

Parochial terrorism may break up Nigeria

By Andre John-Salakov

IT IS COMMONSENSE and a basic one, too, that in order for any country to describe itself as a “nation state” the welfare and well being of the masses must take precedence over and above the aspirations of a few that are greedy for power, who, invariably turn out to be the ones running the affairs of the country.

NIGERIA is a country of some 150 million people. Whether this figure is real or imaginary is not to the point. The country is well and truly endowed with natural resources. The country is full of plants that generate food. It is full of plants that generate soft drinks and wines. The womb of the earth around Nigeria breeds petroleum, gas, and kerosene, in sufficient quantity to top the league of world’s suppliers.

But the wealth of Nigeria is distributed in such a way that poverty is grinding millions of people to a boneless pulp. The wealth of Nigeria is in the hands of 187,500 people or 0.125 of the population.

Nigeria - 4 countries in one

Nigeria is not a “Nation State” but a country. In **The Right of Habitation – Complementary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** – presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations on the occasion of the world body’s 60th birthday, I offer a definition of “Nation State” in Article 1 –

“A Nation State is a nation state of many Nations, many Roots, one Roof – there is only one Sky”

Nigeria is an inhospitable terrain. The country does not welcome foreigners. On many occasions I travelled on ABC transport from Lagos to Abuja, and I never came across an English person, a German, French, Russian, American, Japanese, Korean, Belgian, Austrian, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Malaysian, Australian, Irish, because Nigeria does not extend the hands of friendship to foreigners, for fear that her weaknesses might be exposed.

Fear is the antithesis of reason. If countries around the world run their affairs in the way that Nigerians run the affairs of their country, there would be no such bodies as the United Nations Organisation, and there would be no World Health Organisation, there would be no UNESCO.

Nigeria is a country without any credible system of public administration. No public telephone system in any part of Nigeria. A country of 150 million people lives on GSM!! So, a visitor who arrives at Lagos Airport and is in need of police assistance might as well get on a return flight, because there is no such thing as a telephone system in Nigeria.

It beggars belief therefore, that Mr. Jonathan is seeking a seat on the Security Council of the United Nations. There are compelling reasons why Nigeria’s request for a seat on the UN Security Council should be put on ice. At the present moment all indications are that Nigerians are not hopeful that Nigeria will remain in its present form in say, 4 years’ time.

The Yoruba Kingdom has every Divine Right to a separate existence. The Northern States are showing signs of tiredness. The Niger Delta people are already talking in terms of their own country and their own Identity. And perhaps Ojukwu may have his wish after all, because the Ibo strongly believe that they have a right to a separate existence. No matter what anyone may say, the words of the PROPHECY shall come to pass. Praise the LORD.

Exercise of power

In the normal course of economic development, power should only be exercised by those with least interest. Regrettably, this principle does not hold water in Nigeria. Power is in the hands of those who have everything to gain and nothing to lose. They occupy ivory tower statuses in the community.

The so-called elections of April 2011 were neither fair nor credible. Those Parliamentary Delegations from across Continents that visited Nigeria and soaked Mr. Jonathan with encomiums did exactly the same sorts of things in the days of Ben Bella, Gadafi, Mubarak. Where are they now? Prosperity makes friends but adversity tries them.

The way that Nigerian political elites do their politics is not the way we do it in Europe. I did not see one potential Governor, Representative or Senator, calling on a "Constituent" to canvass for votes. I did not see a party political manifesto by PDP or ACN or CPC or ANPP.

But there were stories of mindless killings in many parts of the country. There was the case of a female who left her home at around 5 am to go to a "polling booth". On the way, she was seized and killed. And there were instances in the Northern parts of the country when hundreds of young people from the Southern parts of Nigeria, were slaughtered like as if they were rams and cows.

To this day, Mr. Jonathan has done nothing positive or constructive or decisive to stem the tide of anarchy across the Northern States, anarchy which is spreading southward. The parents of those young graduates who died are abandoned to the devices of Mr. Jonathan's government. Can this be right?

Surely, there are issues occasioned by the 2011 elections in Nigeria which could lead to someone being prosecuted in the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. The United Nations did ask Mr. Jonathan to inform the world organisation what measures he has in place to stem the tide of violence in the country. To this day, he has not responded.

Parochial Terrorism

I have spent some 10 years on and off trying to understand the mind of suicide bombers. It is beyond comprehension, beyond reason why a person of sound mind and reason would want to kill himself and while at it, take others with him.

In **Nigeria faces disintegration**, I wrote: *"The recrudescence of sporadic upheaval which has been the bane of an Independent Nigeria is back on the front burner. On 26 August, 2011 the United Nations House in Abuja was attacked by an Islamic fundamentalist group, calling itself Boko Haram or **"Movement for the destruction of Western Education and Influence in Nigeria"**. There is no precise definition of Boko Haram. Indeed, the movement's philosophy is unknown. Boko Haram is therefore, a **Parochial Terrorist movement**. The attack on the United Nations House in Abuja, the much acclaimed "Federal Capital Territory" on 26 August, 2011, opened a new front in a scheme to collapse Nigeria as a*

Federation. The question is - Who are they behind the scheme to collapse the Federation of Nigeria?"

The proof that Boko Haram is a movement for the destruction of Western Education and influence in Nigeria is no longer in doubt. Today, we are receiving news that Boko Haram has attacked the University of Ibadan.

The University of Ibadan – the symbol of British excellence in Nigeria was set up in 1948, as a College of London University. Until recently, degrees issued by the University carried the name of University of London.

The attack on the United Nations House in Abuja on the 26 August, 2011 was the work of parochial terrorists. Parochial terrorism and international terrorism are not Siamese twins. Their blood vessels are not joined. The differences between the two are monumental. They differ both in degree and orientation."

In parochial terrorism the intention is often to bring down a national government by chipping off its power structure, at local level, then at regional level, and then BANG, at national level. In International terrorism however, the primary objective of international terrorists is to gain world-wide notoriety with one deadly blow. Examples are many.

The Boko Haram phenomenon is parochial. One by one they are chipping away the power of the local administrators in those Northern States which are considered to be favourably disposed towards Mr. Jonathan. If the current level of parochial terrorism is not checked, the movement would spread their wings across all Northern States.

Parochial terrorism is not just a creation of some irrelevant fundamentalists. Parochial terrorists are funded, handled and commandeered by powerful politicians with enormous financial resources and military hardware at their disposal.

Where are the 13 containers of ammunitions, bombs, grenades, etc., etc. that arrived in Nigeria from Iran in the run up to April 2011 elections? What happened to them? Should there not have been an invitation to all Nigerians to go and watch a ceremony at which the said 13 containers should have been burnt to smoldering ashes? Has anyone been arrested? Has anyone collected the consignment? Who are they? Where are they now? Are they in Nigeria, in America or in the United Kingdom?

Sokoto or sokoto?

To put paid to Boko Haram phenomenon is not an impossible task for the Nigerian Army, but the Will has to be established beforehand.

The Yoruba have a saying (I don't really know how to put it in Yoruba), but it runs like this – A Lagosian who is looking for something does not have to travel to Sokoto (a city in the Northern States, which is some 1000 miles from Lagos) because whatever it is that that Lagosian is looking for is inside his sokoto. (the spellings are the same but they are pronounced differently.(the sokoto – spelt with small "s" is, in fact, a pair of trousers.)

In other words, the Boko Haram phenomenon is domestic and the solution to the threats emanating from the gang can be checked by applying domestic measures. The Nigerian Authorities in charge of intelligence and related matters do not have to worry themselves catching night flights to Sokoto from distant parts of Nigeria, because the answer to Boko Haram phenomenon is inside their sokoto.

The Authorities should go after Boko Haram's financiers and handlers. Members of the gang are at the mercy of powerful politicians with loads of money to spend. Those powerful politicians are spending large sums of money on Boko Haram as a preparatory step towards the break up of Nigeria. Those powerful politicians, who crave for more than one bite of the cherry, are the ones that the Authorities should go after.