipelines & Product marketing
13. Mansur Sambo — MD, Nig. Pet. Dev. Company
14. Lawal Sade — MD, Duke Oil/NNPC Trading Company
15. Malami Shehu — MD, Port Harcourt Refining Company
16. Mohammed Abbah — MD, Warri Refining Company
17. Abdulkadir Ahmed — MD, Nigeria Gas Marketing Company
18. Salihu Jamari — MD, Nig. Gas & Power Investment Company Ltd.
19. Mohammed Zango — MD, NNPC Medical Services
20. Sarbi Anwalu — Dir. Dept of Petroleum Resources (NNPC website)

If this is not domination and enslavement, I need to be told what it is.

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The Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum (SMBLF) on September 2, 2018, in a statement it issued, warned of the clannishness, sectional proclivity and exclusive handling of the security architecture of the country by President Muhammadu Buhari in the last three years. The list above confirms that all the Service Chiefs in his government were from his corner of the country. His reason is to protect himself and his policies in government. The underlying and most important reason is to continue the Fulani project of winning Nigeria for Islam.

Col Nyiam (a retiree from the Army) in a reaction to what Gen. Dajuma said about the Chief of Army Staff connivance with terrorist herdsmen (Daily Post, April 11, 2018) said:

> Danjuma was indicting the Commander in-Chief of the Armed forces because it seemed the Armed Forces was being used to promote and defend the interest of the President and his kinsfolk's interests. The whole 80% of his appointees that has to do with National Security Service Chiefs and Directors General are his tribesmen.

Between 1991 - 2013, there were a minimum of six commissions of Inquiries set up by both the Federal and Plateau State governments on crises in the state. (Crises created by President Ibrahim Babangida during the separation of Benue Plateau into Benue and Plateau States and the realignment of local governments and headquarters). Not one has been implemented. Both the Federal and State governments have kept playing politics with them while their selfish decisions continue to claim lives and disrupt peace.

As recent as March 17, 2014 in Abuja, President Goodluck Jonathan inaugurated the National Conference with 492 delegates from all over the country with Rtd. Chief Justice Idris Kutigi as chairman. He did not move fast enough with the Confab report because he thought of using his second term. With President Muhammadu Buhari sworn in, northern delegates led by Alhaji Ibrahim Coamaise had a golden chance to complain that the north with a wide landmass and larger population was given only 189 delegates while the south had 303 delegates. Because they were disadvantaged in terms of voting representation and voting on issues that affected the north, promised to block the implementation of the report. President Muhammadu Buhari has not done anything about the Confab Report and had not touch it in his second term in office.

And lastly, not the least impactful is the purposeful and forceful retirement in the Armed Forces and Police Service Commission to create space for northern Muslims in leadership positions (See table below): -

Military officers retired from the Armed Forces by President Muhammadu Buhari between 2015 - mid 2017.

Rank	Geopolitical zones						Total retired
	SE	SS	NC	SW	NW	NE	
Major General	4	3	2	1			10
Brigadier General	3	6	4	2			15
Colonels	4	-	4	1			09
Lt. Colonels	3	2	4	2			11
Total	**14**	**11**	**14**	**6**			**45**

The table above speaks volumes. There was no officer fit for retirement in the core North East and North West. President Muhammadu Buhari and his clan of advisers are not stupid. They are good foot soldiers.

III. Effect of Islamism on Christians and Christianity

Persecution of Christians is no more secretly done. Fulani terrorist herdsmen are daily persecuting Christian farmers, students, Christian worshipers and even civil servants all over the north and even in the south. The states of Benue and Plateau have had no peace because Muslim activists want to take over these and other states that were predominantly Christians. Here are few examples:

> On 4th February 2017, the United States Congress affirmed that the most dangerous nation on earth for anyone to be a Christian is Nigeria.
>
> The meaning is that Nigerian Christians have become an endangered species in a country where they constitute over 56% of the population.

In a 154-page research project conducted by Anne Mulder in 2015, the researcher affirms that over 13,000 Christian places of worship (churches) had been destroyed in northern Nigeria as at December 2014. This number must have substantially increased by this year (2020) with the current upsurge in Fulani Herdsmen raids. It is only under Jihad that Muslim insurgents and terrorists' herdsmen destroy churches. Jihad is ongoing.

The Daily Sun of April 9, 2012 page 16 carried a pathetic story by Seye Ojo of how a 12-year-old JS2 student slaughtered his teacher (a mother), Mrs Christiana Oluwatosin Oluwasesin, of Government Day Secondary School, Gundu, Gombe State and had her burnt with the spare tyre of her car. Funny enough, the principal, teachers and a team of policemen drafted to

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the school by the woman's husband, could not save her life. Only her ten-month-old son, Emmanuel was hid by a woman in her flowing hijab and smuggled to safety. Why? Christiana, a teacher sent to supervise SS One examination in Islamic Religions Knowledge, caught a female student, Fatsuma, copying answers from a book, carefully concealed in a newspaper. The teacher got the book and threw it outside, not knowing it was slips of the Hadith and Koran. Chants of Alahu Ahkbar filled the air and a student revolution had started.

On July 2, 2018, Amnesty International (Nigeria) issued a statement warning that between January and June 27, 2018 (6 months of the year) 378 (Benue), 340 (Plateau), and Zamfara (217) people have been killed by marauding herdsmen of no fixed addresses.

Leah Sheribu, a student of Government Girls Science and Technical College in Dapchi, Yobe State, was abducted on February 19, 2018 along with 112 others. A few weeks (March 21, 2018) after, 107 of the originally abducted 113 were released and taken back in a convoy to Dapchi. 5 students were said to have died of stress and heart attack. Leah Sheribu was kept back because she refused to denounce her Christian faith and convert to the Muslim faith. Muslim fundamentalists refused her freedom because she stuck to Christianity. There was a threat warning to kill her in September 2018. At its expiration in October 2018, Leah Sheribu was announced by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) to become their slave for life. The United Nations earlier last summer released a report alleging that the Nigerian government paid a ransom for the release of the school girls but not for Leah Sheribu because she is not a Muslim.

Christians also experience horror murder of their members without any action taken by government (State/Federal). Marshall Okwong on 9 November, 2018 posted a warning on his face book page for Christians who have mistaken the uneasy calm in the state to mean that all is well with the following happenings. Eunice Olawale Elisha, a 42-year-old mother of seven and an assistant pastor with the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Divine Torch Parish, Old Nepa Road, Phase 4, Kubwa, Abuja, was beheaded around Gbazango-West Area of Kubwa in Bwan Area Council of the FCT, by Muslim youths. The female pastor was on morning trumpeting when she was surrounded and killed. Police labelled the killers "some boys who were mainly non-Nigerians who settled in the area building batchers as their hamlets". The attack was an act of hatred and religious sentiments.

Ifua, (2016) reported on a Redeemed female pastor murdered in Abuja, Mrs. Bridget Agbaline in Kano was killed by radical Muslim herdsmen for alleged blasphemy against Mohammed in mid-2017 and nobody was brought to book.

Eze Oruru (13) was on 12th August, 2015, abducted from her mother's shop in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State and smuggled to the palace of the deposed Emir of Kano, Sanusi Lamido, renamed Aisha and forcefully married to a Fulani guard, Yunusa Dahiru, her abductor. Her parents (Charles and Rose Oruru) fought persistently to take back their daughter despite police delayance. The police, on February 28, 2016, after seven good months succeeded in freeing a pregnant Eze Oruru from the palace and on March 8, 2016, Yunusa Daline was finally arraigned in court in Yenogoa.

Ebun Adegboruwa (SAN), a human right lawyer called the abduction case child trafficking. On May 21, 2020, Yunusa Dahiru was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

In November 2018, Hauwa Dadi, a Christian girl was abducted, detained and forcefully converted to Islam in the palace of the Emir of Gashua. These ones are known because they were reported and protests organised. There are many unreported cases happening around that may not be known.

The strategies employed by Islamists to control the government of the country, ministries, states n and local governments have been so perfected in the years of President Muhammadu Buhari's regime that it seems that Christians have accepted defeat and inferiority.

Multidenominational interests, greed and avarice politics at Christian Association of Nigeria, political interest and selfish political alignment for money and or juicy political offices, disunity, lack of a radical Christian platform to react to Islamic attacks, persecution and brutal repression of rights and privileges, and a lot more, have made Christians vulnerable, divided and unable to react speedily to events happening around Christians, Christian families, Christian local governments, and Christian states. We have the facts from history, we know the strategies the Islamists use; we are suffering the effects of their Jihadist project-individually and collectively. It is time for action. CAN must wake up, and initiate actions.

IV. How Cultism and Islamic Work against the Growth of Christianity

Cultism and Islam really worked against the growth of Christianity in the following ways:

i. *Protection of self-interest:* The practice of the Buhari administration since 2015 has been that of nepotism self-preservation. We have proven cases of lopsided appointment to ensure that all top security, economic and policy development and execution posts are occupied and controlled by Islamic patriots to enhance the cultivation and execution of secret and nefarious programmes meant to dominate and protect Islamic interests. In the same vein, cultists work hard to enshrine and protect members in government offices, political parties, traditional institutions for self and societal

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preservation. They religiously ensure that their members are installed, protected and supported to survive irrespective of their deficiencies and excesses.

ii. *Recruitment:* Cult groups strategies, to forcefully enlist new members through organized fake parties, carnivals, abduction, kidnappings, conditional gifts, favours, employment and political posts while fundamentalists would abduct forcefully, many minors and keep them as sex slaves, use them as explosive carriers or spies on/for target assignments if females while the males serve as child fighters to boost rebel groups.

iii. *Persecution:* Many families have been persecuted; their businesses vandalized, their freedom breached and they have to live in fear of harassment because their wards have refused forced enlistment. Their movements are monitored and interrupted, handsets seized at will, businesses levied weekly to operate or registered for protections. Ministers of the gospel who criticise activities of cult groups are targets of attack. Church could be destroyed or vandalized by local groups but Muslim fundamentalists would simply bomb them and worshippers where they can and attack schools and learners. The company Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 2020 bill just signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari, August, 2020 is a subtle way of curtailing the growth of Christianity. The controversial section of the law interpreted the establishment of churches as business generating revenues that must be taxed.

The Kaduna State governor, El-Rufai in August 2020, ejected a retired staff sergeant of the Nigerian Army, Mr Paul Ojo, from an accommodation he partially paid for and was residing in at Block L[12] KAPNA Quarters, Kabala Costain, Kaduna to relocate it to a Muslim kinsman, Mr Musa Mohammed Ango, without following due process. The sergeant filed a litigation for wrongful ejection, asking for a public apology from the ejection officers, repair and settlement of the ejected sergeant, and fifty million (N50M) general damages for psychological trauma.

iv. *Prohibition of religious activities*: Cultists or cult groups/Ekpo, Obon, Ekpe and others enforce cultural lockdown on communities to stop Christian worshippers from gathering on their outing days. Where their injunctions are breached, they destroy church buildings and facilities. (The Wooden Gong by N. U. Akpan).

v. *Islamist ideologues* are against everything about western education. They do not only destroy educational facilities disrupt academic calendars but also discourage the acquisition of western values. Cultists on the other hand during their group clashes and protest against administration of institutions disrupt learning calendars, vandalize facilities and make schools notorious for their activities. These encourage academic dropout rates and truncate youths' brilliant careers.

V. Recommendation/Suggested Solutions

i. Nationwide campaign by Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and other churches against inclusion of Islamic terms in the constitution. Nigeria needs a new constitution.
ii. Instant mobilization of Christians against cases of ill treatment, forced conversion and marriages of Christian ladies and killing of Christians for preaching/trumpeting.
iii. Equal distribution of political post amongst Christians and Muslims as per all the zones in the country.,
iv. Thorough and complete enforcement of freedom of worship
v. Equitable distribution of federal government funds and resources (whenever it is done) between Christians and Muslims.
vi. Immediate stoppage of the usage of Boko Haram and terrorist Fulani herdsmen to intimidate, persecute, kill and destroy Christians and their properties,
vii. Equitable distribution of all Federal establishments (political, financial, military, cultural, educational etc.) to all the geo-political zones of the country.
viii. Immediate and complete equitable settlement of the frequent ethnoreligious attacks and killings in Southern Kaduna, Kaduna State.

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