

RURAL BANDITRY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

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Abstract

Basically, different kinds of violent conflicts have manifested in different parts of the world, including Nigeria. Indeed, over the years, the existence of non-state actors perpetrating conflicts in different parts of northern Nigeria has been a source of concern. Both the insurgents in the northeast, armed banditry terrorists and kidnappers in North West and North Central have certain things in common. Their activities are characterized by culture of unleashing violence on individuals and communities. This has been causing the death, maiming and kidnapping of individuals. The various armed groups that have been terrorizing people in the north and other parts of Nigeria are brutal in their behavior. Those who fall into their hands are usually maltreated and dehumanized. Thus, the spates of violent conflicts in the north have resulted to growing insecurity in the entire region. To this extent, insecurity has dominated life in both rural and urban centres of most affected communities. This has consequences on the socio-economic activities of individuals in the country. In this regard, farmers could not access their farms in some remote areas because of pervading insecurity. Also, the

situation has been creating fear in the minds of travellers on the highways across Nigeria. Therefore, the argument is that all the insecurity problematic in the north is an offshoot of the insurgency of Boko Haram. Also, it can be stated that the various conflicts have resulted in creating deep division among people along religion and ethnic lines in Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that the paper examines rural banditry in northern Nigeria and its implications on national security.

Key Words: Conflict, violence, banditry, insurgency, farmer-herder, insecurity.

Introduction

The Cold War has significantly transformed the world from a relatively tolerant and peaceful one to one driven by antagonism, intolerance and adversarial relations between people divided by identity question. This is resulting in the gradual rise of ideologies that are increasingly becoming the dominant factors determining the global future. These ideologies are dichotomizing the world into territories formed on the basis of religion, culture and ethnicity depending on context. Modernity and its values that prioritizes multiculturalism, the evolution of state structures and their bureaucracies, and a declining emphasis of religious epistemologies as core aspects defining the thrust of growth is being questioned or even rejected by these thoughts. This is the crux of Samuel P. Huntington's (1993) opinion expounded in his famous thesis called "The Clash of Civilization and the Remaking of World Order." Huntington (1993) was confident that the emerging thoughts to drive world affairs in the Post-Cold War era will be shaped by the formation of groups, mobilized by identity fault lines towards the recreation of the world on the basis of these identities. This is behind the unfolding phenomenon of insurgencies, terrorism, challenge against legitimate authorities and the constitution and the rule of law. It is also the factor responsible for the seizure of sovereign territories and the increasingly rise of religious movements (Comolli, 2018; Adesoji, 2018; Hassan and Pieri, 2018). Often, these efforts are accompanied by volatility and bloody confrontations between the state and non-state actors as emblemized in unsafe spaces like the Sahel, the fertile crescents and even the Caucasus.

Those behind these activities are usually some segments of people that pay allegiance to the Islamic faith (Hamid, 2016). It is in this context that some Muslims with extreme religious belief are championing political Islam or Islamism. As a movement Islamism is concerned with achieving the goal of establishing Islamic rules and values in a society (Moghadam, 2009; Kassim, 2018). The advocates of this kind of state of affair believe that their adventurism could be realized in any given society under any circumstance, including the use of force (Mohammed, 2018). The questions begging for answers are: what are the issues responsible for triggering this level of violence in northern Nigeria? Secondly, are these actors really Muslims or they are just elements driven by their pecuniary and self-driven interests? Some of the responses to these questions seem to be saying that their reason for attempting to overthrow modern institutions and their values aims at restoring the pristine values of Islam and its traditional ways of doing things. The advocates of this perspective insist that modernity is behind the corruption and decay the religion is contending with at the moment.

Theoretical Underpinning: An Overview

It is imperative that the analysis of deep-rooted social questions be underpinned and anchored within the framework of their theoretical pillars. Only this approach will guarantee an appreciable understanding of the issues behind the challenge (s) that is being interrogated. For instance, theories have the potential for revealing elements that are not easily deciphered ordinarily. With the aid of a theoretical compass however, our analysis can unearth the historical and contemporary context of social phenomenon like conflicts, appreciate their causal roots and even point to their triggers and actors. Theories can also recommend alternatives, pathways and options for the resolution of the challenges in their proper contexts. In this endeavor, some or a combination of multiple theoretical perspectives will be explored and adopted to analyze the myriads of conflicts in the study area.

Regarding the conflicts in northern Nigeria and even within the broader African epistemology, Dudley Seers (1972) attributes the factors of poverty, unemployment and inequality to process of development or lack of it in any given country. In this regard, it is presumed that the issue relating to crisis of development could trigger conflict in a society. In a similar vein, Alkali (1997) conceives that most of Nigeria's

conflicts and indeed African conflicts easily find roots in their environmental milieus, especially the aspects dealing with poverty, underdevelopment and inequality. However, the paper will recommend to researchers willing to deepen their studies on the farmer herder conflicts to rely on 'structural' and 'materialist' theories for explaining the conflict. One of the popular theories in this area is called environmental scarcity and violent conflict framework. The theory was propounded by Homer-Dixon (1994). It tries to establish connection between environment and conflict. The central premise of the theory is that as the world is experiencing rapid population growth with increasing economic activities, there will be scarcity of land and other factors of production. Homer-Dixon further maintains that environmental scarcity is caused by three factors, namely, environmental change, population growth and unfair resource distribution. According to the theorist, all the factors interact with one another to bring about environmental scarcity, which could generate conflicts between different groups that are in competition over scarce environmental resources in a society. As the competition becomes tense there is tendency that one group that is powerful will capture the scarce resources and marginalize a weak group. This is a situational point or moment that can lead to conflict between groups (Monguno, 2021).

Competition for the scarce resources of land and water is important to understanding the Farmer-Herder conflict in Nigeria. In the Farmer-Herder state of affairs, we can imagine that one group i.e. the herders, seeks to preserve an 'inherited nomadic way of life and identity' in addition to feed and water for their cattle. The other group i.e. farmers also seek to protect their 'ancestral lands and cultural heritage' in addition to farmlands as a source of their livelihoods (Uchendu, 2020). However, the material conditions in themselves are necessary but not enough because there are non-structural theories such as theories of culture/ethnicity and identity which could help to deepen understanding of why conflicts happen and are protracted especially in a culturally heterogeneous society like Nigeria (Uchendu, 2020).

Though the study covers intercultural, social and religious dimensions of the 'war for resources', there is a need for a better analytical balance between 'materialist' and 'non-materialist' interpretations of the causes of conflicts in Nigeria. Hence, it is critical to say that conventional theories like frustration aggression theory

(Dollard et al, 1939), failed state theory (Callaghy, 1987; Reno, 1998; Magstadt, 2009) will also be proffered as tools for analyzing the insecurity in question. In the first instance, frustration aggression theory (Dollard et al, 1939) put forward that an individual displays aggressive tendency whenever he or she witness frustration in the process of achieving certain objectives. This implies that frustration creates the condition for individual to respond to previous experience. Hence, aggression by individual over certain issue is seen as outcome of frustration (Okeshola, 2023; Ademola, 2006). As with other theories, frustration aggression theory suffers from the criticism that as far human beings are concerned not all frustrations lead to conflict. At another level, the failed state theory is premised on the basic issue that lack of effective and functional government that has the capacity to maintain law and order brings about weakness of state. Under this condition, a state is embroiled in a different form of conflicts (Callaghy, 1987; Reno, 1998). The conflicts are mostly triggered by warlords or rebels that usually challenge the central authority in a state (Magstadt, 2009).

The North and Manifestation of Violent Conflicts

Northern Nigeria, a previously peaceful region, has become the most dreaded part of the country in the last two decades. In fact, some members of the international security scholarship will even venture further to present the area as one of the most unsafe spaces in the world. Due to its unique socioeconomic and political context, the north is characterized by the eruption of violent conflicts, bloodshed and an increasing wave of humanitarian disaster and displacements within and beyond the frontier of the country. Within the last decade, the three zones of the region, namely, the North West, North central and the North east have been plagued by the onslaught of a rampaging ‘army’ of bandits and terrorists causing destruction to human lives and their material holdings. The consequence of the various acts of terrorism is that it generates fear and violence on the people in the country (Nwolise, 2012). The foremost of the three, the Northeast is recognized in global conflict literature as the epic center of the insurgency of Boko Haram. The terrorists have been causing havoc by killing individuals and destruction of property in Nigeria and neighbouring countries. Based on this, Kassim (2018:3) maintains that “over the course of less than two decades, Boko Haram has morphed from a jihadi movement operating

within Nigeria to a movement with a regional presence across multiple countries in West Africa and beyond.” The North West is home to fierce hordes of killer bandits that specialize in attacking farming communities across the region. These attacks result in killings and kidnapping of people including vulnerable categories and minors for ransom. In addition, other aspects of the violence in the region are associated with livestock rustling, stealing of food crops and land grabbing. Often, the activities of these bandits are preceded/and or succeeded by Gender Based and Sexual Violence against the victims of their attacks.

A misunderstood or deliberately distorted facet of the region’s conflict narrative the one in the North central commonly referred to as the farmer herdsmen conflict. The narrative in most extant literature explains the phenomenon as a conflict between two occupational groups, namely, the farmers and the herders. But a beyond a surface analysis of the conflict reveals that what is happening in the area is terrorism by a powerful AK 47 wielding category against defenseless communities constantly attempting to defend themselves against their adversaries (Caleb, 2020). A disturbing trend in the farmers-herders conflict in the north central is that it has been given a religious coloration as a fight between Muslims and Christians. Based on this, Amos (2023:140) avers that “gradually, the farmer-herder conflicts became tainted with ethno-religious sentiments because of the people involved. In the North Central of Nigeria, the herders are Hausa-Fulani Muslims, while the farmers are non-Hausa-Fulani Christians.” In the same vein, Muhammed et al (2023:1) maintain that:

For instance, in the first half of the year 2018, the report has it that more than 1,300 people were killed in clashes involving herders and farmers in different parts of Nigeria, especially in the Middle Belt, where hostilities between two groups had reached alarming proportions. Apart from the deaths that the violence caused Nigeria, it has further deepened disaffection between the sedentary Christians farmers and the Muslims dominated Fulani herders.

In another similar incidence, it was reported that on 23rd December 2023, bandits attacked 23 Plateau villages and killed 145 people in

Bokkos and Barikin Ladi Local Government Areas (Musa et al, 2023:4). The serial attacks on individuals and communities in Plateau States and other parts of Nigeria were roundly condemned by well-meaning Nigerians. In this regard, the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad condemned the killings and called on security agencies to be more proactive against the bandits and other criminals when he said that:

We only condemned such things but after condemning such activities by these bandits and criminals, what next? What are the rest of government who are supposed to protect our lives and property (doing)? Why do we keep on having these deaths caused by ourselves? Tudun Biri incident is still fresh with us and now the recent on the Plateau (Ibrahim et al, 2023:6).

Of course, all the conflicts highlighted, can be traced to common roots as causal factors. In addition, it is necessary to highlight the point that all the insecurity problematic in the north is an offshoot of the insurgency of Boko Haram. This is in the sense that it orchestrated dynamics that exacerbated the regions insecurities like the proliferations of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and the fluid movement and relocation of dislodged cells of criminal elements. Whenever the military and Civilian Joint Task Forces (CJTFs) threatened insurgents in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States (BAY States), they easily found refuge in other parts of the region like the North West and north Central Nigeria (Amos, 2023). In addition, some of the leaders of armed bandits like Dogo Gide have been claiming to fight for Islam and by implication, some of the groups have connections with Boko Haram insurgents and other international terrorist groups (Rufa'i, 2021).

Banditry: A Feature and Identity of Insecurity in Nigeria

Geographically, the 'Sahil' (Arabic) means 'coast or shore.' It is the vast land space stretching "along the Sahara deserts' southern rim from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, wedged between the desert to the north and tropical forests and Savannah to the South, the belt has a tropical semi-

arid climate” (<https://www.barons.com>news>, 2020). The Sahel is of course the domain of northern Nigeria and wide expanse of the territory called ungoverned spaces where criminal and terrorist activities thrive (Kwaja and Smith, 2020; George, 2020). Olapeju and Peter (2021) in their assessment of the drivers of banditry in the Northwest maintained that prominent among the drivers were the scarcely governed spaces i.e. the hinterlands, forestlands and borderlines of the region. According to Ibrahim (2023) the forest straddling Zamfara, Kaduna and Katsina states became the ungoverned territories where the activities of armed bandits and other criminals were prevalent. Thus, the bandits have been taking advantage of Nigeria’s porous borders to smuggle illicit arms and drugs so as to engender insecurity in the country. As such, there is an intricate relationship between drugs and armed banditry because the youth normally carry out their activities under intoxicating condition. In addition, the bandits have been relying on international syndicate groups to supply them with arms and drugs. It is for this reason that one can argue that both arms and drugs dealers are conflict merchants that fuel insecurity to a heightened level in Nigeria. The hinterlands are marked by widely spread rural settlements, separated by rangelands and farmlands and interspersed by diverse forested landscapes, some of which are dotted by wetlands, rocks and caves. The hinterlands are also far separated from the centres of governance at the local and state levels and grossly under-policed which makes them conducive for banditry (Olapeju and Peter, 2021).

Fundamentally, armed banditry is associated with nefarious activities that portray the perpetrators as villainous individuals that specialize in purveying violence. It involves all forms of criminal activities that are carried out by individuals in a society. It is perhaps for this reason that Hobsbawn (1981:17) conceives that “for the law, anyone belonging to a group of men who attack and rob with violence is a bandit, from those who snatch payrolls at an urban street corner to organized insurgents or guerillas who happen not to be officially recognized as such.” To this extent, banditry could be seen as a coordinated violent conflict that is unleashed by armed gangs on their victims. In the process of carrying out their operations, the bandits normally destroy and/or steal the property of their victims. In the context of Nigeria, it is well known that bandits normally capitalize on the use of dangerous weapons to wreak havoc on individuals and communities that

they have contact with. Based on this, Ibrahim (2023:32) avers that “Nigeria has been turned into a country where bandits/terrorists kill, maim, kidnap, rape and steal as they please and the perpetual response of government over the past two decades is empty assurances of dealing with them but no outcome is ever seen in terms of making them account for their crimes.” One distinguishing feature of armed bandits is that they do not have a permanent place or theatre of operations. They normally move from one point to another in order to attack villages, rustle cattle and kidnap individuals (Abdulyakeen, 2020). Since around 2011 when armed banditry started in Zamfara state the undercover activities of warlords who constitute themselves as leaders of armed gangs were not adequately checked by the authority. It is as a result of the development of different groups and cells by armed bandits in different parts of Nigeria that it became a serious challenge for the government to control and manage their activities. Consequently, the bandits do not only grow in numbers but also have access to the control of large weapons and ammunitions (Amos, 2023).

Scholarly writings have established that there has been connection one on one between armed banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping for ransom in Nigeria. From the beginning of the conflict, rural banditry is associated with cattle rustling where the bandits normally steal a large cachet of animals. However, it was the rapacious way cattle rustling were carried out by organized criminal syndicate networks that led to a situation whereby cows were no longer available in rural communities. This eventually led to escalation of kidnapping of individual for ransom in both rural communities and urban centres across Nigeria. The criminals that engage in kidnapping of human beings for ransom have been causing serious agony, economic woes and other forms of hardships to both the victims and their families. Based on this, Gyong and Asaka (2023: 165) maintain that “overall, kidnapping is a monster in today’s Nigeria. It has been a weapon in the hands of bandits and terrorists to sustain their evil practices.” Thus, the perpetrators of kidnappings usually operate in rural areas and highways along the bushes that connect rural areas to urban centres. For instance, in one of the numerous attacks by the bandits in recent time, it was reported that bandits attacked travellers and abducted over 30 people. The incidence took place in a bush called Dogon-Fili near Katari Village along Abuja-Kaduna highway (Isah et al, 2024:4). In most cases, the

bandits conduct their operations by attacking soft targets, such as schools, hospitals, markets, neighborhoods and suburb settlements in order to kidnap individuals. It is perhaps for this reason that Clement and Isamotu (2023:5) maintain that “the recent spate of kidnapping across states confirms that the security architecture of the country is still far from formidable to tackle the menace.”

However, it can be said that the responses to armed banditry and criminality in Nigeria are hinged on three prongs, namely the federal government’s efforts at fighting insecurity, the state governments’ establishment of security outfits and the different community mitigation initiatives to protect themselves. In these endeavours the kinetic approach of counter force has been deployed to manage the threats of insecurity in the country. It is on this basis that Amos (2023:151) maintains that “in a bid to curtail the menace of banditry in the country, the Federal Government launched series of military operations, including operation Harbin Kunama and Exercise Sahel Sanitary, in states and regions considered frontline areas, where the activities of bandits are most prominent.” For instance, in one of the attacks against the bandits, it was reported that the air component of the special joint military Task Force attached to “Operation Whirl Punch eliminated about 30 bandits in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State (Isamotu, 2024).

At state level, some governors have established security outfits, such as Community Protection Guards in Zamfara State and Community Watch Guards in Katsina State. Some of the state governments have recruited and trained individuals the necessary skills in maintaining security at community level. For example, it was reported that on 29th January 2024, the Governor of Zamfara State unveiled the graduation of 2,600 out of 4,500 operatives of Zamfara Community Protection Guard (CPG). In this regard, Yusuf (2023:5) avers that “the objective of the CPG is to bring to a halt the activities of bandits and terrorists who have made the state some sort of an easy target for their nefarious activities.” Thus, it can be stated that the presence of other Governors of northwestern States during the event in Zamfara State was an indication of effort aim at solving the inherent challenge confronting the various initiatives of lack of proper coordination and synergies among States in the fight against terrorism and insurgency.

Analysis of Underlying Implications of Security Threats in Nigeria

Certainly, the activities of the various terrorist groups operating in Northern and other parts of Nigeria have constituted grave security threats to the country. Apart from wanton loss of lives and property the growing conflicts have also succeeded in causing distortion in social relations among people living in different communities across the country. It is perhaps on this basis that Comolli (2018:613) argues that “security-wise, the implications speak for themselves with widespread killings, abductions, instances of sexual violence, and significant infrastructural destruction forcing millions to flee their homes becoming internally displaced or refugees.” Over the years, armed banditry conflict has been responsible for displacement of population of people living in the affected communities in Nigeria. Across different states in the north, several rural communities that come under the attacks of terrorists have been deserted. This is essentially because many rural dwellers no longer feel secure due to the inadequacy or failure of state security operatives. To this end, the constant state fear of armed groups has left people in vulnerable communities with no option but flee to more secured places. It is on this basis that Caleb and Uwizeyimana (2023:241) aver that “conflicts normally results in catastrophes and complex emergencies with displacement of individuals and communities as common feature of these emergencies.”

At another level, the spate of attacks by Boko Haram terrorists and armed bandits is capable of affecting negatively the influx of foreign investors into Nigerian economy. Security is germane for both local and foreign investments to thrive in any given economy. However, the current state of insecurity in different parts of Nigeria is not encouraging the flow of foreign investors into the country. Unless adequate security measures are taken to curb the menace of armed banditry, the economic productivity of the country will continue to witness decline. Based on this, Umar (2024:3) avers that “the way things are going now, there is no how the small and medium economy can flourish, let alone to woo foreign investors.” Evidently, the various manifestations of conflicts in the north and other parts of Nigeria in recent times have been affecting several aspects of Nigeria’s political economy (Danjuma, 2022).

Protracted armed violent conflicts like Boko Haram and banditry have been negatively affecting economic growth and development in the north in particular and Nigeria in general. It is well known that conflicts

serve as potential threat to economic production and other human activities. Thus, conflict can lead to the destruction of infrastructure, disruption of economic activities, impact negatively on social capital and means of livelihoods of individuals (Fitzgerald, 1999). In the conflict affected locations in northern Nigeria, all the negative consequences of conflicts have manifested, thereby leading to the problems of perennial poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment in the country. In particular, one major sector that is affected by the conflicts in the north is agricultural production. In Nigeria, agricultural production is predominantly practiced in the rural areas. The current spates of conflicts in the north have led to sacking and displacement of many rural communities. This led many rural dwellers to reduce or abandon agricultural production (Danjuma, 2022). Indeed, some of the conflicts serve as threat not only to agricultural production but to employment generation for majority of rural people in Nigeria. It is perhaps on this basis that Amos (2023:148) argues that:

Conflicts between farmers and herders as well as banditry constitute impediments to food security. The displacement of farmers from communities has drastically reduced agricultural production. In the same vein, the desertion of communities over the activities of bandits has had a depressing effect on agricultural production. This has been amply demonstrated by the relative shortage of farm produce in the rural and urban markets of North-Central Nigeria.

Consequently, due to the inherent security threats bedeviling the body politic of the country, the Nigerian government has been responding to it by taking some necessary measures to curtail the challenges. Implicit in this endeavor is for the government to enhance the capacity of the security agencies through increased budgetary spending as a means of combatting the menace of insecurity. Over the years, the Nigerian state has been prioritizing defence and security spending to occupy number one position in order to maintain both internal and external security. For instance, in a commentary by Daily Trust (2023:3) it has been observed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

presented a budget proposal of N27.5 trillion for 2024 to the National Assembly (it was later increased to 28 trillion) and out of the amount defence and security got the highest allocation of N3.25 trillion.

The spending of huge and highest amount on defence and security compared to other sectors of the economy has been the trend in the country. This is also noticeable in the 2022 budgetary allocation where defence and security had a budget allocation of N2.98 trillion out of the total of N21.83 trillion (Daily Trust, 2023:3). The humongous spending on defence and security has generated mixed reactions in Nigeria. While in the official circle the spending is justifiable as a means of tackling the challenge of insecurity. On the other hand, some individuals have been critical of the large spending on defence with little or no positive result to show as an improvement in the sector. Based on this, the same Commentary by Daily Trust (2023:3) argues that:

Yet, despite the dramatic increase in defence and security allocation in recent years, Nigerians have not felt commensurate decrease in insecurity. They are daily confronted with terrorism, kidnappings, crude oil theft, farmer-herder clashes, banditry, separatist terror, and other criminalities. Meanwhile, increased budgetary allocation was supposed to equip the military.

The above statement is apt in the sense that since Nigeria is not at war with any other country, the fight against threats to internal security is not supposed to be prolonged as being witnessed in recent years. This raises the question of who the beneficiaries of perennial insecurity in the country are. This is because there is always the need for greater accountability and transparency on the parts of individuals that are charged with the responsibility of conducting public affairs to justify the spending of public resources by being result oriented.

Conclusion

This paper has focused on rural armed banditry in Northern Nigeria and its implications on national security. Therefore, it can be said that different parts of the North have been grabbling with myriads of security

challenges in recent years. The various conflicts occur simultaneously, thereby compounding the security challenges in the country. To this extent, it could be observed that there is connection between or among different armed groups operating in the region even though their missions and objectives may be different. They have all along been engaging in terrorizing individuals and communities by spreading violence. To this extent, it can be stated that the Boko Haram insurgents in the north east have been using clandestine means to reinforce and reinvigorate the operations of armed bandits in both the northwest and north central respectively through cooperative and collaborative initiatives. This is being done through regular supply of arms, personnel and intelligence to one another. Given this condition, it can be stated that the various armed groups have been exploiting the ungoverned spaces in the north to continue to expand their population and develop different tactics of attacks. To a large extent, the various issues of insecurity in the north have generated socio-economic challenges to the people and government of Nigeria. This negative development portrays the north as flagship of violent conflicts that have been causing loss of lives and property in large proportion.

However, it is on the basis of the scenario above, that it is necessary for the Nigerian government to intensify efforts in the fight against insecurity in the country. In this regard, the government should design and implement well-coordinated strategies through the applications of both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches to fight insecurity. Indeed, the strategies are supposed to be carried out side by side with precision and sincerity of purpose. Based, on this, it is necessary to address the problem of security lapses through the provision of essential needs and requirements to all security agencies on one hand. While on the other hand, the government should put in place adequate mechanism of engaging in dialogue with the various groups that are ready to stop fomenting troubles in the country. This will help in addressing the root causes of the conflicts, thereby engendering peace and stability in Nigerian body politic. However, a critical observation will compel us to draw a conclusion that parts of what need to be corrected in order for peace and stability to reign in this country is that the government should tackle the problem of porous borders so as to stop the smuggling of illicit weapons and drugs into the country. Similarly, the government is supposed to address the issue of injustice in

the country. In this regard, impunity for criminals should no longer be tolerated. In addition, the government needs to address the issues of youth unemployment, poverty and wide inequality gap manifesting in every corner of Nigeria.

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