

## NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ELDERS FORUM (NCEF)

# CHRISTIAN UNITY AS PANACEA TO NATIONAL INTEGRATION

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“That they all may be One” Jn. 17: 21

NCEF

25-Oct-16

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

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This document is prepared by the National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF) to provide information, direction, as well as counsel to leaders of the Christian faith in Nigeria. Without the Unity of the Church, it would be difficult for the nation to overcome its travails. The Church is the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Nigeria is presently groping in darkness and it has lost its savor. Only a united Church can pull the nation back from the brink of the precipice and in the process, preserve Christianity for future generations. NCEF urges Christian leaders to patiently go through the contents of this document.

# NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ELDERS FORUM

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4<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

[admin@csmnigeria.org](mailto:admin@csmnigeria.org)

Dear Christian Leader,

## **FAITH UNDER FIRE: APPEAL FOR UNITY**

Please find under the cover of this note a paper prepared by the National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF). The Forum of Christian Elders was inaugurated by the immediate past President of CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. The Christian Elders play advisory, mediatory, reconciliatory and enlightening roles in the Church.

After the 2015 General Elections, the NCEF commenced on Unity and Reconciliation meetings with leaders of the five Blocs of CAN. During discussions with the Blocs, demand for **humility** and **forgiveness** amongst leaders of the Church kept recurring. The Blocs agreed that the Nigerian Church is in critical need of Unity but these two conditions must, primarily, be fulfilled.

The NCEF has taken time to study and analyze the direction Nigeria is going, with particular emphasis on Christianity in the nation. As we have stated in this 40 page report, there is a far reaching conspiracy to eradicate Christianity in Nigeria. The solution is Christian Unity. All the denominations, ministries, and Christian institutions must agree to unite under CAN. No single denomination or ministry can fight this battle alone. We must all unite under a common platform and support the President of CAN.

We consent that unity of doctrine may not be easy to achieve, therefore our emphases should be on Unity of the Faith: Jesus is Lord, the Bible is the Word of God, there is heaven and there is hell, Jesus died, rose from the dead, and He is coming again. These should be enough to unite us.

As Christian Elders, we are appealing to you, personally, please join in the burden for Christian Unity. If any Christian or Church Group has offended you, in any way, we plead with you, forgive. As Christ forgave us, forgive. We, Christian Elders, we are pleading with you, please forgive and let us unite. Brothers should not quarrel when the roof of their father's house is on fire. Our faith is under fire. Even if we, the NCEF offended you, forgive us. We must hand over Christianity to our children; it must not end with us. Our last defense is Unity.

We implore you to read the document we have prepared. If, due to your busy schedules, you find it difficult to read it all, please circulate it to ALL your ministers and insist that they should read it and brief you on what they have read. You have labored for many years; your labor must not be in vain. The Lord is counting on you to preserve His Church in Nigeria. We must unite.

Yours faithfully,

Signed

Solomon Asemota, SAN  
Chairman (NCEF)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## WEAPONS WIN JIHAD BUT IDEAS WIN THE PEACE

The Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914 meant different things to different people. In the official speech of Lord Lugard delivered on New Year's Day in 1914, he concluded by saying "I trust that as one **united** country, Nigeria will increase in prosperity and wealth and its people in happiness."

Ian Nicolson, a Lagos Colonial Civil Servant at the time and an anti-amalgamator, castigated Lugard's administrative plan as "trampling on all the carefully nursed seedlings of **civilized government**, law and legislature, and substituting authoritarian adminstrocracy in which the whole emphasis was away from the coast, away from the law and education in its widest sense' and concludes that Lugard's amalgamation places Nigeria in a state of arrested development ..." 102 years after the Amalgamation, Nigerians are in the best position to assess the two opinions and determine which one was correct.

In retrospect, the unity of the two Protectorates was of no significant interest to the British. On the contrary, the Colonial powers intentionally created barriers that would keep Nigeria divided. By the middle of 1914, six months after Amalgamation, **The Times of Nigeria** in an Editorial wrote: "the amalgamation of 1914, is, **broadly speaking the conquest and subjugation of Southern Nigeria by Northern Nigeria**. Northern Nigerian system, Northern Nigerian laws, Northern Nigerian Land laws, Northern Nigerian Administration, must be made to supersede every system in Southern Nigeria." Nigerians should understand that at the back of the Colonialists mind, "North" refers to Islam, while "South" refers to Christianity. "North" is a term adopted to indicate cultural, political, and religious domination in Nigeria. The mindset is still prevalent till today.

Since Amalgamation, the North was given advantage over the South. However, that advantage only benefitted the Muslim Oligarchy. The Middle Belt and Christians in the North did not partake in it.

As a biased and unfair umpire, the British divided the South in 1939 into Western and Eastern Regions but resisted every call to carve out the Middle Belt Region from the North. The northern led Government of Balewa further divided the Western Region into West and Mid-West in 1963, but left the North untouched. To strengthen its monolithic entity, Britain subjugated the Middle Belt and handed it over to the Oligarchy. Middle Belt was neither captured nor conquered, but the British unfairly used “indirect rule” to suppress the region. In 1967, the “North” ceased to exist when General Yakubu Gowon created the 12 states. While the “South” ceased to exist in 1939, the “North” ceased to exist in 1967.

However, parochial and manipulative interest groups still tenaciously hold to “North” as an entity. It should be understood that this is done for manipulative political, cultural, and religious domination. The “North” ceased to exist in 1967.

The term adopted by the Fulani Jihadists to convey their conquest of a wide array of indigenous ethnic nationalities in Nigeria is “North”. Backed by the British Government during the Colonial era, a monolithic “North” would ensure that the junior partner in the British enterprise called “Nigeria” would continue to dominate. One of the reasons Chief Obafemi Awolowo went to jail was his attempt to emancipate the Middle Belt and obtain autonomy for the region. In February 1955, Lennox-Boyd informed Sir Hugo Frank Marshall, the Chief Secretary of the Federation of Nigeria that requests for the creation of three additional regions, Mid-West Region, Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers Region, and Middle Belt Region were the desire of the NCNC and Action Group to split Northern Nigeria. In 1963, it was only Mid-West Region that was created. M. G. Smith of the Colonial Office wrote in 1955, “It is therefore clear that the North, if it can stay united, has every prospect of dominating the Federal Government for many years to come.”

It is therefore disturbing to observe Christians in the Middle Belt identifying with such structures such as “Northern Governors Forum”, “Northern Elders Forum”, “Northern Traditional Rulers”, and amazingly, “Northern CAN”. It is strange to note that each time the “NORTH” agitates for power, the candidate that eventually emerges is Fulani Muslim. When MKO Abiola (Yoruba Muslim) emerged as President-elect in the freest election Nigeria ever had, June 12 was annulled. The platform upon which the domination of the Islamists rests is “One North”. In reality, “North” ceased to exist in 1967.

## **WILLINKS COMMISSION**

In 1958, the Willink’s Commission wrote:

“The whole structure of the proceedings leading to independence is based on the belief that Nigeria meant to follow the road of liberal democracy and parliamentary government and to base part of the structure on the opposite assumption is to invite government to do their worst. But if the road is followed (liberal democracy and parliamentary government), votes will count and in the last resort it is votes that will win fair treatment for minorities”

This Commission was set up to enquire into the fears of minorities and the means of allaying them with four terms of reference only. Among the issues the Commission considered was:

1. Fears of Christian minorities of the South and North
2. Fear of political influence
3. Fear of Foreign Policy
4. Fear of religious intolerance

All the apprehension expressed at the Willink’s Commission has been proven true today.

## **BREAKING DOWN WALLS; BUILDING BRIDGES**

The British commenced the inglorious acts of building walls of division and separation in Nigeria. The successive Military Governments headed by Muslims from the North, continued where the British stopped and reinforced the walls of division, using the intelligence agencies. Today, Nigeria is a country sharply divided along regional, tribal, ethnic, and religious lines. Unless there is a conscious attempt at “building bridges”, the entire structure is at the risk of a violent implosion.

After the British formally left Nigeria, Islamists, who appear to be the junior partner of the Colonialists, embarked on redefining Nigeria from a secular society into an Islamic Theocratic State. Working under the Islamic practice of “Taqiyya”, Islamists from the North smuggled Nigeria into OIC, enrolled the nation in the D8 Islamic Group of nations, created a dual ideology in the Constitution, embarked on purging the Civil Service of which over 90% of the “victims” of the exercise were Christians, established an invisible Government in the Presidency, amongst many others.

For years, the Islamists have been working in the background using proxies and surrogates. Today, the Islamists are in control of the Presidency, the Legislature, and the Judiciary. The singular objective of the Islamists is to replace the Constitution with Sharia as the source of legislation in Nigeria. If this nefarious objective should be achieved, the two immediate fatal casualties would be: **Democracy and Christianity**. Democracy is the only salvation of the South, the Middle Belt and non northern Muslims. It must be protected, nurtured, and preserved.

Today, violent Jihad has been launched in Nigeria to achieve the objectives of the Islamists through the combined forces of Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen.

Therefore, Christians have no choice but to transform CAN into a formidable institution for the promotion and protection of Christianity in Nigeria in the face of the threat of

Islamism otherwise known as – Political Islam, which has no single creed or political manifesto but certain common beliefs such as that:

- (1) Nigerian Society should be reconstructed in line with the Religious principles and ideals of Islam.
- (2) The Islamists are demanding that Section 10 should be replaced by an Islamic State in which Religious principles and authority have primacy over the political principles and authority; and
- (3) That the West and Western values which Christians over the years, have adopted in Nigeria are corrupt and, to an extent, justifies Jihad against the West and Nigeria and its values.

**The NCEF wishes to remind Christian leaders that conversion of non-Christians in Nigeria today especially Muslims seem to be permanently on hold.**

We recall that it was against the law during colonialism for Pastors to proselytize in Muslim areas in the North. Lugard puts it this way viz: “in the Northern Provinces there has been a considerable extension of mission work in Pagan areas, and the number of stations has increased from 38 in 1913 to 60 in 1917. The Church Missionary Society Mission to the Mohammedans, with its headquarters at Zaria, has been a source of some controversy and difficulty. At the time of the conquest of the Mohammedan Emirates in 1903, I declared that the British Government would not interfere with the religion of the people, and **‘every man should be free to worship God as he chose’**. The Emirs, though, they have not been very consistent in the matter, no doubt view with dislike and distrust the efforts of Europeans to convert their people to Christianity, the more so that the administrative and judicial systems, and the social life of the people is to such a large extent, based on the teaching of the Koran and so intimately associated with religion, that the Emirs so unnaturally fear a weakening of their authority and a breakup of the social system if their religion is undermined. **The Government, in these circumstances, has considered it right to be guided by the wishes of the Emirs and their councilors,**

**who have given such abundant and striking proofs of their loyalty during the War, in which their co-religionist, Turkey, is opposed to us.** While cordially recognizing mission activity in Pagan areas, the Government has desired to **discourage propaganda** in Moslem districts.” [Lugard and the Amalgamation of Nigeria, para. 186, pg. 160]

And Lugard went on to say “It was urged by the Church Missionary Society that Government showed an unfair discrimination, in that Moslem teachers could preach their religion where they chose, while **Christian missionaries were denied access to Moslem centres.**” [Para. 187, pg. 160] [Emphasis supplied] Rather than wane in influence, this obnoxious discriminatory policy is waxing stronger in Nigeria reinforced by Sharia law in twelve states in Nigeria and violent Jihad by Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen. In the circumstance, Nigeria requires **new ideas to win the peace and promote stability of the Nation.**

While it is undeniable that radical and fundamental Islam is a threat to Christianity, in Nigeria, the real challenge that the Church has to surmount is the naivety, complacency, apathy and compromising attitude of large sections of the Church to the threat posed by radical Islam against Democracy and Christianity. If the Church is unable to overcome the “enemy within”, it cannot resist Islamism.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Financial independence should be guaranteed for CAN by Nigerian Christians. CAN has to be free from every form of Government influence, because “he who pays the piper dictates the tune”. In view of this, every Christian leader should promote the CAN Trust Fund.
2. There has to be a conscious and intentional agreement of all Christian Blocs to UNITE and transform CAN into an institution. Christian unity is the panacea to overcoming the Jihad that has been launched by Islamists in Nigeria.

3. Nigeria should overhaul the Intelligence Service and make it a Nigerian not a “Northern” Institution in the promotion of Islamism. Presently, the Intelligence Service is seriously compromised in favor of Islamism and eradication of Democracy in Nigeria.
4. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission is required to establish the platform for future relations of all Nigerians.
5. Implementation of the 2014 National Conference Report is imperative.
6. For reasons shrouded in mystery, the government stopped the teaching of History as a subject in schools many years ago. From the experience of Black Africans in Sudan, Islamists employ this sly method to eradicate the history of the indigenous ethnic groups whose land the Arabs covet and wish to takeover. According to George Orwell, **“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”** A people without history, is a people without a future. Recently, the Minister of Education announced restoration of History as subject in schools. According to the Minister, this is being done in response to protests which was championed by NCEF. However, we need to ensure that the restoration of History as subject in schools is not just a statement but a policy directive that must be implemented.
7. In view of the security challenges facing the nation in general and Christians in particular, it is highly advisable that Church leaders should encourage Christian communities to develop Community Policing for their protection. The security agencies have not been effective in providing security, particularly for vulnerable Christian communities in the nation.

# INTRODUCTION

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## CHRISTIAN, SEEK NOT YET REPOSE ...

Due to the amalgamation of commercial interests that produced Nigeria, history has confirmed that the “junior” partner of the British in the enterprise, the Hausa/Fulani Islamic oligarchy, has always seen the nation as an extension of its commercial, political, and religious interests. To the Muslim North, the Nigerian nation of their dream is an Islamic nation. While the rest of the nation may be striving progressively towards 21<sup>st</sup> century development and civilization, they work assiduously backwards to a 5<sup>th</sup> century expression of Islamization. This is the goal they are evidently prepared to work towards, and when necessary, fight, maim, destroy and kill, to achieve.

## 1940

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“... holding this country together is not possible except by means of the religion of the Prophet. If they want political unity let them follow our religion.”

Reply of Northern Emirs to West African Students Union's (WASU) appeal for support towards Nigeria's Independence. (Obafemi Awolowo, **Path to Nigerian Freedom**, London: Faber and Faber, 1947, p.51.)

# 1960

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“The new nation called Nigeria should be an estate of our great-grandfather, Uthman Dan Fodio. We must ruthlessly prevent a change of power. We use the minorities of 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.”

Sir Ahmadu Bello, 1st Oct. 1960 (Parrot Newspaper, 12th Oct. 1960; republished on November 13, 2002, by the Tribune Newspaper, Ibadan.)

# 2012

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“... this war is not political. It is religious. It is between Muslims and unbelievers (arne). 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.

I warn all Muslims at this juncture that any Muslim who assists an unbeliever in this war should consider himself dead.”

Abukakar Shekau, Leader of Boko Haram, Online video of Boko Haram

The consistent resonance from the Muslim North has been a Nigerian nation that is governed primarily by Islamic law and a society that subscribes to the Islamic way of life.

A diversified society in which various ethnic groups exhibit different ways of life but live together in peace and harmony is, 56 years after independence, still unacceptable to the Muslim North. **The concept of “unity in diversity” remains anathema to them.**

Therefore, **non-northern Muslims** in Nigeria should understand that definitions of such words as, citizenship, national interest, patriotism, unity, democracy, truth, justice, and so on, take on complex meaning, depending on the side of the divide the speaker stands. The Muslim North, particularly the Hausa/Fulani Muslims, operate based on **clannish mentality**. Outside of their clan, in which membership is primarily determined by Hausa/Fulani Islamic religion, there is neither TRUTH nor JUSTICE. To the Hausa/Fulani Muslims and recently, the Kanuri Muslims, truth and justice exist only within their enclave; outside of it, neither of the two virtues exists. Therefore, outside of their clan, they can engage in any form of atrocious deception and mete out any form of inhuman injustice and cruelty to any individual and groups of individuals, and they believe that they have done nothing wrong.

Realizing that it may be unable to have its way in a greatly diversified multi cultural society like Nigeria, the Muslim North struck an alliance with the Arabs to reinvent Nigeria as an Islamic nation with the Muslim North as the surrogate rulers and all the other ethnic groups relegated to a *dhimmi* status or second class citizens. To the Arabs, the prospect of expanding their influence in Africa, over and above that of the “infidels of the West”, made the prospect of Islamizing Nigeria an offer too juicy to resist. It would be recalled that it was the Sardauna who spearheaded the formation of the World Muslim League in 1962. He was accompanied on his Islamic unification trips by Sheikh Abubakar Gumi.

The collaboration of the Muslim North with the Arabs yielded the clandestine membership of Nigeria in the OIC, as well as the infamous Abuja Declaration 1989. To make matters worse, OIC proceeded to act as colonialist over Nigeria by issuing instructions to a Nigerian government. It is a statement of fact that OIC actually designated the Sultan of Sokoto as the **SUPREME SOVEREIGN** over Nigeria in 1990 and has been relentlessly working to implement it! This imposition by the Arabs can only

become reality if Nigeria becomes an Islamic nation. (The opinions of the other ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria are inconsequential to the sponsors of Sharia.) The Arabs are the new colonial masters in the making.

In a letter written by Islam in Africa Organization, and signed by Dr. Hassan El-Farouk, on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1990, the affiliate body of OIC gave the following instructions to General Ibrahim Babangida, the self-appointed military president of Nigeria:

- a) Arrange presentation of Staff of Office to His Eminence, Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1990.
- b) Formal enthronement of His Eminence, Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki as Sultan and Supreme Sovereign of Nigeria on any convenient date from 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1990.
- c) **Place total ban thereafter on all form of worship by Christians, Ahmadiyyas and other tribal religions.**
- d) **Impose Sharia Law on Nigeria; Islamize all universities, colleges and schools and courts of law in the Federal Islamic Sultanate of Nigeria.**
- e) Formally proclaim the National Republican Convention, NRC, the only national ruling Islamic Political party and phase out the Social Democratic Party, SDP, (which is a party of infidels). Only the NRC (under a new name of National Islamic Party of Nigeria, NIPN) shall produce future executive and legislative leaders of Nigeria.
- f) Consolidate your plans to assume office as the democratically elected 1992's President of the Federal Islamic Sultanate of Nigeria (second only to the Sultan of Nigeria, in executive power).
- g) Finally, implement OIC Economic Formula 89/OIE which must urgently replace the ineffective and most inefficient Structural Adjustment Programme (which you have now honorably admitted has failed woefully).

It is interesting to note in paragraph 5, that the Social Democratic Party which was referred to as “party of infidels” produced MKO Abiola, a very outspoken Muslim leader

as its presidential candidate. This party also produced a Muslim/Muslim ticket, with Amb. Baba Gana Kingibe as the Vice President. However, Abiola was a Yoruba Muslim while Kingibe is Kanuri Muslim. Neither of them was of the Hausa/Fulani Muslim stock. They were infidels.

Could this be the reason behind the annulment of the June 12 Elections?

## CHRISTIAN UNITY

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One of the main objectives of NCEF is the unity of Christians in the face of Islamists onslaught and this must be sustained by preventing Church groups from breaking away from CAN. Fragmentation of the Church under any excuse cannot be helpful to Christian unity in Nigeria. Like the British colonialist, NCEF believes that Christianity is superior to any other religion in providing happiness and civilization to the world. Therefore, Christian ideals must be promoted by all Christians in the nation.

## UNMASKING THE “NORTH”

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The word “North” in the view of the NCEF, has to be unmasked. North now means Islamists in Nigeria. The Islamists promote Sharia which is antithetical to freedom of choice and liberty of the citizens. Christians must therefore promote Democracy in Nigeria in order to ensure the entrenchment of justice, equity and fairness and in the process ensure the survival of the Christian faith. The Islamists in Aso Villa are severally referred to as “cabal” – (Saraki) and “third party” (Mrs. Buhari).

It is erroneous to think that corruption is fighting back. It is Democracy that is fighting back to displace fascism – “a form of political behavior marked by obsessive pre-occupation with community decline, humiliation, or victimization and by compensatory cults of unity, energy, and purity, in which a mass-based party of committed nationalist

militants, working in uneasy but effective collaboration with traditional elites, **abandons democratic** liberties and pursues with redemptive violence and without ethical or legal restraints goals of internal cleansing and external expansion.” (Robert Paxton).

When President Jonathan lost the 2015 election, some Christians thought that it was a situation of Christians preferring a Muslim. It is now very clear that the propaganda of the intelligence agencies and their numerous agents and proxies among Christians in addition to poor performance of Jonathan helped bring the fascists into Aso Villa. Christian ideals can only be brought about in Nigeria by Christians and this is what the NCEF has set out to promote. Protect Christianity and preserve democracy in Nigeria.

## DUAL IDEOLOGY

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Ideological conflict is pivotal to Nigeria’s lack of growth. At independence, the impression was created that “all” Nigerians accepted Liberal Democracy as the national ideology. Unknowingly to the rest of the nation, the Muslim North preferred a system of government of which an essential ingredient is Islamic law. Since independence, sponsors of Sharia Islamic law have been working surreptitiously to undermine democracy and make Sharia the national ideology and the nation an Islamic state.

In the 1999 Constitution, which was foisted on the country by a Muslim Military Dictator from the North, Nigeria has two conflicting ideologies, Liberal Democracy and Sharia, pulling the nation in opposite directions. The effect of the two ideologies on the nation has been negative as resources and manpower are wasted in the struggle for supremacy of Sharia’s “invisible government” over the Constitution. It is clear that for a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious society, the best option that can accommodate the divergent groups in the nation is Liberal Democracy which gives each citizen equal right and freedom of expression and religious conviction. Any attempt to impose Sharia as an ideology in Nigeria will spell disaster for the nation.

In recent past, these ideological struggles have assumed violent dimension with the advent of Boko Haram. This Islamic insurgent group, bent on making the entire nation Sharia compliant is responsible for over 15,000 deaths in Nigeria since it launched its attacks and has vowed not to stop until either the nation adopts Sharia or all of its fighters are annihilated. Boko Haram, like the “invisible government” established by Islamists to promote Sharia, seeks to make Sharia the source of legislation in Nigeria, over and above the Constitution.

The saddest aspect of this war is that many Nigerians, including some ignorant Christian leaders, have allowed themselves to be co-opted into the fight against the Constitution and democracy for monetary rewards, positions and privileges.

This is not to imply that the National Christian Elders Forum rejects cooperation with Nigerian citizens who have chosen Islam as a religion. The apprehension is against Islamism, which is quite different from Islam.

Islam is a religion while Islamism is a **political ideology** that holds that Islam is not only a religion, but also a political system that must dominate every environment in which Islam is practiced. Islamism is the ideology driving all the terrorist organizations in the world ranging from ISIS to Al Qaeda, Al Shabab, Taliban, and even Boko Haram.

The unfolding conspiracy in Nigeria today, is the attempt of Islamists to promote Sharia as another source of legislation over and above the Constitution which guarantees equal rights and freedom of religious conviction.

## ISLAM IN AFRICA CONFERENCE

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It should also be noted that this brazen attempt to Islamize Nigeria came barely 3 months after the Conference of Islam in Africa Organization (IAO) in November 1989. At the end of this Conference which was held in Abuja, and supported wholeheartedly by the Muslim headed military government with a reported donation of \$21 billion, the Abuja

Declaration Communiqué was issued which includes, amongst others, the following sinister points that directly affect democracy and the church:

- **"To eradicate in all its forms and ramifications all non-Muslim religions in member nations (such religions shall include Christianity...)"** – (In the original declaration, the word Christianity was underlined.)
- **"To ensure only Muslims are elected to all political posts of member nations"**
- **"To ensure the appointment of only Muslims into strategic national and international posts of member nations."**
- **"To ensure the ultimate replacement of all western forms of legal and judicial systems with the Sharia ..."**
- **The government of Nigeria has donated 21 million US-dollars to confirm an IAO-communiqué as donation to this "Islamic Development Fund" (for the total Islamization of Nigeria in particular and Africa in general.)**
- **To ensure the declaration of Nigeria (the 24<sup>th</sup> African and 48<sup>th</sup> World member of the OIC) a Federal Islamic Sultanate at a convenient date any time from 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1990, with the Sultan of Sokoto enthroned as the Sultan Supreme Sovereign of Nigeria.**

Informed observers link the Abuja Declaration 1989 as the template upon which the Buhari Administration seems to be operating. Therefore, Christians should not seek repose.

# THE MOST DANGEROUS NATION TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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In 2012 and 2013, Nigeria bore the unenviable record of the “most dangerous nation on earth” for anyone to be called a Christian.

According to World Watch List 2013 produced by the global Christian organisation Open Doors, “**Between November 2011 and October 2012, we recorded 1,201 killings of Christians worldwide (which gives an average of 100 killings a month!), of which 791 happened in Nigeria**”,

Officially, there are 50 nations on earth that persecute Christians. Out of these 50 nations which include highly intolerant nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya, and so on, Nigeria carried 66% of the persecutions, leaving the remaining 49 nations to share 34% of global persecution of Christians. This unenviable performance was repeated in 2013. It was the emergence of ISIS in 2014 that tilted the record of dishonour to Syria and Iraq.

The 2016 World Watch List shows a staggering 62% increase in violent killings of Christians in northern Nigeria as churches in Nigeria unite to highlight this problem for the first time. A report to be released in Abuja by Open Doors and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), ‘Crushed but not defeated, the impact of persistent violence on the church in northern Nigeria’, makes a detailed study of the violence that has occurred.

A partner director for West Africa says: “This report shows the extent and impact of the persistent violence on the church in northern Nigeria is much more serious than previously expected. Once Boko Haram is defeated, the problem will not be solved. Christians living under Sharia law are facing discrimination and marginalization and have limited to no access to federal rights. We hope that this report will prompt the Nigerian government and international community to take the real suffering of persecuted Christians seriously and act on their behalf. Next to that I hope that Nigerian Christians

will become more involved with their brothers and sisters; that they will stand in the gap for them.”

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

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According to Global Overview 2014, Nigeria has the highest number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa and the third largest, globally. Conservative estimates of 3.3 million Nigerians have been displaced, primarily by the Islamic insurgency in the North East and in the Middle Belt. Most of the affected persons are Christians. This figure is higher than that of war torn Democratic Republic of Congo with 2.9 million IDPs and Sudan with 2.4 million IDPs.

Globally, Syria has the highest number of IDPs with 6.5 million and Colombia with 5.7 million. Nigeria comes third with 3.3 million IDPs, mostly Christian brethren.

What makes the situation in Nigeria more tragic is that Nigeria is neither fighting a civil war nor is it confronted by external aggression. It is a section of Nigerian citizens who reject a democratic way of life, which guarantees freedom of choice and freedom of religious conviction, that are destroying other innocent citizens.

One fact stands clear; those that are behind the Islamization Agenda in Nigeria have no intention of stopping until they achieve their objectives. If they should succeed, Nigeria shall cease to be a democratic society which implies that freedom of choice and freedom of religious conviction shall be eradicated through the emergence of Sharia.

It is with this realization that the National Christian Elders Forum embarked on Unity and Reconciliation meeting to all the blocs of Christian Association of Nigeria, to create an awareness of the issues unfolding in the nation and to urge a unified stand by the church. Only a united church can successfully resist this narrow minded and regressive agenda.

# THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT

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The institutional backbone for the “invisible government” in Nigeria is the Department of State Services (DSS). The DSS maintains a strong tradition of secrecy. It is one of the Institutions, if not the main institution that “rules” Nigeria. It however is the undisputed promoter of Sharia in the country through the invisible government that is hell bent on making Nigeria an Islamic Sultanate by all means.

DSS moves stealthily with devious efficiency, ruthlessness and treachery because it wields all powerful secret influence. Christians must be aware of the nefarious role that DSS is playing in the conspiracy to make Sharia the other source, if not the only source of legislation in Nigeria.

**We must not bring to Nigeria the destruction now going on in the Middle East.** Nigerians love life and want to live in peace, that was why notwithstanding all the provocations, President Jonathan conceded defeat at the last elections, which president Buhari failed to do in his first three attempts for the office of President.

## GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF SOUL WINNING

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British Government protected all white Pastors and Priests irrespective of denomination and, as a result, the Emirs were unable to wage wars of Jihad (conventional or civilized) against these missionaries. In present day Nigeria, we need CAN to perform this function in the face of Islamism that would enable Christians spread the gospel anywhere in Nigeria. **The Christian Elders wish to remind Christian leaders that conversion of non-Christians in Nigeria today especially Muslims seem to be permanently on hold.**

We recall that it was against the law during colonialism for Pastors to proselytize in Muslim areas in the North. Lugard puts it this way viz: “in the Northern Provinces there has been a considerable extension of mission work in Pagan areas, and the number of stations has increased from 38 in 1913 to 60 in 1917. The Church Missionary Society Mission to the Mohammedans, with its headquarters at Zaria, has been a source of some controversy and difficulty. At the time of the conquest of the Mohammedan Emirates in 1903, I declared that the British Government would not interfere with the religion of the people, and **‘every man should be free to worship God as he chose’**. The Emirs, though they have not been very consistent in the matter, no doubt view with dislike and distrust the efforts of Europeans to convert their people to Christianity, the more so that the administrative and judicial systems, and the social life of the people is to such a large extent, based on the teaching of the Koran and so intimately associated with religion, that the Emirs no unnaturally fear a weakening of their authority and a breakup of the social system if their religion is undermined. **The Government, in these circumstances, has considered it right to be guided by the wishes of the Emirs and their councilors, who have given such abundant and striking proofs of their loyalty during the War, in which their co-religionist, Turkey, is opposed to us.** While cordially recognizing mission activity in Pagan areas, the Government has desired to **discourage propaganda** in Moslem districts.” [Lugard and the Amalgamation of Nigeria, para. 186, pg. 160] And Lugard went on to say “It was urged by the Church Missionary Society that Government showed an unfair discrimination, in that Moslem teachers could preach their religion where they chose, while **Christian missionaries were denied access to Moslem centres.**” [Para. 187, pg. 160] [Emphasis supplied]

Today, Pastors are reluctant or unable to spread the gospel to Muslims in Nigeria. The death of an Abuja Pastor that preached near a Mosque and who was found to have been murdered and a Bible placed under her severed head, no doubt instills fear in other preachers. But this does not explain why Pastors and Priests of various denominations are so hostile to one another in the face of Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen rampaging and proselytizing.

It is also being suggested that Church Leaders – (Denominational Leaders) find it more lucrative to stay away from Muslim areas in the country because they have been compromised not to preach in Muslim areas. Gumi said: “the two party system of government will not be South against North but Islam against Christianity. Once you are a Moslem, you cannot accept to choose a non-Moslem to be your leader. If Christians do not accept Moslems as their leader then we have to divide the country. **Nigerian unity is to try to convert Christians and non-Moslems (to Islam). Until the other religions become minority and they will not affect our society.**”

Proselytizing by various Christian denominations in the past, helped to unite various Christian denominations; an example is the amity between Bishop Ajayi Crowther and Bishop Shanahan both of Onitsha. Emphasis of the Church should be on conversion of non-Christians which is preferred to poaching from denominations.

## VIGILANTE GROUP OF NIGERIA (VGN)

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The Nation Newspaper of Sunday, February 1, 2009 at page 18, reported that the Federal Government has approved a new security outfit to combat crime called the Vigilante Group of Nigeria. The Vanguard of Thursday, February 5, 2009 in an Editorial titled **Not So Fast, VGN** and declares VGN as unconstitutional reads: “... **Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution invests policing of the country on the Nigeria Police Force. How can an organization that says it would engage more than 50,000 people in the South West alone operate without an enabling law? In one breath, Vigilante Group of Nigeria sounds like a non-governmental organization. It claims it has a Board of Trustees. How was it registered? The report named Mallam Usman Mohammed, a lawyer, as the National Commander of VGN. Who appointed him? Who controls him? These questions are pertinent against the background that the newspaper said it had documents that specified that the group would wear uniforms and “will be equipped with arms and ammunitions and the vigilante members**

*may carry traditional arms". This is either a new Police Force or someone's private Army that could be subject to all the abuses of a lawless outfit ..."* Today, the VGN has a presence in Nigeria.

Why Vigilantes? Why not State Police and Local Government Police like what obtains in other countries? There is no synergy between the Police and the DSS because of their ideological differences.

Apart from being **unconstitutional**, we see this VGN as a religious outfit to promote the interest of a religious group. The Invisible Government through the DSS authorized this outfit and many others like it in the promotion of Islamic fundamentalism.

## NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER (NSA)

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Perhaps the most frightening of Islamist strategy is the office of the NSA who is in control of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) with military and Police powers as contained in the ACT promulgated in 2007, **contrary to the Constitution that provides for only Police Force** in Nigeria under section 214 of the Constitution. How was this **unconstitutional** ACT passed into law?

It gives the impression that the NSA derives some of his powers from sources outside the Nigerian Constitution.

## PRESENT DAY CHALLENGE: IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT NOT CORRUPTION

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Nigerians need to understand that the real issue confronting the nation is not corruption but Sharia, an ideology being promoted by radical Islamists, especially the Izalas, the sect President Buhari belongs to. The president has said on several occasions before he was

elected President that he would work with all his might to ensure that Sharia is extended throughout Nigeria.

It has been established that there are two main categories in the Islamic fundamentalists in Nigeria. There are the Salafists who believe that agitation for Sharia should commence at whatever level the Salafists are present. And, there are the Izalas, who believe that attempts should be made to acquire political power before launching the agitation for Sharia. Shekau belongs to the Salafists while Buhari is of the Izala.

Within his 100 days in office, President Buhari has been emitting disturbing signals that portray him as regional Islamic leader rather than a national president. Out of the 32 critical appointments that he has made in the first 100 days, 27 are from the northern states while 5 are from the southern states; not a single appointee is from the South East zone. On his trip to the U.S. president Buhari left Nigeria with a delegation of 29 northerners and 4 southerners. Against all tact and decorum, the president showed his divisive and discriminatory character by publicly affirming that the constituents that gave him 97% support during the election cannot be treated equally with those that gave him 5%. This is a veiled reference to preferential treatment.

To make matters worse, the president confirmed his Islamist nature by publicly disowning the lofty promises he made during his electioneering campaign, proving that he used “Taqiyya” on the nation to obtain the presidency. (“Taqiyya” in Islam means approved deception.) In his first 100 days in office, he did not keep a single promise and rather chose to run the nation **unconstitutionally** as a Sole Administrator. It is worrisome that the President who vowed to defend the Constitution has now, for three months, ignored some of the provisions of the Constitution in his 100 days rule with respect to appointments, cabinet, spending, etc. Mr. President needs to be circumspect in these matters.

The President has openly launched his first salvo against the church by insisting that the Christian Chapel in Aso Villa should be “relocated”. Already, the space used at Aso Villa as Children’s Church has been converted into a store and alternative space has not been

allocated. To demonstrate his disdain for Christianity, security forces locked the Aso Villa church and prevented the Vice-President from gaining access into the building for Sunday service until pressure was mounted on them to open the Chapel.

The Islamists seem poised to execute the Islamic Agenda that they have been surreptitiously scheming for years. The recent kidnap of Chief Olu Falae on his farm in the South West by “Fulani herdsmen” is meant to strike fear and panic into the hearts of southern Christian elites to “behave” themselves. **This is an ominous sign that should not be ignored.**

## GRAZING RESERVE

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Christians must not be fooled by the Islamists about grazing reserves that are intended to plant seeds of Fulani dominion throughout the country. The manipulation of all arms of government by the Islamists in Aso Villa to establish grazing reserves should not be viewed with levity.

The Grazing Reserve for cattle husbandry which is a private enterprise as is curiously being promoted and sponsored by the Federal and some State governments without its full implication in view of the provisions section 42 (1) (b) of the 1999 Constitution, (as amended) to the effect that a citizen of Nigeria or any ethnic group or community shall be accorded either expressly or otherwise any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to other citizens, groups or communities. Moreover, setting up of a National Commission to acquire and deprive communities of their choice land for the private enterprise of a preferred ethnic group is contrary to the provisions of section 26 of the Land Act to the effect that any transaction or any instrument which purports to confer on or vest in any person any interest or right over land other than in accordance with the provisions of the Land Use Act is null and void. Also, section 6 (1) (b) of the Land Use Act empowers only the Local Government “to grant customary right of occupancy to any person or

organization for the sue of land for grazing purposes and such other purposes ancillary to agricultural purpose as may be **customary** in the Local Government Area concerned”

To forestall the anticipated, dangerous and devastating outcome of the proposed Grazing Reserve Plan we recommend ranching which is the modern and up-to-date-technique of animal husbandry which is practiced in other developing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Botswana, and Argentina etc. We believe that the creation of ranches will solve the lingering herdsmen/farmers crisis in the country which has resulted in the wanton destruction of human lives, properties and sacking of villages.

Dear Nigerians, please tell your legislators, traditional rulers and other stakeholders that you are opposed to the issue and bills of Grazing Rights, Routes and Reserves.

## CAN CHURCHES DIE OR BE WIPED OUT BY JIHADIST PERSISTENT PERSECUTION?

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Prof. Philip Jenken is the Distinguished Professor of History at Baylor University in the United States of America. According to Wikipedia, Jenkins has forged a reputation based on his work on global Christianity as well as on emerging religious movements.

Jenken’s research on this subject is the way it reminds us of the fact that the Eastern Churches flourished before many of the Churches came into existence in Europe. But today, most of the Churches have experienced severe decline and some have been completely extinguished. According to Jenkins “This older Christian world was destroyed so comprehensively that its memory is almost forgotten by all except academic specialists. In some places the blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church, while in other places and at other times, it has been the death of the Churches and Christian communities.”

In 1050 AD, the population of Asian Minor was mainly Christian, but by 1450 AD, Christians were only 10-15% of the population. Also, between 1200 and 1500 the number of Asian Christians fell from 21 million to 3.4 million. In Turkey for instance, Christianity existed for about 1023 years, with Constantinople having the biggest Cathedral in the world – the Hagia Sophia. Today, Christians constitute a mere 0.02% of the population. The seven Churches Jesus spoke to in Revelation 2 & 3 (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea), existed in Turkey. It was in Turkey (Antioch) too that disciples were first called Christians. Today, Turkey is a Muslim Country.

According to Jenkins as late as in 1900s Christians were about 11% of the population throughout the whole of the Middle East. Jenkins concludes as follows “For practical purposes, Middle Eastern Christianity has within living memory, all but disappeared as a living force”.

The Nigerian Church has to wake up. The possibility of its being “eradicated in all its forms and ramifications”, as Abuja Declaration 1989 proposed, is very real.

## IS NIGERIA HEADING FOR A ONE-PARTY ISLAMIC STATE?

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Much has been said about the sinister conspiracy contained in the Abuja Declaration 1989. However, one vital point seems to be rearing its head. A section of the document states as follows:

**“The Conference decided that the Steering Committee should also work out detailed plans for the transforming a national political party in each member nation into a National Islamic Party, and that the National Republic Convention, NRC of Nigeria, should be made to serve this purpose in Nigeria as the only**

**recognized National Islamic Party of Nigeria. These political parties so approved shall be the only ones to produce leading government (executive and legislative) functionaries. The NRC of Nigeria and other parties shall have their names changed to reflect Islamic nature of their purpose.”**

The political party that brought the 2015 President – elect to power seems determined to be the only party that wins all the states as well as all the seats in the National Assembly. In almost every instance in which it loses a position, it cries foul and fights vigorously to get the position, even when it is clear it was clearly defeated.

Is Nigeria heading for a one-party Islamic state given the foundational structure of this party which was heavily biased in favor of Muslims? Is the church witnessing a subtle implementation of the Abuja Declarations 1989 with regards to the existence of only one Islamic Party in the nation? Presently, the party of the President elect controls both the Senate and the House of Representative. This implies that any bill that that they favor can be passed.

Christian leaders should remember that during the electioneering campaign, it was reported that Arab nations donated \$700m to APC. It would be interesting to find out what Arabs have at stake in ensuring a victory of APC.

## **VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLE OF FEDERAL CHARACTER IN FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS**

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Section 171 sub-Section 5 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) stipulates that the President in exercising his powers of appointment under this section shall have regard to the Federal Character of Nigeria and the need to promote National unity. A critical look at the list of appointments by this administration shows utter disregard for issues that promote National unity and a gross violation of the

Constitution. We wonder how Mr. President can relate the impunity of his administration to his mantra; fight against corruption. By flagrantly violating Sections 171(5) and 10 of the Constitution, the President has presented himself as corrupt.

Below are some of the very important appointments made by “Federal Islamist Jihadist’s imperial Government” to confirm our apprehension:

**CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:**

- 1] Head of Universities: NUC Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed Hausa/Fulani Muslim
  - 2] Head of Polytechnics: Dr. Masud Kazaure Hausa/Fulani Muslim
  - 3] Head of Colleges of Education: Prof. Bappah Aliyu Hausa/Fulani Muslim
  - 4] Head of TETFUND: Dr. Abdulahi Baffa Hausa/Fulani Muslim
  - 5] Head of JAMB: Prof. Ishaq Oloyede-Professor of Arabic studies-Muslim
  - 6] Head of UBEC Dr. Hameed Bobboyi: Hausa/Fulani Muslim
  - 7] Head of NABTEB: Dr. Masud Kazaure Hausa/Fulani Muslim
  - 8] Head of NTI: Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare Hausa/Fulani Muslim.
- 88% of the appointments are Northern Muslim/Fulani Muslim. (Only one person is from South West, nevertheless, a Muslim.)

This is in addition of handing over the Security Units in the Nation to Muslims. President Buhari has masterfully completed the configuration of the entire National Security structure/architecture firmly in the hands of the Northern Hausa-Fulani Muslims alone to the exclusion of all other ethnic groups in Nigeria. This is definitely unfair, not just to Christians but to all non-Muslims in Nigeria.

**The Security Units are configured as follows:**

1. Police IG..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
2. Chief of Army Staff..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani

3. Minister for Defense..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
4. Minister for Internal Affairs..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
5. National Security Adviser (NSA)..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
6. DG, Department of State Services (DSS)..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
7. Commandant General, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp (NSCDC)..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
8. Chief of Staff..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
9. ADC to President..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
10. CSO to President..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
11. Principal Secretary..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
12. Private Secretary to President..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
13. Protocol to President..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
14. DG Customs..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
15. DG, EFCC..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
16. DG, Nigeria Prisons..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
17. DG, Immigration..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
18. Chairman, INEC..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
19. Minister for Petroleum..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
20. Minister for FCT..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani
21. President/Commander In Chief of the Armed Forces..... Northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani

## THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

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The defeat of the Ottoman Empire and its allies led to the Empire's dissolution as a unified entity in July 1923, and the establishment of the modern state of Turkey by Mustapha Kemal, who was given the title "Ataturk" or "Father of the Turks." Determined to tie his country firmly to the West, Ataturk sought to diminish its Islamic character,

notably by abolishing the caliphate in favor of secular rule. Ataturk also banned the growing of beards by men and wearing of headscarves by women; banned the call to prayer by muezzins; abolished the Turkish language's script and replaced it with Latin script; and made the Turkish military the custodians of secular tradition. The dissolution of the Caliphate and the transformation of Turkey from the center of the Islamic world to a secular nation did not sit well with some in the global Islamic community (ummah). One of those determined to restore the caliphate was Hassan al Banna, the son of a Muslim imam who lived outside of Cairo, Egypt. In 1928, he founded an organization known as the al-Ikhwan al-Muslimin, the Society of Muslim Brothers or the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), for the purpose of unifying the Islamic states under a new caliphate and subordinating all lands the Caliph's rule pursuant to Shariah.

The Muslim Brotherhood expressed purpose was two-fold (1) **to implement Sharia worldwide** (2) **to establish the global Islamic state – (Caliphate)**. The Brotherhood creed is “**God is our objective, Quran is our law, the Prophet is our leader, jihad is our way and death for the sake of Allah is the height of our aspiration**”. It is evident from this creed and history of the Brotherhood that violence is an inherent part of Muslim Brotherhood activity. Boko Haram ideology and that of the Fulani herdsmen suggest that they are products of the Muslim Brotherhood. The publication on Muslim Brotherhood say that over 100 countries where Muslims live have adopted this ideology and, in the case of Iran, it became a theocracy while Saudi Arabia though a monarchy, had provided funds for most of the jihad throughout the world. In Nigeria today, a jihad is going on both the **conventional** as practiced by Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen and **civilized** jihad which **Islamists** in Aso Villa are presently executing.

Muslim Brotherhood's manual provides stages and processes for the realization of its objectives as well as how to conduct a civilized jihad. Civilized jihad, according to Sharia, is a pre-violent form of jihad which is considered an integral element of jihad. The object of the stealth jihad is the same as the violent one that is **to subjugate the population so that non-Muslim would be subsumed under sharia**.

# CIVILIZED JIHAD

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The Muslim Brotherhood also provided techniques to its organizations to achieve **civilized jihad** and they include:

- Expanding the Muslim presence by birth rate, immigration, and refusal to assimilate; note explains refusal to be vaccinated for polio
- Occupying and expanding domination of physical spaces; [Grazing Reserves]
- Ensuring the “Muslim Community” knows and follows Muslim Brotherhood’s doctrine;
- Controlling the language we use in describing the enemy;
- Ensuring we do not study their doctrine
- **Co-opting key leadership;**
- **Forcing compliance with shariah at local levels;**
- **Fighting all counterterrorism efforts;**
- **Subverting religious organizations;**
- Employing law-fare - the offensive use of lawsuits and threats of lawsuits;
- Claiming victimization/demanding accommodations;
- Condemning “slander” against Islam;
- Subverting educational system, in particular, infiltrating and dominating Middle East studies programs;
- **Demanding the right to practice shariah in segregated Muslim enclaves;**
- **Demanding recognition of shariah in non-Muslim spheres;**
- **Confronting and denouncing Western society, laws, and traditions; and**
- **Demanding that shariah replace Western law. [Emphasis supplied]**

We need to appreciate that many of the aforementioned techniques entail, in one way or another, influencing and neutralizing non-Islamists at all levels, techniques that have been employed severally in Nigeria. It is not out of place that the Islamists in Nigeria an extension of Muslim Brotherhood whose presence have been in Nigeria years before 1975 has finally infiltrated Christian organizations and leadership. **“The NCEF know as a fact, that since the late 70s and thereafter, many individual Christians, Priests and Pastors were recruited by the Intelligence Service to promote and protect the New Ideology of Islamism based on Sharia as opposed to Democracy. Priests and Pastors must in these circumstances be careful not to do anything or say something to suggest that they are Mukhābarāt – Arabic word for operatives and agents of the Secret Service employed to mount surveillance on fellow Christians”, in the promotion Islamism.** Christians must be vigilant with eagle eye to fish out those Islamists in their midst who aim is to weaken Christians understanding and resolve.

## SECRET POLICE – “MUKHARABAT”

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Perhaps the most important subject that requires a Truth Commission is the Mukhabarat – Secret Police. It will be recalled that Babangida conducted his transition over a long period when old politicians were banned from politics to create room for the new breed. Thereafter a number of the new breed politicians were empowered. New agencies were created for internal and external security. The diplomatic service also absorbs some of these security personnel. With the spate of retirement beginning with Murtala Mohammed purge, very many young men and women in the Armed Forces and Police were retired.

As Kukah wrote in 1993 “the administration has combined the politics of divide and rule such as was devised by the colonial administration with the politics of what has turned

the state into a fiefdom. Babangida's regime has made sure that through keeping the civilian population engaged in a relay race of turmoil, he and his administration can achieve two things. First of all, the government has broken all organized opposition by sponsoring rival factions in all elections. This started with the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) then the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Students' Union, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) etc. In all these cases against the tide of popular opinion, the government-sponsored candidates, backed by federal might, have always won the election." [Religion, Politics and Power in Northern Nigeria, page 243] Then it was sponsoring rival faction in all elections. Now it is a complete take over. Some of these secret police became agent provocateurs and in some cases, down right, criminals. A closed door sitting of a Truth Commission becomes very necessary.

Those who were dismissed or retired unjustly were rehabilitated and made operatives, institutions were created to indoctrinate Nigerians of the need to jettison democracy for tradition including sharia. If these shadowy organizations and practices are not exposed, reconciliation of all Nigerians will be impossible and may lead to another civil war and ultimate breakup of the country into North and South. Above all, there can be no reconciliation without confession and forgiveness.

## TAQIYYA

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**(Lying, deceiving, illusion) Islam's most important ideological war tool**

**Quran 3: 28 Taqiyya, the holy deception**

Taqiyya ("al Taqiyya") is the Muslims' license to lie to infidels in order to camouflage Islam's holy war strategy (jihad) to conquer the world. The strategy mentioned through orders and solicitations in the Quran 3: 28 and other Islamic writings and reference

applies to all Western countries and against all infidels people (non-Muslims) who is not Islamic and therefore seen as a constant threat to Islam.

Quran 3:28 or Quran 3:28 are two different translations of the Quran verse and says exactly the same in summary:

"Let not the believers (Muslims) take the unbelievers for friends, or their companions instead for the believers (Muslims): if someone does, then you have no contact with Allah [They does not represent Islam anymore and can be killed]: unless Muslims take precautions, and plays fake (Guard yourselves from them) [Which means that Muslims say that they are unbelievers (non-Muslim's) best friends when in fact they hate them ].

One of the so-called largest Islamic commentators and historians of all "Ibn Kathir" commented the above sura (chapter) 3 and verse 28 of the Quran and said that "Muslims are allowed to show friendship outwardly, but never inwardly)." Another renowned scholar among Muslims, "Al-Bukhari" commented by saying that "We [Muslims] smile in the face of some people [non-Muslims] although our hearts curse them".

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## UNITY:

The church must immediately close ranks and suspend all acts of internal division, rivalry and ill-will. The church must be united to confront a common foe. As the Lord makes clear, “a house that is divided cannot stand.”

The Elders Forum is not by this call trying to belittle some of the grievances the brethren have against each other, but this is the time to remember and apply the Word of the Lord, **“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” Col. 3: 13**

It is clear that Christians may not be able to achieve unity of doctrine, since most denominations and ministries have different foundations and origins. However, the church should insist on **“unity of the Spirit”**. **Eph. 4: 3 – 6** The Nigerian church must lay more emphases on the things that unite Christians and on which there is general consensus, rather than on the flimsy and temporal things that threaten to divide them. Emphases should be on salvation through Jesus Christ only, redemption through the blood of the Lamb of God, the communion of the Holy Ghost, the sanctity of the Word of God, and so on. These are the critical issues in Christendom.

The Nigerian church must pursue reconciliation and mutual acceptance. The strength of the church lies in its unity, therefore, every effort must be made to ensure that it is sacrosanct.

## SOCIAL PLATFORM

The Church has to redefine its theology on politics and encourage brethren who believe they are called by God to participate in Governance to do so. If Christians do not get actively engaged in Governance, then they would have abdicated their Constitutional rights to Muslims.

**It is imperative that a new mindset be nurtured for Christians that they are not *dhimmis* (second class citizens). An unhealthy competition is noticeable in preparation for 2019 elections in which Christian Governors from the South are jostling for the position of Vice-Presidential candidate to a Muslim Presidential candidate from the North. Even if the North should produce the next President, why can it not be a Christian from the North? Besides, after the current Muslim President from the North, why can't a Christian either from the North or South seek the office?**

It should also be noted that there are about 40 political parties in the country and most of the registered parties are controlled by the Islamists. The Church requires a political platform that will reflect its values and protect its interests. Christians should agree on such a political platform and throw their combined weight behind it so that the manipulation of State power against the Church and against Christians shall cease.

### **CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS:**

Bearing in mind the need to build strong Christians institutions, the church in Nigeria must strengthen CAN and train Christians to respect and revere it. This must be done irrespective of which bloc produces the leadership or who has been elected the leader of Christendom. The authority of CAN must remain sacrosanct and no church leader shall be permitted to act independently or disrespectfully towards CAN.

In addition, other Christian institutions like NCEF should be built around CAN to act as pillars for the institution. These should include the Trust Fund, Centre for Democracy Development, Interdenominational Relations Commission, Christian Regulatory Body and so on. The officials of CAN are also to desist from politicization of the church as well as all forms of government patronage.

All Christian leaders and Christian assemblies shall henceforth submit to the authority of CAN. Sanctions shall be applied to any erring ministry or minister of the gospel.

The youths and other members of the church must be trained to respect CAN as the leading Christian institution in the country and develop the habit of protecting it rather than ridiculing it.

The leadership of CAN must also strive at all times to be above board and reproach.

### **CHRISTIAN FUNDING:**

An institution that cannot fund itself cannot be respected. Therefore, the Nigerian church must build institution around CAN to fund it. The CAN Trust Fund should receive the support and cooperation of all the arms of the church.

Funding should flow from the National Secretariat of CAN to all the arms of CAN at the Zonal, State, and Local Government levels. With funding coming from the Trust Fund, CAN officials should be discouraged from seeking government support or patronage at any level.

### **NEW NATIONAL CONSTITUTION:**

It is a known fact that the present Constitution (1999) was a military document written to protect it (the military) from reprisal for misrule, graft and corruption. Nigeria thus requires a new Constitution, not an amendment of the 1999 Constitution no matter how elaborate the amendment would be. Speaking at a seminar organized by Ja'amatul Nasriliyyah (JANI) in Kaduna in February 2000, the former Chief Justice of the Federation, Mohammed Bello, observed in respect to Section 1 of the 1999 Constitution that, "This Constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the federation ... If any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void."

Justice Bello further noted that Section 38(1) of the Constitution ensures for every person the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his

religion or belief. However, under Sharia, “‘ridda’ is a capital offense and the offense of ‘ridda’ is inconsistent within Section (1) and by virtue of Section 1 is unconstitutional”

Justice Bello’s comments highlight the incompatibility between the 1999 Constitution and Sharia. To take this point further, the 1999 Constitution can be considered to be fatally flawed in that its preamble states that, **“We the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having firmly and solemnly resolved to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation under God, dedicated to the promotion of inter-African solidarity, world peace, international co-operation and understanding: And to provide for a Constitution for the purpose of promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country, on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our people. Do hereby make, enact and give to ourselves the following constitution.”**

This avowal illustrates that the 1999 Constitution is flawed at the most basic level, at its very foundation, and **a fatally flawed document cannot be cured by amendment.**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT:**

The church must be in the vanguard of the demand for the implementation of the Report of the National Conference. Since APC condemned the National Conference and refused to send any representative, one could easily foresee that the President-elect might develop cold feet on its implementation.

The church must be vociferous in its demand for the implementation of the Report.

### **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION:**

A Truth and Reconciliation exercise called by other names such as Tribunal or Commission should be undertaken by the nation. As a matter of fact, one is of the view that such Commission is imperative for the co-existence of all the diverse Ethnic Nationalities and religions in the country.

A Truth Commission is necessary after military rule otherwise we are liable to make mistakes as we did in the 1970, 1980s, and 1990s. This fact also explains why and how a former dictator became a president. The president needs purification and this he can do by setting up such Commission and therefore ask for forgiveness. He needs cleansing.

## **CHRISTIAN STANDARD**

To guard against the infestation of the church by all sorts of characters as ministers of the gospel, the church should establish a regulatory body that will sift through the various churches and accredit credible assemblies. The church must enforce discipline on itself so that it can remain respected and focused on its Biblical assignments.

## **EQUITY AND MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE**

The various denominations in the church must cease provoking and offending each other. All structures that have been established over the years that promote denominational rivalry and contention should be dismantled.

## **SOCIAL REFORM**

The church is the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The church must champion the call and move for social reform in the nation. Teachings in the church should condemn corruption and promote contentment and integrity. Christians should be trained to be positive role models in the nation.

In addition, the church should return to the provision of social welfare services like free education, free health, and community service like provision of water, taking care of widows and orphans and so on.

## **DOCTRINAL SHIFT**

The Nigerian church should discourage the commercialization of the gospel and call the church back to discipleship, evangelism, missions, morality and contentment. The current obsession of many Christians to earthly wealth and indulgence should be discontinued. Ministries that promote such dilution of the gospel should be specifically called to order by the Regulatory Body to be set up by CAN.

## **ISLAMIZATION THREAT**

Christians must be deliberately informed and well educated about the threats posed by radical Muslims against the Christian faith and democracy in the nation.

More importantly, Christians must be well tutored to desist from becoming the “errand boy” for the sponsors of Sharia, irrespective of the inducement. The Christian faith must be protected at all costs by Christians.

## **NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ELDERS FORUM (NCEF) November 2016**

Mr. Solomon Asemota, SAN (Chairman), Gen. Joshua Dogonyaro (rtd), Prof. Joseph Otubu, Gen. Zamani Lekwot (rtd), Archbishop Magnus Atilade, Dr. (Mrs) Kate Okpareke, Dr. Ayo Abifarin, Bishop Joseph Bagobiri, Elder Moses Ihonde, Elder Nat Okoro, Justice Kalajine Anigbogu (rtd), Elder Shyngle Wigwe, DIG P. L. Dabup, Sir John W. Bagu, Dr. Saleh Hussaini, Elder Mike Orobator, Justice James Ogebe, JSC (rtd), Chief Debo Omotosho, Dame Priscilla Kuye, Dr. S. D. Gani, Prof. Vincent Anigbogu, Mrs. Osaretin Demuren, Dr. Musa Asake, Pastor Bosun Emmanuel (Secretary)