



## In the Name of Boko Haram: A relapse of the Jos violent conflict?

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**ABSTRACT:-** Jos Nigeria has been a city plagued by series of recurrent inter-religious violent conflicts between Muslim and Christian faithful. This conflict has lingered discontinuously since the year 2001 bloody encounter which left scores death and displaced with innumerable lost properties. The violence which was initially engaged in with crude objects has over the years gained sophistication and several forms of assault weapons and arms are now put into use against the antagonist group. Recently, the city has witnessed a petite moment of relative peace which only lasted like an eye blink. This interruption was brought in by a strange occurrence- the explosion of bombs and explosive devices targeted at the civilian populace. The timeline of this new pattern of unrest reveals all but one aimed at localities or gatherings of the Christian faithful but a huge amount of blame and association to the dastard act has been ascribed to the dreaded Boko Haram sect which has been unleashing havoc in the country. This paper examines critically, the close association and role of the sect with the explosions, the antecedent of the explosions and proffers viable submissions aimed at curtailing the undesired phenomenon.

**Keywords:-** Boko Haram, bomb explosions, Jos violent conflict, insecurity, Nigeria.

### I. OVERVIEW OF THE BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

Beyond reasonable doubt, the group Jama'atu Ahlus Sunnah Lid Da'awati Wal Jihad, has gained stronghold and fortress at the Sambisa Forest in Borno State, where it was initially formed and its teaching propagated[1]. The radical Islamic cleric, Mohammed Yusuf was the then leader of the sect credited with establishing the movement in 2002 in continuity of the anti-state ideologies of the defunct group led by the then leader[2], Mohammed Ali prior to its present day outlook and naming as Boko Haram[3]. Yusuf was however said to be killed by security personnel in 2009 while in police custody, although the allegation was refuted by the authority of the force[4]. Since his demise, the sect re-emerged powerfully and has since then, gained global recognition for the heinous activities it carries out. Over time, it has acquired and developed firm and well coordinated operational capabilities with numerous foot soldiers unleashing havoc in several North Eastern and North Central States in Nigeria, including the federal capital territory, Abuja (*ibid*). It is in furtherance, violently and gruesomely pursuing its ambition of transforming Nigeria into becoming an Islamic nation without any form of retraction, nor the fear of been repelled by the combined effort of the military and security forces.

The fatal number of casualties, victims and destruction emergent as a result of its operations clearly reveals how it is engaging in any form of violence/destruction irrespective of the cost involved, be it – materially, financially or at the expense of human lives including that of its foot soldiers acting as suicide bombers. Since its re-emergence in 2009, it has carried out various attacks at government infrastructures and the office of the United Nations Abuja. It has also launched several offensive at military formations and installations in Nigeria. By reason of these actions and several video display of its might, it is seen as, and indeed it possesses sophisticated gun power, different calibre of military type assault weapons, rocket propelled grenades and anti-aircraft missiles, thus, having a fearsome image in the eye of members of public and to a large extent, security personnel as well. The group which is most renowned as Boko Haram has emerged as one of the deadliest, fearsome and dreaded arm group Nigeria has ever experienced since its existence as an entity[5]. The rein of its horrific activities has garnered strength, sophistication, complexity and is seemingly insurmountable, at least in the time been, hence, becoming the major cause of insecurity in Nigeria for which it is responsible for the loss of thousands of lives.

## **II. THE JOS VIOLENT CONFLICT IN PERSPECTIVE**

Jos Plateau State has been recognised as one of the cities to have encountered incessant and intermittent sectarian violence in Nigeria traversing well over a decade now [6]. Although otherwise conceptualised as a communal violence because of its manifestation in an inter-group manner between members of different identity affiliation [7], it is however contextualised as the violent conflict in this article for ease of understanding and expressing the manner of its manifestation. Prior to the year 2001 when the trouble in Jos was recorded to have erupted and escalated, the State was renowned to be a home of peace, and a tourist delight in the country. The climatic condition of the State is among the best in the country, and the inhabitants of the State were in addition, very hospitable, friendly and living up to the reputation the State has acquired in the years of its existence [8]. However, violence sparked at uncontrollable level on the Friday afternoon of September 7, 2001, and that was when peace took flight away from Jos. Ever since then, each year that passes by has recorded series of violent confrontations in urban areas of Jos North and Jos South local government areas, likewise similar instances at other local government areas far away from Jos, the State capital, or the least, killings regarded in the city as silent killing.

Additionally, the State has come to be known for the series of target attacks at rural communities considered as soft targets due to their vulnerability to repel the attackers and the near absence of security agencies to provide the needed protection. The Dogo Nahawa massacre of March 7, 2010 which claimed over two hundred lives of both men, women and children is an instance which raised international concern. Suffice it to mention, cattle rustling has also registered itself common place and a major reason for revenge target attacks at local communities and villages found very vulnerable. The trend of these criminalities and rein of violence indicates the level of acrimony, rivalry and hostile relationship between residents in the State. This has in turn, rendered both the city and rural areas an unsafe haven and livelihood very difficult for the inhabitants who are to a large extent, living in fear of the unforeseen. In recent years, blasts from bombs and improvised explosive devices has increased the trouble in the State. The waves of bomb attacks which aftermath is often swift mobilisation of angry youths to unleash reprisal attacks on persons of other religious groups has also intensified unhealthy relationship among dwellers causing great deal of suspicion of each other, especially persons of different religious affiliation.

## **III. BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN JOS, A WORRYING CONCERN**

Against all the trouble in the city, Jos has in the past year, experienced appreciable level of calmness and serenity but for some recorded attacks targeted at rural and remote parts of the city [6]. However, with the series of bomb explosions which has hit, and heating up tense in the State in recent times, one could only but wonder if the relative peace experienced was only but a lull moment of respite. Breaking this silence was a twin bomb explosion which rocked the city on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014. The sight of the gory incidence was horrific with hundreds killed on account of the multiple bomb explosions which rocked the busy Terminus area of the State. This heavy explosion was only to be accompanied by another targeted at football viewers four days later.

Bomb explosions especially suicide bombing and the use of explosive devices in Jos and Nigeria as a whole has been a strange phenomenon, hardly has other armed groups resolved to it until lately [4]. What these series of bomb explosions portends for Jos Plateau State both in present and the nearest future anticipated is a keen issue for careful consideration and due action beyond mere gesticulation of peaceful rhythm and slogans. Reason for this is the association of the dreaded Boko Haram group with several bomb explosions rocking the nation especially with its claiming of responsibility for many of the incidences. By this therefore, to the extent which its assumption of responsibility for the dreaded attacks is true, particularly the explosions in Jos, the closer the projection of Walker [3] is likely to be accepted than rejected.

As much as the Jos violent conflict is considered, the spate of bomb explosions recorded in Jos to date and its close association with the Boko Haram terror group is certainly, an issue of worrying concern. This concern is centred on the continuous unity and harmonious existence of Nigeria as an entity. Walker observed the degeneration of the Jos violent conflict to this regard that, “a much more likely development is that the group will continue to attack soft civilian targets, widen its war against the influence of corrupt authorities, and include itself in the on-going conflict in Plateau state... If the group escalates its attacks on northern Christians and appropriates the conflict in Plateau, the results could have very serious implications for the unity of the country” (*ibid*). This is because Jos Plateau State is a miniature Nigeria, its favourable climatic condition and the hospitable nature of the State has over the years resulted into the influx of Nigerians into the State. Many of such people have made the State their permanent place of dwelling. Many more have established business outfits in the city, erected or acquired structures and other landed properties, and even many more have resided

in the city for many decades, inter-married, raised children and are well integrated in the State to the extent that an attempt to forcefully eject them out of the State by whatever reason especially such threat from the Boko Haram group would only make life unimaginably difficult and unbearable. It is for this reason that it has been considered rather insanity for Boko Haram to have given a three-day ultimatum to all southern Nigerians residing in northern States to vacate to their States of origin. Little wonder, it attracted a whole lots of reactive concern including threats by other armed and militant groups to all northerners not residing in southern States to also evacuate the States for their historical places of origin. The vast inhabitation of Nigerians in Plateau State with the multi-lingual nature of the indigenous people of the State makes it a perfect microcosm of the country. The profession of Christianity by absolute majority of the indigenes makes it attractive for Jihadist promoters to weaken and disintegrate the city in their attempt to install and Islamise Nigerians. However, this quest has never been an easy task to achieve with the stiff resistance the Plateau people have demonstrated in the over a decade long crisis of identity, religion, political and economic interest in the State.

On the activities of the Boko Haram sect, several researchers and organisations have provided timeline on the sequence of the activities the sect over the years. For detailed compilation of its attacks and unleash of terror up to year 2012, reference can be made to Okpaga, Chijioko, & Eme likewise Human Rights Watch [9]. The remainder of this paper would be focussed at examining the possible link of Boko Haram with the explosions in Jos, and the Jos violent conflict drawing facts from present and historical data of the happenings thus far.

### **Historical Overview of Bomb/Improvised Explosives Blast in Jos**

Although disreputable for bloody violence, it was at later years of its encounter with such violent upheaval that residents in Jos started witnessing series of violent confrontation with unimaginable sophisticated arms and assault type weapons [10]. The heights of this sophistication is the recent engagement of rocket propelled weapons and improvised explosive devices (IED) in which the latter are arguably, locally produced within the country using explosive elements and devices. Although strange to the city, the first encounter of bomb explosion was recorded in the evening of the year 2010 Christmas eve while Christian faithful were in a last minute rush shopping and preparation for the festivity which however out-turned to be one difficult to easily forget. It was a series of well planned, meticulously calculated, and intelligently coordinated with the execution seemingly flawless. It was multiple bomb explosions at three different Christian dominated localities: Gada Biyu; Angwan Rukuba and Amingo Junction of the metropolis killing scores of persons.

The immediate aftermath of the December 24<sup>th</sup> bomb explosion was the eruption of hostile violent confrontation which arguably, reflects the high level of animosity between basically, the Christian and Muslim divides, thus, increasing the casualty figure. Such swift reaction to the bomb explosion with expression of violence on persons of different religious affiliation has over time become the immediate response arising from anger and provocation to bomb explosion in the city. Thorough historical research on several explosions that has hit the State indicates up to eight separate instances of bomb explosions not considering many other foiled attempts and bombs planted that were awaiting execution but noticed and quickly disarmed. A timeline sequence of some of the explosions which has rocked the once peaceful and hospitable city are detailed below.

**Timeline of some bomb explosions which have rocked the city of Jos**

<b>S.N O</b>	<b>EXPLOSION LOCATION</b>	<b>NATURE OF EXPLOSION</b>	<b>DATE OF OCCURRENCE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CASUALTIES</b>
1.	Kabong, Angwan Rukuba and Amingo Junction Jos	Multiple-bomb explosion	24/12/2010	80 confirmed death, over 250 injured ( NEMA)
2.	Barkin Ladi: Reported as untrue by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Abdulramman Akano	Lone bomb which exploded before reaching target	28/12/2010	Uncertain number of persons as the blast is officially denied and considered untrue
3.	Unconfirmed target at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Church, Jengere Jos; ECWA and COCIN Churches Nassarawa Gwom	Exploded at Duala Junction while the two carriers were still conveying the explosives to the target site	25/12/2011	4 killed as a result of the explosion; several others killed and many more injured sequel to angry reaction and animosity (Taye Obateru for Vanguard News of 23/3/11)
4.	COCIN Headquarters Church Jos	Suicide bomb	26/02/2012	6 killed on the spot and 50 others wounded (Red Cross)
5.	St. Fimbars Catholic Church Rayfield	Suicide bomb	11/03/2012	7 killed with many others injured (Human Rights Watch, 2012)
6.	Football Viewing Centre in Tudun Wada Area of Jos	Lone bomb	24/04/2012	Unconfirmed casualty and death figures
7.	Christ Chosen Church of God	Suicide bomb driven and forced into the Church	10/06/2012	5 killed, about 48 injured with more casualties arising from the sectarian bloodletting (CNN News Report)
8.	Terminus Market Motor Park Area, Jos	Twin bomb explosion	20/05/2014	118 confirmed death with many others injured (NEMA)
9.	Football Viewing Center, Tina Junction, Jos	Lone bomber	24/05/2014	Unconfirmed casualty and death figures

**Source: Literature research of the historical event**

Ever since the Christmas eve bomb explosion in the city, the year 2010 to date has witnessed at least one or more instance of successful bomb explosions with the year 2013, a lucky exception. The successful observation and completion of year 2013 without any recorded bomb blast is considered a landmark of achievement of return to peace in the restive State. More importantly, the absence of the eruption of violence in the most troublesome parts of the city signalled even more reason to marvel that relative peace, calm, tranquillity and peaceful co-existence is gradually finding grounds in the State. However, as the table above reveals, this was only but a moment one would not be totally wrong to consider a break running into a relapse. The consequent target but rather unsuccessful execution of the May 24<sup>th</sup> bomb attack aimed at a football viewing centre in Tina Junction suggests beyond doubt, need to be cautious of the un-foreseen especially with the rogue-pattern, fearless, death desirous and seemingly, the impossible control and suppression of the activities of the dreaded Islamic Sect, Boko Haram.

The activities of a terror group as Boko Haram tends to thrive even better in an atmosphere in which social relationship is highly unhealthy. It is important to note therefore that a hostile environment provides: a favourable ground for the perpetuation of its heinous attacks and destruction; a very good environment for gaining approval, sympathy and support from aggrieved individuals who might wish to recourse to vengeance; and the actual engagement of such aggrieved individuals with the sect by joining forces with it. More reason for this ease of getting followers is exemplified by Musa in the components of strained interrelationship of existence in the State starting with compartmentalisation of residences and further degenerating into a situation of “rivalry, distrust, enmity, hatred, anger, hostile violent confrontation and un-forgiveness” [11].

Reasons for the engagement of this deadly explosive incidences and experiences could take all of this piece if it is to be written down in this write-up. However, the possibility of the return of the violence at such heights even before the re-occurrences witnessed presently has been justifiably posited by many concerned bodies and academics [12]. This paper would therefore proceed with the key objective of eliciting the connection between the Jos violent conflict and the spate of explosions in the name of the dreaded sect, Boko Haram. This is to say that it is very cogent for a careful distinction and delineation of a strong demarcation be made, and be drawn between this series of explosions and the ill-reputed Jos violence if any appreciable recognition and awareness is to be made on the journey so far and the success attained towards the return to lasting peace in the State.

#### **IV. NEXUS OF THE VIOLENT CONFLICT AND THE SPATE OF BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN JOS – AN APPRAISAL OF THE ROLE OF THE BOKO HARAM TERROR GROUP**

Since the escalation of its out-pour of mayhem and havoc on the Nigerian State and its people, the dreaded sect has in recent years been associated with almost every attack all over the country unless specific groups or persons claim responsibility for it. Drawing from the manifestation of the horrific and atrocious activities of the sect, it is often clear that in most cases, the individual victims of its targets are random group of persons unfortunate to be at a particular location targeted for attack. This can be seen in the unleash of its attack on churches whose victims are basically, numerous random Christian faithfuls. Other such case is the kidnapped Chibok school girls incidence, attacks targeted at football viewing centers and at busy market or bus parks. However, in the north eastern States troubled by the activities of the sect, several instances of selective assassination of Muslim clerics and high ranking individuals who criticise their activities has been witnessed. It is glaring that the sect has unleashed mayhem on both Muslims and Christians in the northern States that it has violently struck, likewise the federal capital territory, Abuja. The sense behind this action as it advocates is to fiercely deal with anyone or group of persons who opposes or fail to support them irrespective of their religion even though the elimination of Christianity and Christians for its promoted Islamic State institutionalisation remains its top priority. Viewed from a broad perspective, this is a conundrum. And ultimately, this makes any attempt at distinguishing and categorising the attacks of the sect as distinct from the generally recognised manner of manifestation of the Jos violent conflict along religious lines a very difficult and cumbersome task to achieve. However, clear examination of the several attacks recorded in Jos could provide good insight for understanding and hypothesising. In the narrow sense of the Jos encounter, the various explosive attacks it claims responsibility over, or is been associated with as provided in the Table displayed earlier raises scepticism as to the genuineness of its claim for the attacks. This scepticism emanates from a number of issues and are clearly expatiated.

It is no news again that Jos has been troubled with intermittent out-pour of violence along religious lines. Within the time being, witness have been borne to the proliferation of arms and light weapons in the State, and many parts of the country, as well as to its implication on the security of the nation in general [13]. From the usage of crude weaponry, the Jos conflict gradually gained complication with the involvement of sophisticated weaponry and mercenaries [14]. However, one clear indicator of the Jos violent conflict as it manifest is the chaos, disorderliness and involvement of a large number of persons, usually of the same religious affiliation rendering catastrophic havoc on antagonising persons of other religious affiliation, often Muslims against Christians and vice versa. The expression of violence in such case scenario is usually in ways such as: the burning and destruction of houses, vehicles and properties, worship places, shops, stores and market centers, likewise the onslaught, maiming and killing of passers-by, commuters, and oftentimes, innocent unsuspecting persons who happen to be passing the way of the angry mobs of either religious group [6].

From a general viewpoint, the characteristics of the Jos violence may be similar to the activities of the dreaded Boko Haram sect, but, quite a number of factors distinct the pattern of attack of the sect from the manner of manifestation of the Jos violence. Among this is the selective hand-pick of the victims, worship places, houses or target locations. Only but a few report suggested the Boko Haram sect selectively attacked only persons who profess Christianity at a place where there happens to be a combination of both Muslims and Christians. Instead, but for the few attacks on individual personalities, most of its attacks have been directed at random members of the public irrespective of their religious affiliation such as the many motor park explosions and attacks at market places. This might defy common reasoning because Boko Haram profess Islam and detest any religion as they broadly tag Christians and other non adherence of Islam as infidels or “*arna*”. However, unlike the Jos violence where careful selection of victims is made strictly based on religion, the argument is that Boko Haram rather attacks random persons and of course, Churches and in few instances, Mosques where they believe fellow Muslims have betrayed them by either leaking information to security operatives or for explicitly

rejecting and criticising their activities. This differs from the manifestation of the Jos violence being that the latter is glaringly obvious to be confrontation between two antagonist groups.

The group and its members are by the virtue of its operation, fearless and to a large extent, ready to die in the pursuit of its aims, hence, desirous of death and killing in what can be considered an 'outrageous zealotry to kill or be killed'. This cannot be said to be true with the situation seen in the manifestation of the Jos violence. In the instance of the Jos violence, against the sophistication, it is factual based on interviews and several researches that people did gradually resolve to wielding and using arms due to the perceived and to a reasonable extent if one is to be fair, the dearth, inadequacy and unimpressive containment effort of the uprising despite the presence of security forces, declaration of emergency and failed attempts towards peaceful resolutions [15].

Against the outpour of terror by the sect on both individuals and infrastructures, hardly can any recorded incidence primarily centered and coordinated against security agencies or their base be found in the manifestation of the Jos violent conflict. As a matter of fact, governmental structures and facilities which are among the key priority target of the sect have hardly been of interest in the manifestation of the Jos violence with the exception of the November 2008 local government election acclaimed to be the reason behind the eruption of the then violence in the State that year.

At the nucleus of this discussion is the recent twin explosion at the Terminus market motor park. This is because of the impression it serves to create by diverging the attention of sceptics especially as it can be said to have affected as victims, both Christian and Muslim traders, commuters and passers-by. However, but for this explosion which rocked the Terminus motor park area of the city, all other bomb explosions which have rocked the State were all recorded at localities which are dominated by Christians or at their worship places. The very fact that all other bomb explosions experienced in the city were at Christian dominated areas alone raises to a very large extent, increased doubt about the genuineness and the truthfulness of Boko Haram being responsible for the explosions. Hence, this only but clarifies doubts raised at several quarters to this regard. One such sceptic of the actual claim of responsibility of Boko Haram or taking advantage of its heinous activities and disguising to unleash havoc on Christians and people in Jos in the name of Boko Haram is Alex Thurston whose opinion was publicised on Sahel blog. According to Thurston, "it is also important to note that Boko Haram may only be behind some of these bombings; others, particularly in Jos, may be the work of local provocateurs" [16]. Such scepticism tends to be shared by only a small faction of persons and thus, all other reservation is further cleared in this piece. Concern has been raised by religious bodies and well-meaning Nigerians as to the spate of bomb/explosive attacks in Jos and its quick association to the dreaded sect. However, critics have vehemently argued against any attempt to associate such with Muslims perceived as been local provocateurs.

Reference is made to the piece of Rev. Danjuma Byang of May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014 arguing the Terminus twin explosion as nothing but a calculated attempt to push away and dominate Christian indigenes away from their birthright and ancestral heritage [17]. On the contrary, while Kperogi attributes the out-pour of havoc and annihilation to blood-thirsty beasts definitely not representing Muslims nor Islam, he further suggested the role of political gimmicks, inadequate security efforts and action and leadership callousness and laxity among the key causal factors of the security challenges, be it the violent conflict or the spate of bomb attacks which Boko Haram has claimed responsibility to a few of it [18]. Even though it is factual that the issues raised by he argues are quite factual and almost the everyday experience in the country. However, these factors are refuted and outweighed by the weighty arguments raised thus far regarding the out-pour of mayhem using explosives on Christians particularly in Jos as this piece continues to argue.

Additionally, even with the Twin explosion, argument has been raised showing clearly, the support or foreknowledge of Muslims to the activities of the sect if it genuinely planted the explosives. Among such is Byang who argued the bomb was certainly premeditated by local provocateurs and definitely not the dreaded sect [17]. Byang argues further that "on the fateful day, most Muslim traders did not come to the Terminus market nor where the shops open". This would not be the first of such accusation especially when havoc is unleashed on unsuspecting Christians. As a matter of fact, over the years, it has been a very good pointer/indicator of an impending uproar any day the shops of members of antagonist groups are not opened for business. Byang contends further that "some workers in JUTH say that Muslim women failed to turn up to the hospital in their numbers that day... So who told them that Boko Haram was planning to blow up the market that day?" These arguments are rather too strong to be overlooked and I interrogated him on the findings through an informal interview where he did not only re-iterate these opinions but further provided more support to it.

More also, as I was compiling and summarising this piece, news alert from AFP further emanated to clear any doubt that may arise after reading this article. This fact came from no one else but from the acclaimed sect leader, Abubakar Shekau in his newly released sixteen minutes (16) video of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 claiming responsibility for the June 25<sup>th</sup> attack in a shopping centre in Abuja and at Apapa Lagos. Transcript of the released video indicates clearly as quoted “Shekau said his loyalists carried out twin car bombings in May in the central city of Jos and a June attack at a public health college in the northern city of Kano” [19]. This transcript does not only indicate the actual presence and smokescreened activities of local actors or otherwise heating up tense and benefitting from the series of bloodshed, destruction and killings in Jos, but it further supports the theoretical proposition made in this article beyond any form of reasonable doubt that heinous activities, havoc and destruction continues to pervade in Jos in the name of Boko Haram, hence, not only signalling a relapse of the Jos violent conflict but a new patterned dimension of the Jos violence using explosives under the disguise of the dreaded sect.

## **V. SUBMISSION AND CONCLUSION**

This piece has attempted to connect the series of bomb attacks recorded in Jos with the activities of the dreaded religious sect in Nigeria. Outline of the Boko Haram sect from its origin to its decline upon the death of the then leader, Muhammed Yusuf and the new phase under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau was made. Thereafter, an overview of the Jos violence was made after which a descriptive of the several explosions which have rocked have rocked the city was made. At the heart of this work is the nexus between the the sect and the Jos violent conflict. This analysis facilitated factually, the association or claiming responsibility of the explosions with the Jos violent conflict from which it is strongly argued against such. Local provocateurs or otherwise, but not the sect as established is responsible for the bomb explosions in the city.

It is also deduced that although Jos has recorded a number of bomb attacks, not all have been claimed by the Boko Haram sect. This position raises concern that against all efforts towards lasting return of peace, the least been relative peace, tolerance and harmonious co-existence among locals and dwellers in Jos, there is seeming distrust, anger, hatred, disunity and unhealthy co-relationship. In the end however, there is a gradual acceptance of non-violence by people dwelling in Jos at a reasonable level. This argument is made considering the infamous reputation associated to the aftermath of bombblast in Jos in years back. The twin bomb explosion as a good case scenario recorded in all fairness, little or no provocative reactionary reprisal attack by either Christians nor Muslims. Instead, as evidentially seen and reported, the sympathy by persons of both religious groups, both old and young, males and females accounted for the debilitating number of casualties. This is because those affected by the second blast were mostly persons who actually ran to help the victims of the first blast or view the first explosion unaware of another explosive which caught up with a number of them.

The desire to help irrespective of religious difference is considered a stepping stone towards a tolerant and united Plateau. Also, the absence of reprisal attack due to provocation from the bomb explosion is also a reasonable step towards facing the challenge of having a better Plateau, free from animosity and violent confrontation even at slight provocation. What this portend for the State is simple, considering the explosion as a relapse to the Jos violent conflict stands to be rejected, hence, the need for more intervention, enlightenment and advocacy towards complete attitudinal change to violence. However, this can only be successful if the activities of the dreaded sect is completely eliminated. At a reasonable level, the presence and effort of security agencies to control the situation helped in calming uncontrollable nerves and any attempt towards mobilising to engage in reprisal attacks.

Most importantly, this paper has established the actual continuity of the Jos violent conflict in a new dimension using explosives on the disguise of the dreaded sect. This therefore suggest the need for a shift of focus and concentration on searching for members of the Boko Haram sect as perpetrators. By this, attention needs to be centred at local provocateurs be them resident within Jos or without, their sponsors, suppliers of explosives and technical experts who specialise in making the explosives. This points to the need to engage fully, intelligence led policing. In as much as the agents of this cowardice yet atrocious havoc are able to successfully plan and launch their attacks uninterruptedly on several occasions, there is the need for the police and department of state security to step up effort at intelligence gathering to uncover the perpetrators of the heinous act. As much as the Jos violence and other arm struggles in Nigeria are concerned, curtailing the problems requires a long term solution. This must include investment in the human resource to a level where development is able to reach every Nigerian. This therefore implies concerted effort towards educating the populace and value re-orientation to the unschooled. A more pragmatic effort towards manpower training and the provision of the basic necessity for self reliance and sustenance, engaging in an all-inclusive governance and

the provision, sustenance and maintenance of all the required basic amenities to all Nigerians irrespective of their ethno-religious differences or area of residence. In the presence of an effective, adequate and properly trained police enforcement, the incidences of communal up-rise, violence and arm struggle would be eliminated in the country.

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