

**ZAUREN HADIN KAN MALAMAI DA KUNGIYOYI NA JIHAR KANO
(COALITION OF ULAMA AND CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS, KANO
STATE)**

Email: KanoCoalition@gmail.com c/o Kano State Council of Ulama

STOP THIS CARNAGE NOW!

**PRESS STATEMENT ON SECURITY SITUATION
IN KANO AND NIGERIA IN GENERAL**

PREAMBLE:

The series of detonated and failed bomb attacks in Kano City particularly those on *Sunday July 28*, and subsequent days, has made it pertinent for **Zauren Hadin Kan Malamai da Kungiyoyi na Jihar Kano** , a coalition of Kano based Religious and Civil Society Organizations, , Professional and Community Development Organisations to make a public statement, which we hope, if properly understood and utilized, will go a long way in dousing the rising tension, rekindling the candles of hope and helping Government and all relevant stakeholders in their collective bid to find a way out of this ever increasing menace of insecurity.

**HORRIFIC EVENTS ON A DAY OF
CELEBRATIONS**

Eid, in Islam, is a time when people are supposed to show love, care and concern for each other, when a Muslim is encouraged to spread happiness to all his neighbours irrespective of all material differences. But, barely a week after the twin assassination attempts on Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi and General Muhammadu Buhari in Kaduna, followed by the unfortunate row in Zaria that led to the unjustifiable shooting of more than 30 Shiites including 3 sons of their leader by soldiers, the good people of Kano woke up to a number of events that will remain among the worst forms of desecration to all they cherish and hold dear in their hearts.

First, a lady was stopped on her way to the Eid - Muslim festival prayer - ground and before the people knew what was happening she had blown herself up and wounded many. Next, another lady detonated a bomb among a group of people, most of whom are poor women line- up to purchase kerosene at the government regulated price, leading to her death, along with several others who were either killed or wounded.

Another heartless lady detonated yet another bomb at a popular amusement centre that was full of children gathered there for the celebrations. Here too, the callous lady died and wounded several others, most of whom are innocent children.

All these are in addition to the explosives located at various other locations, but which were successfully defused and removed from various locations.

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As if killing innocent women and children and attempting to detonate a bomb among thousands of Muslim worshippers at their Eid ground wasn't enough, another 'lady' detonated a bomb in the midst of young graduates trying to find their names among those on a list of NYSC posting.

These indeed are persistent attempts to set the region and by extension the entire Nation on a senseless war against an imaginary enemy for a useless goal using awful means.

But, let it be stated without mincing words that the Qur'an is explicit concerning prohibition of bloodshed and its evil consequences.

Islam forbids killing of innocent lives, warns against suicide and commands Muslims to be fair and just in all their dealings with people irrespective of their relationship with them. Specifically the Qur'an states that:

[O ye who believe! stand out firmly for Allah, As witnesses to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. be just: that is next to piety: and fear Allah. for Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do.] (Q5:8).

[... We ordained for the Children of Israel that if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief In the land - it would be As if He slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be As if He saved the life of the whole people. then although there came to them Our apostles with Clear Signs, yet, Even after that, many of them continued to Commit excesses In the land] (Q5:32)

OUR STAND ON THE ISSUES:

Based on the preceding, we wish to state our unequivocal condemnation of these senseless and barbaric killings targeted at innocent and oblivious citizens going about pursuing their legitimate engagements. We wish to state that these acts are purely criminal and forbidden in Islam without any iota of doubt. Those perpetrating these acts are criminals who deserve to be punished accordingly and for whose action nobody should be held responsible but them. Their actions are neither representative of any religious teachings nor protecting the interest of any group whose goal is the peace and progress of our dear Nation.

Furthermore, we wish to state that these, as with similar the assassination attempts on Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi and General Muhammadu Buhari have provided a clearer dimension to the reality of the current insecurity situation bedeviling the Nation. The fact that the possible victims of the carnage were a gathering of hundreds of thousands of Muslim faithfuls were targeted in the former, and a similar number of Northern supporters of the latter, shows clearly that the simplistic and naive interpretation of events

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within security and official circles where the insurgency is always associated with either a so-called Muslim or Northern agenda is no longer tenable.

Of course if indeed the aim is to force Islam upon non-Muslims in Nigeria as is been propagated by people like the CAN president Mr Oritsejafor or Olisa Metuh, the PDP spokesman, how then do you explain the attacks on one of the most respected Muslim Scholars, the frequent attacks on Muslim communities and sometimes brazen attacks on Muslim faithfuls during their worship? For example Reuters reported on April 6, 2014 that at Buni Yadi, a town in Yobe State, "People were praying in the mosque and they surrounded it and killed them" and other local media mentioned that the mosque was set on fire with the attendants observing their Isha' prayers!)

On a similar note, of what political gain will the insurgency be if General Buhari, the strongest Northern contender of the Presidency is assassinated by the insurgents created to actualize a "northern agenda" as been peddled by some myopic ethnic jingoists and desperate politicians?

Thus, it is indeed time for all stakeholders to take stock of the situation, accept that this is a real war against the corporate existence of Nigeria not a sectional or sectarian war been fought by, or for, any particular group in the country. The earlier we stop looking at the issue as a regional or tribal issue, go back to the drawing board and map out efficient strategies to tackle the menace the better for all of us.

We also wish to remind all that, this is not the first form of violent uprising occurring in this world. It is therefore pertinent for us to call for a thorough review of the situation, a redesign of our strategy and substitute it with more practical, humane and globally tested strategies. Since other nations have tried the scorched earth policy without success, our leaders should learn from their mistakes and consolidate on their gains towards establishing a just, peaceful and blended society.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF EVENTS:

Despite the above, once a genuine and permanent solution to the situation is to be found, we have to travel through memory lane and ask ourselves some critical questions on this insurgency, take a critical review of the situation and accept the need for a change of approach. To this end, we should ask and find answers to these and many similar, yet baffling issues related to the insurgency and its terrible consequences:

1. Who are behind it and for what purpose
2. What are their sources of funds, arms and ammunition?

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3. Why is it that despite months of emergency rule in many states of the North East, such attacks are almost always successfully executed, even though some occur in broad day light and for several hours
4. How do the insurgents move in convoys with ease, attack their targets and retreat safely, sometimes with their 'booty'?
5. Is it true that helicopters, RPG's, other heavy weapons and even armoured personnel carriers have been used in some attacks, as reported by a section of the media? If so, where are they from, how do they get to the insurgents? Who is supplying them with these deadly equipment?
6. Also, how do they fuel the vehicles, feed the fighters and maintain such a huge number of people and how can that be stopped?
7. Several persons involved with discussions aimed at negotiating a peaceful resolution with the insurgents have clearly accused some government officials/associates of frustrating the efforts on various occasions. Who are these persons, why are they doing that and in whose interest?
8. Remember that the original sect leader Muhammad Yusuf was murdered in cold blood after arrest; Buji Foi, his "treasurer" was similarly murdered by the Police, in his chains; Muhammad Yusuf's in-law and many other key persons died in similar circumstances. Why is it that whenever a lead is found that may help unravel the secret behind the insurgency, that lead is eliminated in mysterious circumstances?
9. Is Abubakar Shekau dead or alive, since there are conflicting claims on his life? If indeed he is alive, how and where does he go online and upload videos and messages?
10. This new wave of attacks being spearheaded, as it appears, by young teenage ladies, what is its goal, who are these ladies, who is sending them, how do they get the explosives, what is their goal?

THE WAY FORWARD:

It will be recalled that in our earlier press release on insecurity we suggested several measures that could be taken to control and curb the menace of this insurgency, including: Ceasefire and Dialogue; Changes in Security Measures; Compensation to victims (both uniformed men and civilians); Containment of Western Interference in our country's internal affairs and True Federalism which will allow Nigeria's multi-religious, multi-ethnic groups conduct their affairs in accordance with their cultural norms and values and observe their religious injunctions freely.

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We therefore wish to reiterate that those issues are not only relevant now, but have become more emphatic.

But, for the avoidance of doubt, we wish to state that Nigerian Army and the JTF as currently constituted, are ill-equipped to handle the problem that has now gone beyond combat and guerilla war and taken a crazy dimension. In addition, the JTF carries a huge stain of impunity, Human Rights violations and abuse which will make the necessary synergy needed with the civilian population very difficult.

Furthermore, some of the reasons for the escalation of the violence can be traced back to the failures, excesses and gross violations of all internationally acknowledged rules of engagement by the JTF.

Thus, no meaningful achievement will be attained until an independent think-tank is setup to deliberate and decide on all strategic issues in this senseless killing spree.

Finally we call on all Muslims to work towards justice and fairness, repent and seek forgiveness from Allah, perform Qiyam al-Layl (night prayers) seeking Allah's intervention, show humility to Allah and our passionate need for His Intervention to save this country from this path of destruction; Particularly, we should recite "Hasbunallahu wa ni'imal Wakeel" as often as we can.

We pray to Allah the Almighty to give speedy recovery to those who sustained injuries, give the relatives of all the deceased the fortitude to bear the loss and replace the losses incurred by all victims of this tragedy. May He protect our dear city and the Nation.

Signed:

Dr. Musa Muhammad Borodo

Coalition Chairman

Friday August 08, 2014.