

THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING IN KEBBI STATE WITH EMPHASIS ON ZURU EMIRATE

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Abstract

Terrorism is one of the most life-changing threats facing humanity globally. The activities of terrorist kidnapping, banditry, and Fulani herdsmen in Zuru Emirate have threatened peace, disrupted progress, as well as halt the development of the Emirate and Kebbi state as a whole. Furthermore, terrorist activities in Zuru Emirate have, in the last five to six years negatively affected the socio-economic activities, and growth, and have drastically reduced the chances of any foreign investments in Zuru Emirate as well as Kebbi state. This research article will attempt to look at over 100 villages that have been destroyed by terrorism, their homes as well as farms taken over by the terrorists. Many markets have closed down completely which is an indication that socio-economic activities are jeopardizing. This article shall investigate and examine cases of kidnapping and ransom that was paid to the terrorists. The research shall also highlight the blight and fate of over 15,000 internally displaced persons in Zuru Emirate. The article will peep into the contributions of some scholars to get more relevant information regarding the peril of terrorism. Zuru Emirate has lost over ten thousand of its valuable law-abiding citizens, thereby leaving behind as a reliability and economic burden about two hundred widows and orphans without any help from the government of the state. This research will provide insight both for the security agencies as well as for the government to be acquainted with knowledge about the extent of damages terrorism has caused in some part of the state. This research will make recommendations for adequate security planning and an effective fight against terrorism with the view to end its further spread to other parts of the state.

Introduction

Kebbi State, which is in the North-west region of Nigeria, is made up of 21 Local government area councils which comprised: Arewa, Argungu, Augie, Bagudu, Birnin Kebbi, Bunza, Dandi, Danko/Wasagu, Fakai, Gwandu, Jega, Kalgo, Koko-Besse, Maiyama, Ngaski, Sakaba, Shanga, Suru, Yauri and Zuru. In Kebbi State, we have four constituencies as follows: Kebbi North,

Kebbi Central, Kebbi East as well as Kebbi South. Furthermore, Kebbi has four Emirates, namely, Gwandu, Argungu, Yauri and Zuru Emirates. These Emirates are administered by first-class chiefs as Emirs.

Zuru Emirate, which is in Kebbi South Senatorial District, is the location in which this research is carried out. Again, Zuru Emirate Council consists of four local government areas as follows: Zuru, Danko/Wasagu, Fakai, and Sakaba Local Government areas. Also, within Zuru Emirate, there are five chiefdoms: Dabai, Danko, Fakai, Sakaba, and Wasagu. Furthermore, Zuru Emirate consists of various groups of people who migrated or came in from various places to reside. The complexity and nature of the people have perhaps contributed immensely to the insecurity challenges bothering the environment which is affecting the socio-economic development in the Emirate as well as the whole state.

TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING IN ZURU EMIRATE

Terrorism and kidnapping have been a reoccurring phenomenon in Kebbi state, especially in Zuru Emirate since 2019 till date. This is largely because the Zuru Emirate is bordered by many states in the northwest as well as Niger State, which is in the North Central geo-political zone.

Destructions of lives, as well as properties, have been the most detrimental effect of terrorism and kidnapping in the Zuru Emirate council. This heinous and dastardly act of terrorism and kidnapping in our societies has heightened fear, reduced life expectancy, and has equally hindered genuine and legitimate infrastructural development, it has tainted the image of Kebbi State, putting Kebbi State to be listed among the high risk state in Nigeria.

The activities of terrorism and kidnapping are issues that appeared to be practically impossible to accurately research from open sources, because what you read is in most cases a crafted legend

and not the real story of what has happened. First, The people who were involved will not write any information about the incident. As there is nothing to gain from that. The second issue is about the client's confidence as well as the strict rule of confidentiality which is paramount in this business. Thirdly, no one wants to be seen or identified sharing any information that perhaps might be useful to the terrorists and kidnappers. Fourthly, there is the ransom payment, which some people do not want to mention or talk about in the public domain. Some people may even attribute their freedom from the den of abductors to God's divine intervention. However, in reality, terrorists and kidnappers have never released hostages for free without payment of ransom by their relatives or government, government organizations (NGOs), and churches. Fifthly, there is the problem of either underreporting or excessive focus on rare cases of terrorism and kidnapping of our neighboring states like Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, and Katsina State. Rather there has been underreporting happenings in Zuru Emirate, especially as it affects security matters. Therefore, most academic analyses of terrorism and kidnapping for ransom reports are not often reported.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING

TERRORISM

The use of violence to create fear, often through the targeting of third parties and with elements of surprise and the undermining of very personal security, is a tool used by a variety of historical and contemporary actors (Large, 2005), further, terrorism is a term used to describe violence or other harmful acts. Walter Laqueur in 1999, counted over 100 definitions of terrorism and concluded that the only characteristics generally agreed upon are that terrorism involves, violence and the threat of violence. In addition, (Laqueur, 2003 cited in Eke, 2013). Says, the etymology of the word terrorism is derived from the Latin word "*terrere*" which means

“frighten”. Therefore, terrorism is a special crime that is characterized by violent traits, victimization, threats, as well as frightening, and disruption of socioeconomic activities, creating socio-political tension in a particular society.

Terrorism involves an act of bombing, killing, maiming as well as destruction of lives and property, thereby creating serious fear, all with the view to destabilize the existing government or political opposition. It could also imply deadly attacks on government agencies as well as functionaries, both international and national, state and local government areas, organizations, military as well as civilians to gain international attention.

KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM PAYMENT

According to Tzanelli, (2009), the root word of kidnapping is believed to have been derived from two words namely: ‘kid’ (infant) and ‘mapping’ to be caught sleeping. This further proves that the act of kidnapping originated in 17th century Great Britain when infants of wealthy families would be caught sleeping for ransom hence the term ‘kid’ ‘napping’. Thus, there is a sort of consensus among researchers that the concept of kidnapping first emerged as an act of child abduction or stealing. Over time, it evolved to assume other forms as well as dimensions. According to Okoli and Agada, (2014), One of the earliest notorious global cases of kidnapping involved the well-publicized 1874’s abduction of a four-year-old boy in Pennsylvania. Since then, several other cases of kidnapping have been witnessed in varying degrees and different dimensions across the developed and underdeveloped countries in the world including our nation Nigeria.

One of the earliest well-publicized cases of kidnapping in Nigerian history was alleged by the military government headed by Major General Muhammadu Buhari in (1983), the victim was M

Umaru Dikko of Katsina state, who was alleged to have stolen public funds to the tune of 1bn USD while he was serving as a minister of transport in the first democratically elected government of Nigeria led by Alhaji Shehu Shagari. His foiled kidnap was allegedly arranged to repatriate him and force him to cough out the public funds he was alleged of embezzlement. Alex, (2012).

However, Nigerians became conscious of the acts of terrorism and kidnapping with the emergence of the struggle of Niger Delta militants from the 1990s, whose initial motive was to draw the attention of the government as well as the international community to their plights as a result of the oil exploration activities occurring in their communities. For them to be able to achieve this, they engaged themselves in random abductions of the expatriate oil workers in the region. They would keep the victims in captivity and subsequently demand a huge amount as ransom as a condition for their release from captivity. We have never heard of any killing of the victims in the process. However, the magnitude of these abductions has become so high in recent years.

According to Ibrahim and Mukhtar (2017), these incidents, drew global attention from the international community, especially, the victim's home countries, which made headlines in almost all local and international media outfits. It was estimated that between 2007 to 2009 over two hundred nationalists were kidnapped in the Niger Delta Region.

According to (Philip, C, 2009), Thus, the Niger Delta Region is well known for its notorious gangs of kidnappers who posed themselves as freedom fighters agitating for the emancipation of their region from the chains of poverty occasioned by environmental degradation caused by oil spillage. The efforts of both the federal and state governments to arrest the situation at different times have yielded little or no results, as the kidnappers continued to succeed in capturing their

targets mostly foreign nationals. This prompted the federal government (FG), to arrest one of the notorious leaders of the Niger Delta militants by name, Mujahid Asari Dokubo. Nevertheless, the militants reacted by kidnapping nine expatriates from different countries and demanded nothing but the immediate release of their leader as a trade-off (Child, Rose, and Uche, 2009).

Thus, throughout the 1990s the militants operated and recorded some level of degree of success. Moreover, with the formation of the movement for the emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), they simply got stronger as well as more terrifying. In 2003, the militants were reported to have kidnapped 270 persons, out of these victims 97 of whom were expatriates according to

(Agbuechi, 2018). This is what has spread throughout the country today. However, I want to state here, categorically, that between the Niger Delta and Fulani herdsmen, militia, arm banditry as well as kidnapping for ransom payment are quite two different motives. The former is all about concern for the development of their fatherland and the latter is about Islamization or financing their terrorist organization, and recruitment of more machinery for more terrorist attacks.

Kebbi State is facing myriad challenges that are affecting the socioeconomic development of the entire state, especially Zuru Emirate Council which is the focus of this research article. One such problem bedeviling the socioeconomic development of Zuru Emirate is the issue of terrorism and hostage-taking or kidnapping for ransom payment. terrorism and kidnapping have turned into a very big social problem which is impacting negatively on the following areas of human development:

1. **Business activities and markets**

According to Rev Can. Reuben Koza, we have lost over 10 big markets that used to attract people from different parts of the world.

2. Farming and rearing of animals:

Furthermore, we have lost over 127 Villages and communities within Danko/Wasagu and Sakaba local government area councils. Many have migrated to some neighboring states like Kwara State. In a quest to find a secure place, and to be able to fend for their families.

3. Educational developments

There are more than 50 schools are out of sight as a result of terrorism and kidnapping which has forced many to withdraw their children from schools.

4. Fundamental human rights

Several people have been denied their fundamental human rights to live and acquire property. **Similarly, there are infringements to people's** rights to freedom of religion and worship: In the past five to six years, we have lost about 50 Churches within Zuru Emirate, which happens to be the only Christian-dominated Emirate in the State. The affected Denominations comprise the following: the Anglican Communion, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Missionary Church of Africa, (UMCA), and the Evangelical Church of Winning All (ECWA)

5. The right to gather for marriage or naming ceremonies has been abused. Several communities have been forced to leave their ancestral heritage. This problem is affecting virtually every member of our God-given society which we inherited from our forefathers.

DIFFERENT VIEWS BY SCHOLARS REGARDING TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING

According to Uzorma and Nwanego (2014), kidnapping and hostage-taking are among the terrorizing crimes in Nigeria which are mostly common in the southern part of the country such as the South-South Region, South East Region as well as the South Western region.

Practically, the duo entails abduction. Thus, it occurs when a person is abducted and taken from one place to another against their will, or a situation in which a person is confined to a controlled space illegally. However, it includes snatching and seizing a person to collect a ransom in return or settle some scores of disagreements among the community members or government. Uzorma and Nwanego have tried so much in their analysis of this mayhem, I commend their efforts, however, I would like to make some observations about this assertion. Today, terrorism has reached every nook and cranny of Nigerian shores including the Zuru Emirate in Kebbi State, which was one of the peaceful states in Nigeria. Terrorism and kidnapping do not take hostages just to demand ransom, they also kill hostages sometimes before collecting ransom, sometimes after payment of ransom.

The other thing is, that terrorists kidnap and collect ransom to finance their organization as well as recruit more members into the deadly “business”. Terrorists also rustle cattle as well as take motorcycles belonging to the hostages, to use them for their terrorism activities. They might include motorcycles as part of the ransom to free kidnap victims. Women are usually kidnapped for sexual gratification, besides ransom payment.

There is also an Islamic plan to dip the Qur'an into the Atlantic Ocean, which means, to Islamize Nigeria. Is an agenda by Uthman Dan Fodio, since 1804 Jihad. It is worth noting that the terrorists usually speak Arabic, and they always say that, "they are fighting for Allah." Thus, it can be concluded that this is an Islamic war, or Jihad seeking to convert people from other religions to Islam. In Islam, there are different types of Jihads:

- i. The jihad of the hand, meaning, to use your hands to win converts, which could be through giving gifts, teaching someone Arabic, or helping someone with your hands
- ii. There is the jihad of the sword: this is the kind of jihad terrorists are using, forcing people to accept Islam or their lives. They usually come with sophisticated weapons
- iii. There is the jihad of the eyes. This entails kidnapping for the marriage of young Christian girls by Muslims in the northern parts of Nigeria. Several families have suffered from this kind of Jihad in Zuru Emirate.

According to Thomas and Nta (2009), They defined kidnapping as robbery of the highest rank. According to them, it is an organized and systematic robbery that is not as deadly as armed robbery, but more profitable than the former. The profitability has encouraged those who indulged in it to carry on with the act although there is a law prohibiting it.

According to Asuquo (2009). In criminal law, kidnapping is defined as the taking away of a person by force, threat, or deceit with intent to cause him/her to be detained against his or her will.

THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING IN ZURU EMIRATE COUNCIL:

Terrorism and kidnapping have plagued the socioeconomic development of Kebbi State, more especially Zuru Emirate. The Emirate suffers a spillover attack from our neighboring states such as Niger and Zamfara states from the Northern part of the Emirate. We agree that we do not have insurgence domicile in the Kebbi State and Zuru Emirate, however, they usually come from those neighboring states, to cause mayhem and go back unabated. Their camps and camp leader are well known, yet nothing is done about it. Zuru emirate has had bad experiences as a result of terrorism and kidnapping in the last five to six years.

ACCORDING TO A SUMMARY SITUATION REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO DATE BY VIGILANTE GROUP OF NIGERIA, KEBBI STATE, COMMAND.

The situation was brought according to the Local Government area incidences, Zuru Emirate has four local government areas as follows:

1. Danko/Wasagu Local Government area
2. Fakai Local Government area
3. Sakaba local government area.
4. Zuru local government area. The Zuru Emirate headquarters is located in Zuru, which happens to be the oldest local government since Sokoto State before the creation of Kebbi State.

1. The Terrorism and Kidnapping Attacks in Danko/Wasagu Local Government:

In Danko/Wasagu Local Government, 508 people were killed in the attacks, and 35 people were injured during the attacks furthermore, 204 people were kidnapped. Whenever there is a kidnapping, the terrorists will always demand a ransom payment as a condition to release the victims. Therefore, this case was not an exemption, because, 71, 600,000 was paid as a ransom to be able to secure the release of the victims. In addition, 5,816 Cattle were rustled, 2,364 sheep carted away, 151 Camels stolen, and 149 motorcycles taken. Six women were raped, and 27,027 were displaced from their communities. 1,389 women made widows as well as unnumbered orphans everywhere in the local government area council today.

2. Terrorism and Kidnapping Attacks in Fakai Local Government Area

Within the period under review, the Fakai Local Government recorded 15 deaths, one person was injured in the process, about 11 people were kidnapped, and the sum of 12, 500,000, was paid to the bandits to be able to secure the release of the abductees. In addition, 22 women were made widows and unnumbered orphans that will today be thrown out of school, because the breadwinner has been killed. Many also will be evicted from rented houses for failure to pay house rent as a result of this heinous crime dastardly committed against humanity, and the state government has failed to bring the culprit to book for justice to serve.

3. Terrorism and kidnapping attacks in Sakaba Local Government Area Council

The records show that 29 people were killed, 5,500 Cattle were rustled during the attacks, furthermore, 5,600 people were displaced from their ancestral homes. Not only that, their cattle or sheep were taken, even some homes were set ablaze with some grains inside to

burn. This is one of the reasons why there is so much hunger in Zuru Emirate. About 70 women today are widows looking helpless with unnumbered orphans.

4. Terrorism and kidnapping attacks in Zuru Local Government Area Council

It was gathered that 14 people lost their precious lives, in cool blood in the hands of the terrorists during the attack. Meanwhile, 3 prominent politicians were kidnapped and subsequently freed without any ransom demanded or payment made to any organization or persons.

Total summary:

- i. Number of Deaths= 566.
- ii. Number of injured people= 36.
- iii. Number kidnapped=218
- iv. Amount paid as ransom= 84, 100, 000.00
- v. Number of cattle rustled =11,316
- vi. Number of sheep rustled =2,364.
- vii. Number of Camels stolen = 151, 8, number of motorcycles stolen= 149
- viii. Number of women raped is = 6,10
- ix. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are =32,626.
- x. Number of women made widows as a result of terrorism and kidnapping = 1,459.
- xi. The Number of orphans has not been reported.

According to Hon. Ibrahim Kabiru Tukura, a member House of Representatives from Zuru /Fakai/Danko/Wasagu/Sakaba Federal constituency of Kebbi State, on 18/07/2021, said, “wanton killings, kidnapping and destruction of lives and properties by bandits had persisted in his constituency, revealing that bandits have killed over 500 people in the Kebbi State”. Furthermore, he added that over 201 persons were kidnapped by bandits. Subsequently, millions of naira had been paid as ransom to the bandits in a bid to free those who have been abducted. The house, which adopted the motion, urged President Muhammadu Buhari to direct all law enforcement agencies to embark on a massive recruitment drive to boost their personnel in the face of the current onslaught against banditry, terrorism, and separatist agenda across

various states in the country.

The house also appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to direct the Inspector General of Police (IGP) as a matter of urgency to set up a mobile base at Unashi as well as Mai Rai-Rai Village under the Wasagu Chiefdom, which is the route of the bandits. Up to this moment, nothing has been done about that. In addition, the lawmakers equally called on the National Emergency Management (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the Victims in the affected areas and set up two IDP camps as a matter of urgency to provide temporary shelter to the over 15,000 internally displaced persons in the two local governments, as obtained by global best practice.

He added, “Considering the current rise in security challenges in Danko –Wasagu and Sakaba Local government areas and indeed across Kebbi State and the Country, it is apt to state that the Federal Government (FG) has not done enough to secure the lives and properties of the good people of the two local government areas in Zuru Emirate council to enable them to go about their everyday life”.

APPRAISALS OF TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING IN KEBBI STATE AND ZURU EMIRATE COUNCIL:

Terrorism and kidnapping have plagued the socioeconomic development of the Zuru Emirate council and have a spill-over effect on some jobless youth as well as graduates who see terrorism and kidnapping as a quick way and very lucrative alternative means of making money. “Quick – money-making syndrome”. Furthermore, this also appears to be a fast way of acquiring economic power as well as social recognition.

Terrorism and kidnapping have had adverse effects on the socio-economic development of Zuru emirate council as follows: the social life and total well-being of the people have been badly affected. There is great growing

the challenge of mistrust in society due to various incidences of terrorism and kidnapping.

Also, the political image of the Emirate Council has been shattered in the eyes of the national and state levels as a result of terrorism and kidnapping.

Iyang and Ubong (2013), classified the socio-economic effect of terrorism as both direct and indirect costs. Direct cost involves the economic value that individuals as well as government may lose to the terrorists and kidnappers. A lot of money has been paid to the terrorists and kidnappers as ransom. The large sum of money that was spent on ransom payment has in a way affected the state and the Zuru Emirate economy drastically. Many who were kidnapped pay large sums of money to the terrorists and kidnappers as ransom. This is a bad situation that has affected both the state as well as the household economy in Zuru Emirate. Some households do not even have the kind of money the terrorists and kidnappers are requesting as ransom. Therefore, some had to resort to appealing for financial assistance from individuals, churches, and mosques, as well as borrowing or selling their assets to be able to free their loves from the kidnapper's den.

There is the problem of killing members of society as well as displacement of some communities from their ancestral homes. There is the challenge of rustling all their Cattle as well as livestock, which is the economic sustainability strategy of the village populace.

Furthermore, there is the challenge of Migration from Zuru Emirate In Kebbi state to neighboring states, such as Kwara state as well as Oyo state Ibadan which they think is safe for them.

CONCLUSION

Terrorism and kidnapping are the socio-economic challenges that are endemic in the North-west, Kebbi State as well as Zuru Emirate in particular, this insecurity problem hurts the general socio-economic development of Zuru Emirate, and Kebbi State at large. The phenomenon of terrorism and kidnapping as well as ransom payment has assumed an unprecedented dimension in the Zuru Emirate council and there seems to be no end in sight. according to Ngwama, (2014), this research article has attempted to trace the origin and meaning of terrorism, kidnapping as well as ransom payment. Also, the menace has created a socio-economic impact on the Emirate, and the state. Many of our unemployed youth or those who have been used and dumped by politicians have taken advantage of this terrorism and kidnapping as being more lucrative than engaging in honest business. There is also the challenge of inadequate information given to the security agents regarding the activities of the terrorists by community members because of fear. There is an abysmal performance of the security agents and lack of sophisticated weapons and equipment for tracking down criminals, poor motivations of security officers, misunderstanding as well as lack of synergy among security agencies. The government on the other hand does not have or take proper records of birth, deaths as well as migration of habitants and citizens in Nigeria. Terrorism and kidnapping have badly affected the social life of the people, government, and private individuals. Consequently, both the state and Zuru Emirate have been affected, because nobody would like to travel to any porous security environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is a need to sensitize and engage members of the public by the security agencies in tackling the challenge of terrorism and kidnapping in the emirate council and North-west.
2. The government as a matter of urgency should equip the security agencies with modern weapons and technology and obsolete ones should be discarded.
3. Henceforth, employment in security outfits should be based on merit, and the government should avoid nepotism as well as tribalism as that is what is obtainable today.
4. Men and women of the security agencies found wanting should be dealt with accordingly.
5. Whoever is found to be conniving with the terrorism and kidnappers should also be dealt with irrespective of his wealth, political influence as well as religious position he is occupying
6. Adequate protection be made for the identities of the members of the public who provide useful information to the security agencies, men, and officers of security agencies.

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