

# **ERRORS**

*OF*

# **TERROR**

**Towards Checking**

**Bombings, Kidnapping and other forms of Terrorism**

**A HANDBOOK OF AVOIDANCE FOR THE NIGERIAN YOUTH**

**By**

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**With contributions from Dr Trinity Ogar**

# INTRODUCTION

This handbook is designed to re-orientate the Nigerian youth on the dangers of taking to terrorism, kidnapping and other corrupt tendencies which are fast consuming our national life.

Recently, our country just began featuring very high in the global survey of terrorism and hostage taking. It is more worrisome that this is happening at a time when the government is talking of re-branding Nigeria. Ransom kidnapping has taken the centre stage in re-branding the country.

As the problem grew into a national security crisis, the initial targets and victims were foreigners working in the oil and gas sector, but the kidnapers have since expanded their nets to cover Nigerians; children, relatives of rich people and political figures particularly their wives and parents. The business elite, expatriates and others who they believe can pay. The situation has become so bad that no prominent Nigerian and even expatriates can walk freely on the streets of most of our cities without escorts. And the situation appears even worse given the weakness of the state security infrastructure in place in Nigeria. Our people are not afraid of taking the laws into their hands because they believe that the state and its institutions are inefficient. The kidnapers are so bold and have no regard for the law irrespective of recent provisions like death sentence and other severe punishments accorded such inhuman acts.

Today, the bombing regime is here. It has grown from the bombing of lives and

property which we witnessed at the inception to a more dreadful dimension known as suicide bombing. In this new twist both the bomber and his targets are wasted in each expedition. We have recent cases in Abuja involving the Nigerian Police Headquarters and the UN building where several lives and property were destroyed helplessly.

In a recent development which lends credence to the negative effects of the activities of terrorism, the United States Department of State in a post to the internet on October 13, 2011, warned her citizens against the risks of travelling to Nigeria, and continues to recommend to her citizens to avoid all but essential travel to the Niger Delta states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers; the Southeastern states of Abia and Imo; the city of Jos in Plateau state, Bauchi and Borno States in the Northeast and the Gulf of Guinea because of the risks of kidnapping, robbery, and other armed attacks in these areas.

This handbook therefore is designed towards discouraging the Nigerian youth from indulging into these unpatriotic acts, and further reveals the burning desire of the originators of the project towards ensuring a peaceful, healthy and progressive society for everybody.

**Tony Nwaru**  
**Project Editor**

# **PART 1**

## **TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA**

### **A BACKGROUND**

**Tony Nwaru**

Call it kidnapping, Militancy or Terrorism which sprang up in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria few years ago, was then seen as a tool of ideological struggle. But unfortunately, it has degenerated into large scale criminal activities involving ransom kidnapping and such related crimes.

These criminal activities by some of our youths have become very popular and are no longer restricted to the Niger Delta areas. With reported cases in different parts of Imo, Abia, Abuja, Kaduna and Kano, and other parts of Nigeria, this brand of terrorism has become a national phenomenon; the entire country is now a kidnapers' den. As at 1999, the situation was not this bad as you can only once in a while hear of ritual kidnapping mainly during election periods. Ritual kidnapping is normally linked to metaphysics while this new trend of ransom kidnapping is all about cash. By 2003, with increased agitation in the Niger Delta region, militant groups in the area such as MEND and the others had begun to kidnap oil workers to drive home their points about a re-negotiation of Nigeria and the Niger Delta stake in it. Gradually, the real intentions appear to have been abused by the activities of these elements who have now initiated ransom kidnapping as a means of livelihood to even Nigerian citizens who are not oil workers in the Niger

Delta region.

Nigeria is now featuring very high in the global survey of terrorism and hostage-taking and more recently, bombing and suicide bombing have crept in. And this is happening at a time the government is making effort in re-branding Nigeria. The ransom kidnapping menace is re-branding the country negatively. The disturbing aspect is that the kidnapers are so bold, and have no regard for the law. Another frightening thing associated with this trend is as if Nigeria is beginning to breed its own gang of psychopaths. These kidnapers according to those who have encountered them are heavily into drugs and alcohol. They wield dangerous weapons which they threaten to use at the slightest provocation. They humiliate and assault their victims with reckless abandon.

One recurring thing about the development is that most of the victims who have had the experience keep saying that the kidnapers are mostly young, and most of them educated people who complain about hunger and unemployment. Relatives of prominent politicians and top business people have been abducted. The question now is, will taking to kidnapping and hostage-taking give positive answers to the unemployment saga in our nation? Will this ugly trend of ransom kidnapping improve the worth and image of the Nigerian youth in any way before the world? Of course not, rather the continuous persistence of this practice will be having more dangerous effects on both our national life and image. This is because Nigeria will be the one suffering. Nigerians are no longer safe in their own land, while investors are discouraged, because the country has become a high risk investment destination. In most nearby countries, you could walk on the streets freely no matter how highly placed you are. But in Nigeria you need body

guards to do so. With situation, will anyone expect tourists to troop to the country again like before, especially for spectacular events like the Calabar Carnival, Argungu Fishing Festival or for the Eyo Festival in Lagos. With hostage-taking and ransom kidnapping, the culture of hard work is being destroyed among our youths. The payment of ransom promotes a culture of extortion which reinforces a growing belief among Nigerian youths that hard work is old-fashioned. With this kind of impression in view, the failure of the Nigerian state looms, because the youths undoubtedly are the leaders of tomorrow.

The truth of the matter is that hostage-taking is spreading fast like wild fire as observed by Dr. Alex Ekwueme at a summit organized by the Alex Ekwueme Foundation recently. Handling of the matter can no longer be left to security agencies alone. We must devise other ways of educating and re-orientating the youths of our country on the dangers of indulging in such unholy acts. The provisions of the laws of the land are clear on the matter. Though, different state governments probably out of desperation have pronounced death sentences for culprits of the crime. Is it a good thing that we see our future leaders face death sentences as a result of taking to a lazy practice instead of genuine hard work as a means of survival? The creativity and tactics employed in the execution of this crime could be deployed into better and commendable options and they would come out excellently. While urging the government to work harder in ensuring the creation of more job opportunities for our teeming youths, there is no justification however to terrorism, hostage-taking and ransom kidnapping. This is because non of the culprits so far apprehended would be set free by a mere excuse of hunger and unemployment.

Nobody would think that the aspiration of any nation would be to see her youths committed to prison or made to face death sentences for any reason. The youths of this country as a matter of urgency and sincerity are advised to shun this ugly trend and tow the path of honor.

# **CONSEQUENCES OF TAKING TO KIDNAPPING AND OTHER FORMS OF TERRORISM**

## **ON THE NATION**

1. The negative effects of these ugly developments in our country are numerous as it is worrisome. Today, it is Nigeria that is suffering it as our people are no longer safe in their own land.
2. Secondly, investors are scared away. This is because nobody would want to risk his hard earned resources in an atmosphere of chaos and crisis.
3. The crusade on tourism development which has become major revenue earning for some countries will be suffering a lot of setbacks if these crimes are not controlled. For instance, the annual Calabar Carnival and the Argungu Fishing Festival which normally parade tourists may be affected.
4. Summarily, the revenue base of the country will be on the declining side from any angle you look at it, and it will not be in the interest of the nation. For instance, during the agitations in the Niger Delta, the local militant terrorism that sprang up in most corners which culminated in the destruction of oil pipelines dealt a serious blow on our economy.

## **ON THE CULPRITS**

Unemployment, poverty and hunger have been given as reasons by the culprits who are most times our educated youths for indulging in these crimes. We quite appreciate the unemployment situation in the country, and are continuously urging the government to put in more effort towards creating jobs for our youths. But is that enough reason for taking to this ugly trend which in most cases



destroys the psyche of most of the perpetrators.

1. Have the perpetrators of the crimes considered the legal punishments attached to these heinous crimes when caught? What about their image in the society and what becomes of their future? Do they consider the stigma and shame which transcends to their families in the event of their being caught?
2. Today, probably out of desperation to curtail these crimes, many state Governors and their Houses of Assemblies have attached death penalties to these crimes. Do the culprits who are mostly our youths consider their lives and the fact that they can attract untimely deaths through this lazy practice? This is because if one is caught in the act, the law is not going to consider that you are unemployed and set you free. You will be made to face the full wrath of the law.
3. By indulging in hostage-taking and ransom kidnapping, the culture of hard work is being destroyed. The payment of ransom promotes a culture of extortion which reinforces a growing belief among Nigerian youths that hard work is old fashioned. Our youths should rather learn to be creative in the face of unemployment.

## ON THE PEOPLE/VICTIMS

1. The kidnappers according to those who have encountered them are heavily into drugs and alcohols. They parade dangerous weapons which they threaten to use at the slightest provocation. There have been cases where the victims die out of recklessness.
2. Top business people, politicians and relatives of rich people can no longer walk freely in their land without the fear of being harassed, robbed, killed or kidnapped.
3. The trauma, torture, forced imprisonment and sometimes rape which may not be reported because of the stigma, in the hands of these kidnappers by a people in their own land leaves much to be desired.
4. Being successful now appears to be problem in Nigeria as owning and driving of good cars and living in good homes are some of the most popular attractions of kidnappers.

# **PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST KIDNAPPING**

Kidnapping by strangers are usually rare and difficult without internal connections. While we have x-rayed the consequences of kidnapping to both the perpetrators of the crime, the victims and the society at large, we also believe that for this educative material to really serve its purpose optimally, it is compulsory that we look at some tips and strategies that could serve as preventive measures against kidnapping for potential victims. This aspect is considered more useful especially in situations where the police are usually at a disadvantage to rescue victims most times owing to attitude of some victims' families who are most times generally reluctant to cooperate for fear of losing the life of the victim. In order to assist parties, the following precautionary or preventive measures become imperative.

## **1. KIDNAP PREVENTIVE MEASURES BY THE PARENT**

- They should have secure procedures for recruitment and monitoring of staff-drivers, domestic help etc.
- This will include identification and address proofs, referrals and retaining photographs of staff.
- Security should be upped if there are reasonable grounds for caution, like a disgruntled sacked staff.
- The child should be taught at the earliest time how to use the phone to tell the parents' name and address.
- Any change in the behaviour or attitude of the child should be probed. This can be due to fear or risky habits.
- Interaction with the school and be part of its safety programmes.

- The child should be taught the safety protocols of dealing with strangers or recognizing deviant behaviours of known persons.
- Keep an eye on the online activity of the child
- Import self defence training for the child-preferably a system which is natural and intuitive.

## **2. KIDNAP PREVENTIVE MEASURES BY THE SCHOOL**

- Dropping and pick up of students to be monitored in person if possible.
- Identification tags could be provided to drivers or whoever picks up students, which must be verified by the school security.
- To devise a system to detect unannounced absence of a student as soon as possible.
- Conduct safety awareness programmes to educate students and parents on preventive methods
- The school should have an escalation procedure in place, to prevent chaos and confusion during a crisis. This saves precious time.
- Impart self-defence classes to the students especially the type that does not depend on strength or fitness but useful for small defendant against a bigger aggressor.

### **3. OTHER USEFUL PREVENTIVE TIPS FOR BOTH**

#### **PARENT AND CHILDREN:**

When talking with your children, it is advisable to acquaint them with the following preventive measures as proffered by some crime preventive specialists.

##### **1. EXPLAIN THE DANGER**

Parents most time tell their children *“Don’t go with strangers”*. This is vague and doesn’t help children protect themselves. This is because most kidnappings are arranged by close relative. The better advice would be, *“If you are lost or need help, sometimes its okay to ask strangers for assistance, but strangers shouldn’t be asking for help or to go with them. You should not go somewhere with strangers unless you need their help in an emergency.*

##### **2. WHO IS A STRANGER?**

A stranger is anyone you don’t know. Make an agreement regarding who is safe to go with, and that they must say **“No”** to anyone else, no matter what! Teach your child to stay at least arms’ length away from a stranger who approaches them.

##### **3. DON’T BE POLITE IN THE FACE OF TROUBLE**

Parents should teach their child that it is okay to be assertive to strangers especially in the face of danger.

##### **4. HOME AND PHONE SAFETY**

Teach your child not to open the door to strangers except in a real emergency. Explain what an emergency might be, such as medical problem

or fire outbreak. Tell them not to answer probing questions from strangers. Tell them to call you whenever such situations arise.

## **5. PICK THEIR ROUTES AND STAY IN GROUPS**

Avoid lonely areas, parking lots and spontaneous shortcuts. Choose areas where anything out of the ordinary would be noticed by neighbours, business owners, pedestrians etc. Most importantly help them avoid isolation. Arrange for them to walk with trusted adults and friends. Consider providing them with a cell phone so that they can call for help.

## **6. MAKE A CODE WORD:**

Teach the child a code word. If a visitor comes to get them, the visitor must know the code word, or the child should not go with them.

7. Parents should teach their children to identify trusted adults, pick stores, schools, churches, and homes of safe neighbours. Make sure your child knows these safe places so that they can go to them if they need help. This is because it's generally safer if the child picks the adult.

## Part 2

# THE BOMBING REGIME

By Malcolm Tagbarha

In general terms, terrorism in the form of suicide bombing is clearly a re-oiled armament now being utilized by sectarian religious group as counter measure to strongly perceived sociopolitical oppressive machinery. It is a form of recourse to self-help from a weakling who had arisen beyond reigning helplessness of the majority oppressed and wanted to strike the “oppressor” mightily; but this action has to be justified and assumed would be appropriately rewarded with a placement in an after-death paradise. On this religion serves the role to cover the deed as a spiritual mission that guaranteed a glorious exit to the paradise beyond.

For half a decade, Nigeria has recorded a harvest of bomb blasts in different parts of the country.

Beginning from 1986, the menace had spread from one major city to another with those behind the evil act not sparing very sensitive locations.

This has led to heavy loss of lives, maiming of innocent persons and massive destruction of valuable properties, including public buildings.

The first ever bombing in Nigeria, which claimed the life of the founding editor-in-chief of Newswatch magazine, Mr. Dele Giwa, remains unresolved with many groups and individuals persistently calling for justice.

In many recent blasts, however, some militant groups have claimed responsibility, especially since the restoration of civil rule on May 29, 1999.

Groups such as the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) — which threatened to detonate bombs at the Eagle Square venue of the 51st independence anniversary celebrations — and more recently, Boko Haram sect

which have claimed responsibilities for most of the deadly blasts in which several lives were lost. Below is a chronological sequence of the blasts in Nigeria in the last 25 years:

- October 19, 1986: bombing of Dele Giwa in his study in Ikeja, Lagos.
- May 31, 1986: bomb explosion at Ilorin Stadium at the launch of Family Support Programme
- January 18, 1996 at Durbar hotel in Kaduna with suspected bomber killed
- January 20, 1996: bomb explosion at Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano
- April 11, 1996: Ikeja Cantonment bombing
- April 25, 1996: bombing at Ikeja Air Force base.
- November 14, 1996: bombing at MurtalaMuhammed International Airport, which claimed the life of the chief security officer,
- December 16, 1996: bomb blast on retired Brigadier General BubaMarwa's convoy
- December 18, 1996: bombing of a bus belonging to the Lagos State Task Force on Environmental Sanitation
- January 17, 1997: a Nigerian army bus hit by bomb
- April 22, 1997: bomb blast kills three at Evans Square in Lagos.
- December 13, 1997: Lieutenant General OladipoDiya narrowly escaped death by bomb blast at Abuja airport.
- May 12, 1997: bomb blast at the front of Federal Ministry of Works and Housing on Eleyele Road, near Jericho Hospital, Ibadan, Oyo State.
- January 27, 2002: bomb blasts at Ikeja Cantonment with more than 1,000 dead.



- March 15, 2010: bomb blasts in Warri during an Amnesty Dialogue organized by Vanguard newspaper.
- October 1, 2010: bombing at Nigeria's independence golden jubilee with Niger Delta militants claiming responsibility.
- April 8, 2011: bombing of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office in Suleja, Niger State.
- January 1, 2011 bombing at an Abuja army mammy market.
- April 26, 2011: bombing in Maiduguri, Borno State.
- May 29, 2011: bombing at an army barrack in Bauchi.
- June 1, 2011: bombing of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Maiduguri
- June 2, 2011: bombing of Borno State Epidemiological Centre
- June 16, 2011: bomb explosion killed four children at Damboa town, Maiduguri.
- June 16, 2011 bombs detonated by Boko Haram sect at Louis Edet House, headquarters of Nigeria Police Force in Abuja.
- August 26, 2011: car bomb hit United Nations (UN) building in Abuja claiming many lives with Boko Haram claiming responsibility.

## **An Insight into what motivates the Suicide Bomber**

Suicide bombing attacks have become a weapon of choice among terrorist groups because of their lethality and ability to cause mayhem and fear. Though depressing, the almost daily news reports of deaths caused by suicide attacks rarely explain what motivates the attackers. Between 1981 and 2006, 1200 suicide attacks constituted 4 percent of all terrorist attacks in the world and killed 14,599 people or 32 percent of all terrorism related deaths. The question is **WHY?**

## Practical Insights into some misconceptions of Suicide Bombers

1. Evidence from research has largely discredited the common wisdom that the personality of suicide bombers and their religion are the principal cause. It shows that though religion can play a vital role in recruiting and motivating potential future suicide bombers, the driving force is not religion but a cocktail of motivations including politics, humiliation, revenge, retaliation and altruism. The configuration of these motivations is related to the specific circumstances of the political conflict behind the rise of suicide attacks in different countries.
2. Apart from one demographic attribute – that the majority of suicide bombers tend to be young males – the evidence has failed to find a stable set of demographic, psychological, socioeconomic and religious variables that can be causally linked to suicide bombers' personality or socioeconomic origins. With the exception of a few cases, their life stories show no apparent connection between violent militant activity and personality disorders.
3. Typically, most suicide bombers are psychologically normal and are deeply integrated into social networks and emotionally attached to their national communities. Randomly attached labels such as "mad" denote one's inability to fathom the deeper reasons but don't advance our understanding of the causes of the phenomenon of suicide bombing. Rather, they impede us from discovering its real nature, purpose and causes.
4. Understanding the terrorist organization's logic is more important than understanding individual motivations in explaining suicide attacks. Suicide bombings have high symbolic value because the willingness of the

perpetrators to die signals high resolve and dedication to their cause. They serve as symbols of a just struggle, galvanize popular support, generate financial support for the organization and become a source of new recruits for future suicide missions.

5. Suicide bombings serve the interests of the sponsoring organization in two ways: by coercing an adversary to make concessions, and by giving the organization an advantage over its rival in terms of support from constituencies. Contrary to the popular image that suicide terrorism is an outcome of irrational religious fanaticism, suicide bombing attacks are resolutely a politically-motivated phenomenon.
6. Humiliation, revenge and altruism appear to play a key role at the organizational and individual levels in shaping the sub-culture that promotes suicide bombings. Humiliation is an emotional process that seeks to discipline the target party's behavior by attacking and lowering their own and others' perceptions of whether they deserve respect.
7. People tend to have a strong aversion to what they perceive as injustice, with the dark side manifested as revenge. One consequence of the desire for vengeance is an individual's willingness to endure sacrifice to fulfill the act. Contemplation of revenge can appear to achieve a range of goals, including righting perceived injustices, restoring the self-worth of the vengeful individual and deterring future injustice.
8. The meaning and nature of suicide in a suicide bombing are strikingly different from ordinary suicide. Suicide bombing falls into the category of altruistic suicidal actions that involve valuing one's life as less worthy than that of the group's honor, religion, or some other collective interest.

Religiously and nationalistically coded attitudes towards acceptance of death, stemming from long periods of collective suffering, humiliation and powerlessness enable political organizations to offer suicide bombings as an outlet for their people's feelings of desperation, deprivation, hostility and injustice.

9. For the individual, participating in a suicide mission is not about dying and killing alone but has a broader significance for achieving multiple purposes – from personal to communal. These include gaining community approval and political success; liberating the homeland; achieving personal redemption or honor; using martyrdom to effect the survival of the community; refusing to accept subjugation; seeking revenge for personal and collective humiliation; conveying religious or nationalistic convictions; expressing guilt, shame, material and religious rewards; escaping from intolerable everyday degradations of life under occupation, boredom, anxiety and defiance. The configuration of these purposes varies and is an outcome of specific circumstances of the political conflict behind the rise of suicide attacks as a tactic and a weapon.

10. Suicide bombings are carried out by motivated individuals associated with community based organizations. Strategies aimed at finding ways to induce communities to abandon such support would curtail support for terrorist organizations. Strategies for eliminating or at least addressing collective grievances in concrete and effective ways would have a significant, and, in many cases, immediate impact on alleviating the conditions that nurture the subcultures of suicide bombings. Support for suicide bombing attacks is unlikely to diminish without tangible progress in achieving at least some of the fundamental goals that suicide bombers and those sponsoring and supporting them share.

## **What are the causes of suicide bombing?**

The causes of suicide bombing lie in group dynamics. The public usually attributes suicide bombing to individuals with terrorist mentalities. In reality, suicide bombing results from interactions within a group that create ideological extremism. A political and socio-psychological analysis can explain how suicide bombing occurs. It also lies not in individual psychopathology but in broader social conditions. Understanding and knowledge of these conditions is vital for developing appropriate public policies and responses to protect the public.

### **Formation**

Individuals form a group that advocates suicide bombing. Suicide bombing is most associated with religious fanaticism, but it is fanaticism and not religion itself that is responsible. Rather, religion is the ideology that forms the group. When individuals form a group based on an ideal, they tend to influence the thinking of each other. This causes the group's opinion on the ideal to become more extreme as a whole. The result is a group with a radical stance.

### **Participation**

The group contains individuals that become suicide bombers. People tend to think that something must be wrong with suicide bombers individually for them to act in such a destructive manner. Contrary to popular opinion, suicide bombers are not necessarily uneducated, crazy or easily manipulated. Most suicide bombers are ordinary people who are simply subjected to social pressure. As group members interact, they can establish a stronger group identity to the point that they become mutually willing to sacrifice themselves for their cause. Suicide bombers are not attracted to the group, they arise within it.

## **Environment**

The political climate leads a group to dispatch suicide bombers. What is presently playing out in Nigeria is a case in point. These situations give groups a reason to act upon their extremist ideology, using suicide bombing as a tactic. Political climate can also cause these groups to form in the first place.

## **Consequences**

Today, terrorist attacks are a source of considerable concern to the Nigerian public and government. Suicide bombing can instill fear, increased unpatriotic mindset and mistrust of outsiders in Nigerians.

When people become aware of death, they associate more with their own groups and distance themselves from groups they see as different.

## **Perpetuation**

Terrorism potentially persists because people fail to understand the causes of suicide bombing, blaming personality instead of group processes. This misunderstanding allows opposing groups to continue upholding their extreme ideologies, attracting more members, acting out against each other and fostering an environment of political unrest.

## SPECIALTIPS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Certain behavioral characteristics of a suicide bomber have been identified and they include:

1. **The appearance of being nervous:** They may seem preoccupied or have a blank stare.
2. **Focused intent and vigilance:** Such an acute focus may result in no response to verbal or other contact.
3. **An awkward attempt to blend in:** Behavior will seem odd or overtly out of place.
4. **Avoidance behaviors toward authority:** If security is present, a suicide bomber tries to be inconspicuous.
5. **May be praying fervently to him/herself:** This gives the appearance of talking or whispering to someone. Keep in mind that many people talk to themselves and thus this behavior in and of itself has little meaning. Further, either of these behaviors could be confused with speaking on a cell phone headset.
6. Behavior may be consistent with that of a person without any future.
7. Profuse sweating that is out of synch with weather conditions.
8. Walking deliberately toward a specific object or target, often pushing their way through a crowd or around barriers. May show a high degree of focus or intent, especially if the target is in sight.
9. Lack of mobility of the lower torso may cause upper body stiffness. This is due to the bomb device that is strapped to the body. The increased use of backpacks may reduce or eliminate this element.
10. To smell better when going to paradise, the suicide bomber may use herbal- or floral-scented water.

## **ABDULMUTALLAB: An example of an error of terrorism**

When an individual in his prime age and with great professional potentials, readily give up his life as a suicide bomber in a mission coded spiritually but which in real term is clearly socio-political in content, calls for great concern. Below is the story of a young man with a clear and bright future going by his background and education, who was confused into wasting his life and future by indulging in terrorism.

The 26 years old Farouk Abdulmutallab is one of the 16 children of one of the richest men in Nigeria and a former chairman of Nigeria's foremost bank – First Bank – Alhaji Umaru Abdulmutallab. He had among others the best of education money can buy; he passed through British International School, Lome, Togo and he was also at the University College, London, UK.

### **Recapping the suicide attempt story:**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, 2009, he travelled from Ghana to Amsterdam, where he boarded Northwest Airlines Flight 253 en route to Detroit. He had purchased his ticket with cash in Ghana on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Abdulmutallab was recalled to have spent 20 minutes in the bathroom as the flight approached Detroit, and then covered himself with a blanket after returning to his seat. Other passengers then heard popping noises, smelled a foul odour, and some saw Abdulmutallab's trouser leg and the wall of the plane on fire. Fellow passenger Jasper Schuringa, a Dutch film director, jumped on Farouk and subdued him as flight attendants used fire extinguishers to douse the flames. He was then taken towards the front of the airplane cabin and was seen to have lost his trousers due to the fire, and had burns on his legs. When asked by a flight attendant what he had in his pocket, he replied: "Explosive device." The device consisted of a six-inch (15-cm) packet which was sewn into his underwear containing the explosive powder PETN, which became a plastic explosive when mixed with the high explosive triacetone triperoxide (TAPN). Abdulmutallab, a



London University College graduate in Mechanical engineering, created the explosive by mixing PETN with TAPN and other ingredients.

The media reported that after taken into custody, Abdulmutallab told authorities he had been directed by Al-Qaeda, and that he had obtained the device in Yemen.

Abdulmutallab was charged on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, with two criminal counts: attempting to blow up and placing a destructive device on a U.S civil aircraft. Additional charges were added in a grand jury indictment on January 6, 2010, including attempted murder of 289 people. He is presently incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution, Milan, Michigan, while awaiting further legal proceedings. If he is convicted on the charges, he will face a life sentence plus 90 years in prison.

## THE LESSONS:

One thing that readily comes to mind after reading Abdulmutallab's story is the gain in the venture he set out to accomplish. If he had succeeded in bombing the plane, all the 289 people on board including his own life would have been lost. As he was caught in the act he has been confined to detention since then, and may be bagging a life imprisonment any moment from now. So one is confused as to what the gain would have been that got so attracted to Abdulmutallab to the point of signing on to such a deadly deal. His entire life and all his parents' sufferings on him gone with so much ridicule and pains. To the average Nigerian youth, I throw this question. **Is this the best way to reward our parents' love and care?** Even when we tend to disagree with certain government policies, peaceful dialogue still remains the best option. Nothing on earth can justify the taking either one's own life or those of other people.

## How to curb suicide bombing

Certainly, we experience a deep feeling of sorrow, of pathos, even though we can never feel the horror and psychological disintegration of surviving loved ones and their families. But even though we harbor disgust and hatred toward the killer, there is an entrenched feeling of frustration--there is no way to retaliate against the dismembered suicidal bomber. It is far too late.

One method which may be disgusting, atrocious, immoral, unfathomable, and despicable but yet, would surely stop many of the fanatical bombings that take place where suicide to a terrorist means a quick exit from this life into an afterlife filled with vestal virgins and a life of joy and happiness.

This method suggests that a very small group of men would join together in absolute secrecy to obtain money and necessary weapons. This group must be so secretive and so dedicated to their mission, that they would suffer death before exposing one another or the anti-suicide bomber plan. None of these men want to kill for the sake of killing. All want to stop suicide bombings.

Though it will take extremely clever action with absolute caution to uncover the name of the bomber, where he lived, with whom he was affiliated before the planned assassinations could take place. As a reader could imagine, a suicide bomber in all probability would merely be a pawn for some radical organization. Getting correct information would not be easy.

But the anti-suicidal bomber group finally uncovers the bomber's correct name, what outfit he worked for, where he lived, and where his family lived. With that information, the assassination plan had to be worked out in such detail that others would not be killed and that the assassins would not be able to escape.

Better still, there is an extremely odd twist at the end of the story that will make a reader wonder about secrecy. Is it really possible to carry out such an assassination plan in total secrecy, or are other hidden eyes watching?

## **Summary**

By all reports, the public is at increasing risk of attack by terrorist organizations. Citizens have been asked to increase their vigilance and report suspicious individuals to reduce the chance of a suicide or homicide bombing. Terrorist groups often target their actions to inflict the most casualties and may choose mass gatherings to detonate an explosive device. The characteristics of suicide bombers discussed here are meant to increase your awareness level to recognize a potential problem. The issue of security can be best managed when every citizen take it as a personal responsibility to notify appropriate law enforcement personnel for further investigations and actions.

# PART 3

## ANTI-TERRORISM IN NIGERIA

### WISDOM KEYS FOR THE NIGERIAN YOUTH

DR. TRINITY M. OGAR

Terrorism is an act of using terror to achieve an intention or purpose. It is commonly associated with Violence and unwanted destruction of lives especially innocent lives and property.

Tracing the origin of terrorism, it is obvious that a group of people who were against the western way of life perpetrated a violent approach to their opinion and hence '**Terrorism**'.

We may need to ask ourselves a simple question. What is the root cause of terrorism?

Generally, terrorism from time has been attributed to two primary causes. The first is a sense of perceived injustice, and secondly, the differences in belief system. This is either religious belief, political, social, economic or ethnic.

In the Nigerian context, there are two principal forms of terrorism that has been recorded, first was the Militancy in the Niger Delta region of the country where was a strong violent approach towards the perceived injustice because of the poor social amenities and the under development of the Oil Rich Niger Delta Communities.

Recently, in the Northern Region of the country is the 'BOKO HARAM' which is terrorism against western Education. This however, stem out of differences in Religious believes.

It is discovered that in all these forms of terrorism, the category of people commonly used to execute this act are youths who are uneducated (Illiterate) or children of the under privileged in the society.

**For every Nigerian youth, I will recommend the following wisdom keys:**

1. Everyone has a glorious future, so do you? Where you are today is not your last bus stop. There is so much waiting for you in the future, so participating in terrorism is trading your future for vanity. If our president today, His Excellency, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR was involved in terrorism twenty years ago, maybe he would have lost his life in the process and would never have been a Governor much more a President.
2. There is no wisdom in sponsoring **Terrorism** without including your children in the act. If the art of terrorism is so good, why are the children of the sponsors not involved? Youths should be wise enough not to give themselves and their destinies for destruction by those who value only the lives and destinies of their own family members. Never allow yourself to be used or fooled.
3. **Integrity** (Good Name and Reputation) is the most valuable asset to anyone living on earth. Any trait of violence or terrorism is a dent on reputation and an indictment against a better future.
4. **There are better options to violence.** Violence should not be an option in any way towards resolving issues; if it must be in any situation, then it should be the last option. In all forms of terrorism, we see that no body, including even the authorities concerned, know actually what the grievance in most cases are, rather, what happens is the sudden experience of attacks to a point in most cases where so much destruction is usually recorded before communication will begin to infiltrate from unknown sources on the reason for the attacks.

Peaceful resolution and round table conference remain the best option. We should understand that in all our mistakes of the past as children or servants in life, if the only option our parents had was to use terrorism on us, then nobody would be alive today. I don't think anybody will be happy in any relationship where when you offend your spouse, the next thing you get without your knowledge is an attack on your life and your property. It is absolutely irrational.

5. We must bear in mind that the life we live is not for today alone, but for posterity. We should try to understand that there are people that will live after us. A generation lived before us, and another generation will live after us. What matters now is the legacy for the next generation. We must make

the generation especially our children proud and happy to have us as parents known with commendable legacies, and not for them to grow up regretting why God allowed them to be born into our lineage. Imagine that you are the son or daughter of the world famous terrorist, Osama Bin laden. Will you be proud to introduce yourself anywhere or to fill boldly an application form with your full names? Don't live selfishly and for yourself alone, live for your generation, and for the next generation unborn.

6. There is no wisdom to live a life of captivity. Terrorism is a life of self-captivity. **Let us realize these facts:** That a terrorist is both a threat to the society and his person. That is why we don't see terrorist walking freely on the street. They don't live a life of liberty. Why should one choose to be a menace to his or herself? Such that one is perpetually in hiding? Funny in all of this is that there will always be a day of reckoning that exposes the days and years of wickedness, and it comes with so much shame. Osama Bin laden was in hiding for years but that day came when he was apprehended and destroyed with so much reproach. Will any sane person be happy to choose to end like him?
7. Belief should be a personal thing. Don't coerce people towards your own belief. In our country Nigeria, our constitution and bye law provides for fundamental human rights. As decent, law abiding Nigerians, We should allow people to their belief and right rather than using violence to compel them to our own beliefs.
8. Every Nigerian, should be development oriented, our thought pattern and actions every time should be such that will move our country forward and not backward in development. If in every year we are losing so many lives and property, then, the dream of recording our country as a developed country will remain a mirage.

**Let us therefore hands off terrorism so that our country can move forward to a glorious state.**

9. There is a popular proverb that says "Don't rob peter to pay paul" Terrorism is like robbing peter to pay Paul. Conversely, fighting injustice with violence is creating injustice in another facet of the society. This implies that all of us must wage war against violence and any form of terrorism.
10. Let us be Determined against terrorism. Determination is it! This will compel us to be disciplined towards ethics and good morals. There is no offer good enough for anyone to become a terrorist. Anyone that makes

you such an offer should **Please First Take the Lead and Publicly too,** (especially the sponsors) before we can consider followership or not.

LIFE IS DEAR! OUR COUNTRY IS PRECIOUS! WE ARE SEEING **A BETTER NIGERIA COMING!** TERRORISM IS A THREAT AND DANGEROUS CANCERWORM! **Let's Say No To IT!!!**