

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON POLICE AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ON THE UNFORTUNATE RECURRENCE OF KIDNAPPING AND HOSTAGE-TAKING IN NIGERIA- A NATIONAL WAKE UP CALL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at its sitting on Thursday, 19th day of November, 2015 deliberated on a motion on the unfortunate Recurrence of Kidnappings and Hostage – Taking in Nigeria – a national wake up call and mandated its Committees on Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to invite the Inspector-General of Police, Director General, Department of State Security to brief the Committees on efforts to eliminate the menace.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP OF JOINT COMMITTEE:

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|----|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Senator Abu Ibrahim | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Shaaba. M. Lafiagi (CON) | - | Co- Chairman |
| 3. | Senator. Stella A. Oduah | - | Member |
| 4. | Senator David Jonah Jang | - | Member |
| 5. | Senator Bayero Usman Nafada (CON) | - | Member |

6.	Senator Adamu Aliero	-	Member
7.	Senator Emmanuel Paulker	-	Member
8.	Senator Emmanuel Bwacha	-	Member
9.	Senator. Olusola Adeyeye	-	Member
10.	Senator. Theodore A. Orji	-	Member
11.	Senator. Omogunwa O. Yele	-	Member
12.	Senator. Nelson Efiong	-	Member
13.	Senator David A. B. Mark	-	Member
14.	Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya	-	Member
15.	Senator Danjuma Laah	-	Member
16.	Senator Abdul Aziz M. Nyako	-	Member
17.	Senator Bareehu Olugbenga Ashafa	-	Member
18.	Senator Isa Hamman Misau	-	Member

3.0 METHODOLOGY:

The Committee met on 3rd day of December, 2015 to work out modalities on how best to carry out the assignment.

After deliberations, the Committee resolved to invite the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mr. Solomon Arase, the Director – General, Department of State Security (DSS) Lawal M. Daura and the Hon. Minister of Interior Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Abdulrahman Danbazau to brief the Joint Committee.

4.0 INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH INVITED STAKEHOLDERS

The Joint Committee held an interactive Session on Wednesday, the 9th day of December, 2015 with the following heads of Security Agencies.

- (1) The Inspector- General of Police (IGP)
- (2) The Director – General Department of State Security (DSS) and;
- (3) The Honorable Minister of Interior

5.0 OPENING REMARKS

In a brief opening remark, the Chairman of the Joint Committee, Senator Abu Ibrahim welcomed distinguished members and the invited stakeholders. He thanked the invitees for their prompt response to the invitation. He stated that the interactive Session has become necessary following a motion

on the unfortunate Recurrence of Kidnapping and Hostage - Takings in Nigeria which was referred to the joint Committees for further Legislative action. Accordingly, he invited the stakeholders for their briefs urging them to be frank in order to enable the Committee unravel the causes of the problem and consequently arrive at a workable solution

HON. Minister of Interior, Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Abdulrahman B. Danbazau

The Minister in his brief postulated that the menace of kidnapping has been prevalent in Nigeria especially in the South South and South East and that efforts have been made by the Nigeria Police in various ways, and also the Department of State Security (DSS) in information gathering all in a bid to cripple the activities of these faceless people.

He also informed the Committee that the military have also been deployed to help curb the menace.

The Minister further advanced that the menace can be attributed to various societal problems/challenges viz:-

- That there is a growing rate of unemployed youths majority of whom are unskilled and unemployable
- That the statistics of the number of youths given by the National Bureau of statistics shows that Nigeria is faced by a problem of youth bulge.
- That the level of poverty is one of the greatest contributors of this menace which is as a result of the growing rate of unemployment.

In concluding his submission, he said efforts are being made to finding a lasting solution to the menace through information gathering and also raising the level of trust of the community (where the identity of informants is adequately kept secret). That way people will volunteer information without any fear of being attacked.

He also urged the Law Makers to look into the various laws with a view of amending them in order to make the penalties more stiff. This if done could serve as deterrence to other intending criminals.

Lastly, he said that there is need for the courts to dispense with cases brought before them quickly.

6.0 THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE SECURITY-LAWAL M. DAURA

In his brief he made the following submission:

- That threat of Kidnap is about the most potent in the Country, second perhaps, only to the ongoing insurgency and acts of terrorism from the Boko Haram terrorist group in the North East.
- That so far, kidnapping in Nigeria is largely for pecuniary interest and not ideological or religious, except for the limited instances in the North East carried out by the Boko Haram terrorist elements
- That kidnapping commenced in the South-South geopolitical zone and was adopted by militants in the Niger Delta region in protest against perceived marginalization. While foreign oil workers were the initial target when the threat emanated about 2006, the menace presently knows no barrier in the selection of victims and nor spread.

- That presently, almost all zones of the country have been invaded as statistics amply demonstrates. The following details clearly demonstrate the point:
- That October, 2015 recorded a total of one hundred and eight (108) kidnap and sea piracy incidents in twenty-four (24) States in which one hundred and eighty (180) victims were involved, including twenty six (26) foreigners. The States are: Abia, Adamawa, Akwa-ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Bayelsa, Cross-River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Kebbi, Kadunna, Kogi, Kwara, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Rivers, Sokoto and Zamfara.
- Similarly in the same month of October, 2015, the sum of eight hundred and forty-two million five hundred thousand Naira (N842,500,000), was reportedly demanded as ransom by kidnappers. Understandably, some victims' family/employers purportedly paid a sum total of twenty-eight million, sixteen thousand Naira (N28,016,000). This is however a far cry from a real figure for the reason that ransom payment is often under reported.

- That secondly, settlement by foreigners is often behind the scenes, as families usually go against advice for fear that force may be applied in rescuing the victim and thereby endangering their lives Recent example is the release of five (5) polish nationals from coastal waters of Rivers and Bayelsa few days ago.
- That forty (40) of the total incidents recorded in the Month of October, 2015, were resolved, partly on account of Security operations by the service in conjunction with sister Agencies.
- That this resulted in sixty (60) persons regaining their freedom. Similarly, various security agencies arrested about thirty-five suspects even as a victim and one (1) other person lost their lives during kidnap incidents in the month under assessment.
- That in November, 2015, a total of 117 incidents were recorded involving 151 victims spread across 23 States.

He went further to say that four basic categories have been identifies:

- The first group exemplified by Buba DOGO, who combines cattle rustling, robbery and kidnapping. The gang has its base in Kamuku forest which traverses Kebbi, Niger, Kaduna States etc. The gang basically operates in the North West and occasionally migrates to the North central and the South-West. Only lately an affiliate of the gang migrated to Nasarawa, Kogi, and the FCT. The syndicate is made up of the following:

- I. Halilu Bokolo
- II. Ismaila Kassim
- III. Wada Deidei
- IV. Abdullahi Gurgu
- V. Birshir Mohammed
- VI. Bammi (FNU)

Meanwhile, the syndicate is being degraded.

- A second category also operates as a gang of organized abductors mostly along the coastline. One notorious syndicate is headed by a criminal who goes by the alias Bayelsa States. The syndicate is a big time gang who are members of a confederate of sea pirates operating in the gulf of guinea. GADDAFI and affiliates lately invaded a foreign vessels carrying about five polish nationals who

were released about a week after payment of millions of Naira.

- Earlier on 19th October, 2015, four (4) foreigners notably, two Ukrainians and two Lithuanians were kidnapped aboard MV solitare off Bayelsa/Rivers coastline and subsequently released on payment of forty million (40M) million Naira, and a number of iphones, ipads etc. The victims were taken ashore to an island in southern Ijaw LGA of Bayelsa State from where the negotiations commenced.
- Third is a group of wide ranging herdsmen who also combine cattle rustling with kidnapping but operate as individual entities. The group is common in Nasarawa Plateau, Kaduna and Benue States.
- Fourth, is the category that maybe described as lone rangers who occasionally exploit family links or close association. They do not belong to any gang. For example, on 3rd November, 2015, a four year old minor was abducted in Abeokuta Ogun State through the apparent conspiracy of a former domestic staff.

He informed the Committee that the effort been made towards degrading the various groups are in the following order:-

- The "BUBA DOGO" gang has also been degraded considerably and now operates in splinters following the arrest of a good number of gang members. This explains why a splinter group now moves to Nasarawa, Benue and FCT.
- The "FEDERAL" group led by one Victor AFRIKPAROBO and operated in parts of the South-West/South-South geo-political zone.
- The "VAMPIRE" group led by Henry CHIBUEZE (aka Vampire) and operated in parts of the South-South-East geo-political zone.
- The "DUDU" group led by one Umar GIDFE (aka DUDU) and operated in parts of the North-Central and North-west geopolitical
- For instance in Bayelsa State, a good number of lone rangers has been arrested; notably:
 - i. Innocent BEWIMO
 - ii. Raymond Angas JAMES

- iii. Randy IGBILA
- iv. Ebitimi EMBAZI
- v. Victor ISEREGWU
- vi. Idowu JOHN
- vii. Goodluck ZITEIBEGHE
- viii. Douglas WORIKUROMO
- ix. Moses NELSON

He said that the following kidnap cases have been successfully aborted in Kebbi State

- On 3rd June, 2015, plans by the notorious Buba Dogo's kidnap gang to abduct two businessmen in Kebbi town were aborted following DSS Intelligence operation.
- On 23rd October, 2015, Buba DOGO's plan to kidnap operator of Garing Oil Filling Station and one other Engineer in Dakingari, Suetu LGA, also thwarted following successful informants were subsequently arrested.
- On 23rd October, 2015, Plans by buba DOGO's kidnap gang to convey arms from Mashegu LGA, Niger State for the

purpose of effecting kidnap was aborted following increased surveillance.

- On 19th November, 2015, efforts by Boko Haram elements also operating as a kidnap gang to enter Niger Republic en-rout Kastina, Kebbi and Sokoto State, was thwarted following a combined Security operations.
- On 8th November, 2015, Buba DOGO's kidnap gang to abduct the village Head of Kundu in Machika Ribah Danko/Wasagu LGA, was similarly thwarted following intelligence operation.
- On 3rd December, 2015, the plan of Buba DOGO's gang to abduct the wife of a legislator in Alero, Alero LGA was also aborted following hint supplied by the service which stemmed off the plan and thwarted the efforts.
- On 6th December, 2015 decree by another kidnap gang to abduct a resident of Yelwa town, Yauri LGA was aborted.

He gave the figures of arrested kidnap suspects undergoing prosecution as follows:-

AKWA-IBOM-1 (suspect undergoing investigation)

BAYELSA-9 (suspects undergoing investigation)

RIVERS-7 (suspects being arraigned while 1 undergoing investigation)

ENUGU-3 suspects in prison custody, 2 case file forwarded to Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)

DELTA-5 suspects currently being investigated

KWARA- Ongoing case being investigated

ONDO-5 suspects currently arraigned and are in prison custody

OYO-1 suspects currently being investigated

LAGOS-4 suspects undergoing investigation and 1 other being prosecuted.

7.0 The Inspector General of Police Represented by J. Doma

The Inspector- General of Police represented by the Deputy Inspector – General of Police in charge of Finance and Administration, **DIG J.D. Doma** briefed the Joint Committee that sections 364 and 272 of the Criminal code and Penal code defined and spelt out punishment for Kidnapping Offence in

Nigeria. He identified the existing types of kidnapping in Nigeria as follows: Domestic, Political, Predatory, and Profit or ransomed, Staged and Terror – related Kidnapping.

In view of the trend and dimension in which the menace have assumed in the recent past, he said, the Nigeria Police have designed and adopted multiple strategies towards addressing the problem. He stated that the Police have optimized its existing technical intelligence capability through training/retraining, synergy with other Security Agencies, establishment of anti- Kidnapping unit in all the States command, acquisition and expansion of technical/operational capacity, and upgrading of the Lawful interception Data Centre etc.

He further said that the causes of Kidnapping in Nigeria have been attributed to the following:

Unemployment, Drug habit, illiteracy, poverty and unskilled youths.

He identified the following as major constraints in combating kidnapping in Nigeria:

- (ii) Inadequate technical platforms with which to combat Kidnapping.
- (iii) Hoarding of intelligence – lack of prompt and adequate intelligences sharing among Security Agencies;
- (iv) Uncooperative attitudes of relative of victims of Kidnapping
- (v) Difficult terrain/ Logistic constraints

Concluding he said the following remedial strategies have been adopted by the Security Agencies:

- (i) Intensified Intelligence gathering leading to identifying the Kidnappers and their hideouts.
- (ii) Embarking on enlightenment campaign for attitudinal change of the public perception of the security agencies.

8.0 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Committee after listening to their briefs raised the following issues:

- (i) The issue of lack of confidence by the public in giving information to the Security agencies.
- (ii) The issue of link between Security personnels and Kidnappers.
- (iii) Leadership quarrels among Security Agencies.
- (iv) Harmonization and standardization of relevant Security Laws between Federal and State Government.
- (v) The need for State Police
- (vi) The issue of National data center.

In response, to the above issues the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) stated that the problem of bad eggs in Police Force is as a result of imposition of candidate during recruitment process. While the Minister of Interior urge the Committee to provide more fund to the Security Agencies to enable them address the increasing Security challenges in the Country.

made the following findings:

- (a) That though Kidnaping started in the Niger Delta area where oil workers mainly Foreigners were targeted nothing serious was done to stop it.
- (b) That the Security agencies are seriously tackling the menace of Kidnapping and hostage-taking
- (c) That Kidnapping and hostage-taking is now nation-wide
- (d) That the modus operandi of the Kidnappers is well-known to the Security agencies.
- (e) That it appears the Security agencies have not been able to perform optimally due to inadequate funding to enable them procure modern technology and equipment
- (f) That there appear to be unnecessary and unhealthy rivalry amongst the Security agencies leading to lack of required synergy and intelligence sharing on time
- (g) That relations of the victims are always ready to pay ransom which tend to encourage the criminals

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends as follows:

- That the funding of the Security agencies should be taken as a priority project bearing in mind that the practice of envelop budgetary for Security agencies have proved ineffective
- That effort should be geared towards creating employment opportunities for our teeming unemployed Youths
- That Security Agencies should embark on training and retraining of their personnel for effective capacity building
- State Government should enact Laws to enable Security Agencies to prosecute Kidnappers and other crime related offences in their jurisdiction.
- That synergy and intelligence sharing among Security agencies should be vigorously pursued
- That the Inspector-General of Police and Director-General of the Department of State Security in particular, and other Security agencies should be encouraged to do more.

appreciation to the Senate President, the Leadership and the entire Senate for the opportunity to carry out this assignment.

It is my hope that the entire Senate will fully support the recommendations proposed by the joint Committee.

Thank you.

1. Senator Abu Ibrahim
2. Senator Mohammed S. Lafiagi (CON)
3. Senator. Stella A. Oduah CON
4. Senator Usman Nafada (CON)
5. Senator Adamu Aliero
6. Senator Emmanuel Paulker
7. Senator Emmanuel Bwacha
8. Senator. Olusola Adeyeye
9. Senator. Theodore A. Orji
10. Senator. Omogunwa O. Yele
11. Senator. Nelson Efiong

A. Nafada

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12. Senator David Jonah Jang

13. Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya

14. Senator Danjuma Laah

15. Senator Abdul Aziz M. Nyako

16. Senator Bareehu Olugbenga Ashafa

17. Senator Hamman Misau

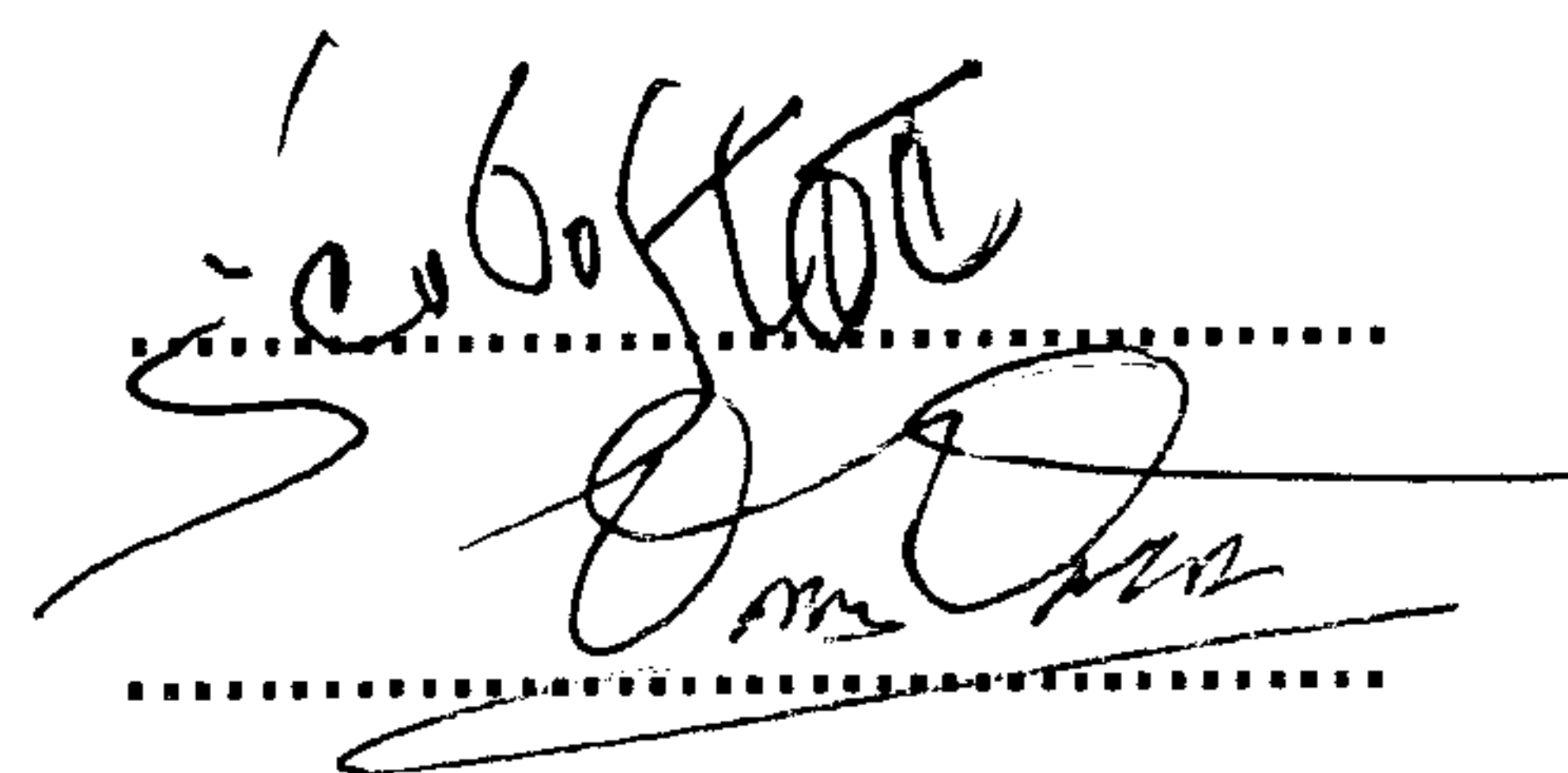
18. Senator Abdullahi A. Gumel

Barr. Falade A. Lawson

Committee Clerk

Mr. Umaru Samuel P.

Committee Clerk



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