



African Humanities Research  
& Development Circle

## THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE VIRTUAL NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM IN NIGERIA” HELD ON 25-26 APRIL 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Terrorism assumed a new dimension in Nigeria’s history in 2009. A National Workshop on “The War Against Terrorism in Nigeria” was organized by the African Humanities Research and Development Circle [AHRDC], University of Nigeria, from 25 to 26 April 2022. The National Workshop brought scholars, stakeholders and other professionals together to reflect on those actions displayed in the private and public spaces, motivated by some immediate and remote factors, which have heightened insecurity within our borders. These actions have led to loss of thousands of lives, both civilian and security personnel.

Although Nigeria had, since her independence six and half decades ago, experienced episodes of violence, rebellions, insurgencies and various degrees of criminal acts, not once has any of these or an accumulation of them defined us as is currently the case. Thus, terrorism as currently experienced in the country tops the list of critical issues that require urgent intellectual and stakeholders’ attention.

Leaving it for too long at the discretion of politicians alone, and for electioneering campaigns, resulted in its widening so extensively in scope and manifestations. This changed the narrative of governance in the country and the social and economic outlook of the nation and her citizens, causing a propensity to criminality. If this aberration is not quickly contained, we as Nigerian citizens cannot assure a peaceful future for ourselves and our children and our children’s children.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

1. To review the state of insecurity in our country.
2. To identify areas where the citizens and successive governments of Nigeria have mishandled the challenges attendant on terrorism and general insecurity in the country.
3. To identify concrete steps to be taken to curb excessive violence and terrorism in Nigeria in order to create a peaceful environment for citizens and visitors alike.

## RESOLUTIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP

1. Insecurity in Nigeria is fed by lack of innovative strategy as well as internal sabotage within the security agencies and allied institutions on one hand, and the political class, on the other.  
The persistence of insecurity in Nigeria is the direct outcome of an absence of good governance in many areas due to the absenteeism of political leaders from their duty posts.
2. Nigerian government should be transparent in the management of insurgency, criminal acts and other forms of violence in the country.
3. There should be synergy between government and the academia for effective policy formulation and implementation. The current gap between the academia and political leaders in Nigeria is a major factor undermining development and public peace.
4. There should be balanced and unbiased approach to the war against insecurity everywhere in Nigeria.
5. Citizens should build strong family units, as the family is the basic unit of society and the nation.
6. Citizens should resuscitate their core values as a people and invest maximally in raising generations that uphold strong moral values that respect human life and dignity.
7. Grassroots securitization should be prioritized.
8. The insufficient number of military and police personnel per hundreds of millions of Nigerian citizens deserve urgent redress. Able-bodied men need to be recruited in order to match troops to tasks.
9. Technology should be employed as a force multiplier to augment shortfall of personnel in the Armed Forces and the Police.
10. Religious excesses among citizens should be curtailed; and religious leaders should imbibe the ideology of peace for its sake.
11. Youth education and skills acquisition should be prioritized to drastically reduce their ready availability for recruitment into terrorist ranks.
12. Prompt social rehabilitation for victims of terror attacks should be given utmost primacy.
13. Sustainable development should be pursued in view of its crucial impact on terrorism and the future.

Signed

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