



# JHUMUNC

THE JOHNS HOPKINS MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

## CABINET OF NIGERIA

*Chaired by Aileen Feng*

Session XXIII

# Cabinet of Nigeria

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*Topic A: Reducing Oil Dependency*

*Topic B: Addressing Kidnappings and the Resurgence of Boko Haram*

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## Committee Overview

Nigeria is an independent state in West Africa with 200 million citizens.<sup>1</sup> However, Nigeria has not always been the independent country it is today. Beforehand, the area of Nigeria was home to several different indigenous tribes and kingdoms. The British Empire later colonized the area and set up administrative rule. Inspired by World War II, Nigeria staged an independence movement and gained their freedom from Great Britain to form a federal republican state in 1960.

With the formation of what is currently Nigeria, an executive council was created and led by Prime Minister Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. The executive council was soon replaced when Nigeria's government switched the role of head of governments led by the Prime Minister to a President and Vice President.

The Nigerian Cabinet is part of the executive branch in the government and is there to serve as an advisory group to the President of Nigeria. All members of the Cabinet are appointed by the President and are responsible for being experts and overseeing a certain sector of society.

While Nigeria has made impressive progress as a country, there are still major issues that the country is currently combating. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet to ensure that the country is looking

for solutions to current problems in the country while ensuring the greatest good for its citizens.

## Parliamentary Procedure

As this is a crisis committee, parliamentary procedure is slightly different. Normal parliamentary procedure such as speaker's list, moderated and unmoderated caucuses, motions, and voting procedures will remain the same. However, in contrast, in this committee, there will be crisis updates occurring during sessions that delegates must respond to. Instead of creating working papers and a resolution paper, crisis delegates will be crafting directives that include short clauses to explain what the directive is doing and for what purpose and the whole committee will vote on it with a simple majority to pass the directive.

In a crisis committee, there will also be crisis notes where a delegate, based on their portfolio powers, can act and execute different actions to further their agendas.

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<sup>1</sup> "The World Factbook: Nigeria." Central Intelligence Agency, 2018.

In this particular committee, each delegate is assigned to be a cabinet member in the current Cabinet of Nigeria. It is important to stay within the range of the portfolio powers that is provided in the Delegate Biographies below in this background guide. It is important in a crisis committee to create a comprehensive agenda that a delegate is trying to achieve through both cooperation with other delegates, directives, press releases, and crisis notes.



# Delegate Biographies:

## Muhammadu Buhari

### *President*

The President holds an important role in the Cabinet. In addition to being the President, this delegate is also the Commander in Chief as well as the Minister of Petroleum.<sup>2</sup> As both head of state and head of government, the President assents and executes the legislation passed by the legislative. Buhari can also call for national referendums, appoint and dismiss Cabinet members and other federal officers, and serve as leader of the military. Buhari also controls the Petroleum economy in Nigeria.<sup>3</sup>

## Yemi Osinbajo

### *Vice President*

As Vice President, Osinbajo's main duty is to be the second-in-command to the President, as well as next in line for the presidency. In addition, the Vice President is a member of many councils, enacting policies through his participation in them.<sup>4</sup> Many of the delegated powers of the Vice President come from the President.

## Mansur Dan Aku

### *Minister of Defense*

Dan Aku leads and directs the Nigerian Ministry of Defense. As Minister, his responsibilities include managing the branches of the Armed Forces of Nigeria to protect the state.<sup>5</sup> This gives Dan Aku power over the army, navy, and air force as well as the power to enhance the country's defense industries. The

Minister of Defense can also make decisions about peacekeeping missions in regard to the country and the troops sent.<sup>6</sup>

## Abubakar Malami

### *Minister of Justice*

The Minister of Justice also serves as the Attorney General of Nigeria. Malami's main responsibility is to ensure that the federal law is followed.<sup>7</sup> The Minister of Justice heads the Federal Ministry of Justice and brings and argues cases in front of the courts on behalf of the government.<sup>8</sup> Malami has power over many departments of litigation and the ability to try criminal cases.

## Geoffrey Onveama

### *Minister of Foreign Affairs*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs heads the Nigerian foreign ministry and concerns himself with the relationship between Nigeria and the international community.<sup>9</sup> It is the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to enforce decisions made in the international community and to interact with other states to create beneficial relationships for Nigeria. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has the direct power to contact other foreign officials to promote Nigerian ideals and decisions.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Muhammadu Buhari," Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "About Prof." Prof. Yemi Osinbajo (SAN). THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

<sup>5</sup> Conor Gaffey, "Has Boko Haram Only Got Three Months to Live in Nigeria?" Newsweek, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> "Our Structure," Ministry of Defence, 2019.

<sup>7</sup> "Abubakar Malami: Profile: Africa Confidential," Profile | Africa Confidential, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> "Core Functions and Activities of the Ministry," Federal Ministry of Justice, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> "Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs," Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2019.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

## **Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed**

*Minister of Finance*

As the Minister of Finance, Ahmed leads the Nigerian Ministry of Finance. Ahmed has the power to direct and mobilize the financial resources of the country and budgets where it may be spent in the future.<sup>11</sup> The Minister of Finance prioritizes the country's economic development, determines the government's fiscal policies, and manages the currency, foreign exchange reserves, and the federal government's revenues.

## **Udoma Udo Udoma**

*Minister of Budget and National Planning*

As the Minister of Budget and National Planning, Udoma is the leader of the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning. The main responsibility of Udoma is to create economic and development for Nigeria to ensure its advancement in the future.<sup>12</sup> This gives the Minister the power to implement programs and review its progress in the state as well as to conduct research about certain populations and areas within the state to see where certain areas need development and programs.<sup>13</sup>

## **Abdulahman Bello Dambazau**

*Minister of the Interior*

The Minister of the Interior is responsible for the security within the country and the internal affairs of the country. The main responsibility of the Minister of the Interior is to ensure the safety of citizens within the borders of Nigeria.<sup>14</sup> Dambazau has power to implement policies regarding border control and immigration. His powers include control and recruitment of the police, prison services, immigration services, fire services, and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps.<sup>15</sup>

## **Okechukwu Enelamah**

*Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment*

As the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment, it is the responsibility and power of Enelamah to ensure peaceful and beneficial trades with economic allies as well as deciding what industries to invest and partner with to lead to economic growth and development in Nigeria. The Minister implements difference economic and trade policies and programs to create friendlier business and economic models in hopes of growing the country.<sup>16</sup>

## **Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu**

*Minister of State for Petroleum*

Kachikwu leads the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources and controls petroleum resources, where it goes, and what it does in Nigeria. The Minister represents the federal government in dealings regarding petroleum and represents Nigeria in international dealings and affairs that are interested in using Nigeria's petroleum resources.<sup>17</sup>

## **Babatunde Fashola**

*Minister of Power, Works, and Housing*

The Minister of Power, Works, and Housing focuses on the infrastructure of the country to ensure the country can adequately provide for its citizens. Thus, Fashola directs and decides on how power and electricity will be generated, distributed, and transmitted throughout the country and to which communities. The minister is also responsible for the maintenance of roads and transportation as well as affordable and habitable homes.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>11</sup> "Ms Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed," Eiti, 2019.

<sup>12</sup> "Senator Udoma Udo Udoma," The Nigerian Bar Association, 2019.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Temi Banjo, "Abdulahman Bello Dambazau: 7 Things You Need To Know About Nigeria's Minister of Interior," Nigerian Monitor, 2017.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> "Okechukwu Enyinna Enelamah (Okey)," Africa Confidential, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> "H.E. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu," Oil & Gas Council, 2019.

<sup>18</sup> "Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola," Africa Confidential, 2019.

## **Suleiman Hassan**

*Minister of Environment*

It's the Minister of Environment's responsibility to ensure that environmental protection and conservation of natural resources are mainstreamed in all of Nigeria's developmental activities. Hassan has the power to enact plans for the redevelopment of environmental science in accordance with the National Policy on Environment, prescribe standards for the environmental impacts of industrial projects, and enforce environmental protection measures within Nigeria.<sup>19</sup>

## **Audu Ogbeh**

*Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development*

Ogbeh serves to lead the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to achieve sustainable food security and abundant agricultural raw materials for the people of Nigeria as well as the needs of Nigeria's expanding industrial sector. The Minister supervises and regulates the funding of many of the Ministry's parastatals, including the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria and the Rural Access Mobility Project.<sup>20</sup>

## **Issac Adewole**

*Minister of Health*

As the Minister of Health, it is Issac's responsibility to develop and implement policies and programs to reduce the impact of communicable diseases, reverse the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and to improve the quality of life for all of Nigeria. The minister aims to meet global standards on the control of diseases and improve the health status of Nigerians to make economic growth and development possible.<sup>21</sup>

## **Chris Ngige**

*Minister of Labor and Employment*

Ngige leads the Ministry of Labor and Employment, the Nigerian Federal Ministry that is concerned with facilitating and promoting peaceful, productive, and harmonious relations between workers and employees in all industrial sectors. The Minister is in charge of developing employment policies, supervising Social Security Coverage and Welfare, as well as executing international labor diplomacy.<sup>22</sup>

## **Usani Uguru Usani**

*Minister of Niger Delta*

The Niger Delta is a densely populated and extremely petroleum-rich region situated in the geo-political zone of Nigeria. As the Minister of Niger Delta, Usani is responsible for formulating and implementing plans, programs and other initiatives concerned with the Niger Delta region. He is regarded as the primary vehicle of the operations of the region.<sup>23</sup>

## **Lai Mohammed**

*Minister of Information*

As the Minister of Information, Mohammed maintains an appropriate relationship with the Press and the Government. His responsibility is to manage the image, reputation, and dissemination of the culture and the information of the people and the Government of Nigeria through a dynamic informational approach. The Ministry of Information serves as the official Federal Public Information Center and provides guidelines for the operation of other media in Nigeria.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>19</sup> "Suleiman Hassan is new Minister of Environment," *EnviroNews Nigeria*, 2018.

<sup>20</sup> "Office of the Honourable Minister of Agric," Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), 2019.

<sup>21</sup> "Government of Nigeria - Prof Isaac Adewole, Federal Minister of Health," WHO: The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, 2019.

<sup>22</sup> "Mr Chris Nwabueze Ngige," *Africa Confidential*, 2019.

<sup>23</sup> "Usani Uguru Usani - Biography, Life, Family, Career, Facts, Information," *People Pill*, 2019.

<sup>24</sup> "Lai Raufu Mohammed," *Africa Confidential*, 2019.

## **Ogbonnaya Onu**

*Minister of Science and Technology*

As the Minister of Science and Technology, Onu has the responsibility to direct all activities in the science and technology sector in Nigeria. The Minister supervises research in a variety of areas, including biotechnology, space, industrial technology, engineering materials and information technology. Onu is also in charge of the technology involved in extraction of material resources.<sup>25</sup>

## **Rotimi Amaechi**

*Minister of Transportation*

The Minister of Transportation is responsible for the mandate, policies, programs, and budgets involved with the railway and marine transport across Nigeria. Amaechi works closely with Nigeria Railway, Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), and Nigeria Institute of Transport Technology to establish a safe, efficient and affordable intermodal transport system to facilitate economic development and the lives of Nigerians.<sup>26</sup>

## **Aisha Alhassan**

*Minister of Women Affairs*

The Minister of Women Affairs focuses on mainstreaming the concerns of Nigerian women, children, and other socially disadvantaged groups in the nation's developmental processes, with the goal of bringing equal access to social and economic opportunities for everyone in Nigeria. Some recent projects of the Ministry promoted economic empowerment of women and care and support for those living with the disease.<sup>27</sup>

## **Adamu Adamu**

*Minister of Education*

The Minister of Education formulates and coordinates the national policy on education so as to foster the intellectual development of all Nigerian citizens. His duty includes developing national curricula and syllabuses, monitoring the quality of education, and facilitating international educational exchanges.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "Ogbonnaya Onu: Nigerian politician - Biography, Life, Family, Career, Facts, Information," People Pill, 2019.

<sup>26</sup> Chuka Udeze, "Rotimi Amaechi Biography, Children, Family, Private Jet, Quick Facts," Buzz Nigeria, 2018.

<sup>27</sup> Seun Adeyeye, "Mama Taraba leaves APC, here is why," Pulse, 2018.

<sup>28</sup> "Adamu Adamu," Africa Confidential, 2019.



## Topic A: *Reducing Dependency on Oil*

### Introduction

As the largest oil producer in Africa, Nigeria joined the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1971.<sup>29</sup> As the oil prices surged from \$3 per barrel at the start of the 1970s to \$35 per barrel in 1981, Nigeria's fiscal and economic policies were distorted to favor the oil industry at the expense of other sectors of the economy.<sup>30</sup> Government revenues were increasingly dependent on oil revenues.

In the first three months of 2018, the sales of crude oil and processed oil products together made up 87.7% of Nigeria's export earnings.<sup>31</sup> This huge dependence on oil revenues to finance national development has made the Nigerian economy highly susceptible to oil price volatility. Therefore, when oil prices started to collapse in 2012, it exacerbated a myriad of social concerns including unemployment, poverty and insurgency. It also resulted in domestic political instability, corruption, and international security concerns.<sup>32</sup>

Currently, major oil corporations in Nigeria have been cutting back their operations due to political instability. The development of alternative environmentally friendly drilling technologies has also caused a significant drop in Nigeria's crude oil exports.<sup>33</sup> Under such harsh conditions,

it's vital for Nigeria to further alleviate its reliance on the oil industry.

### Historical Background

#### *Political Issues*

Oil has always been a profitable and beneficial resource to have in society. With its high demand, anyone that had access to oil would almost always be guaranteed wealth, especially in Nigeria. In 1965, an oil industry company, Shell, drew the attention of the Nigerian population, as it showed that oil was a possible opportunity to develop the country and earn money.<sup>34</sup> This led many different groups to fight over who had control of such oil resources. Politics, power, and oil control have constantly been connected since the discovery of oil in Nigeria. This meant that if an individual in Nigeria had control of the oil resources, it inevitably meant that the individual would also have political power, which made the issue between oil and politics troubling and prone to corruption and inefficiencies. Oil politics have longed troubled the country of Nigeria and it is now an important decision of the Nigerian Cabinet to take the next steps forward on how to deal with the issue of oil in the country.

Ever since the discovery of oil in the country, the Nigerian oil industry and the country's politics surrounding oil have caused the phenomenon of rent-seeking.

<sup>29</sup>"Member Countries," *OPEC*.

<sup>30</sup>Obasesam Okoi, "The Paradox of Nigeria's Oil Dependency," Africa Portal, South African Institute of International Affairs, January 21, 2019.

<sup>31</sup>"Nigeria's Economy: Services Drive GDP, but Oil Still Dominates Exports," *Africa Check*.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Obasesam Okoi, "The Paradox of Nigeria's Oil Dependency," Africa Portal, South African Institute of International Affairs, January 21, 2019.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*



Rent-seeking is defined as an “attempt to obtain economic rent by manipulating the social or political environment in which economic activities occur, rather than by creating new wealth.”<sup>35</sup> This has caused a lot of greed and corruption among the political elites that are aiming to amass wealth instead of developing the state as a whole. The Nigerian oil industry is especially prone to political manipulation. For example, corruption within the oil industry has manifested in the “award of oil licenses, avoidable bottlenecks in the oil industry, shabby process of crude oil sale and import of refined products and that associated with accounting for accrued revenue from the sale of oil in Nigeria.”<sup>36</sup> These practices only foster more corruption as the Nigerian elites and public officials as they are easily able to gain wealth while forgetting the needs of the Nigerian citizens.

Oil politics in Nigeria have also led to the underdevelopment and neglect of many essential sectors of the country. For example, oil politics has ultimately led to infrastructure decay in the country, as money, time, and effort is instead focused on the oil industry.<sup>37</sup> However, infrastructure is not the only sector that is lacking. The Nigerian government has failed on multiple occasions to provide adequate health care and health care facilities, social services, and maintenance of the country in general.<sup>38</sup> It is critical for the Cabinet of Nigeria to find a solution to this oil problem and provide better services to our people.

<sup>35</sup> David John Marotta, “What Is Rent-Seeking Behavior?” *Forbes*, February 24, 2013.

<sup>36</sup> Charles Eghweree, “‘Oil Politics’ and Development in Nigeria,” *Journal of Energy Technologies and Policy*, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Obasesam Okoi, “The Paradox of Nigeria’s Oil Dependency,” Africa Portal, South African Institute of International Affairs, January 21, 2019.

## Social Issues

Nigeria’s dependency on oil has not only affected the country’s politics and economy, but also had major social implications on the country as well. A major social issue around oil revolves around how the oil revenues are shared in Nigeria.

Nigeria currently consists of six geopolitical zones with three main dominant ethnic groups and several other minority groups<sup>39</sup>. These zones were established in 1997 as an effort to transfer Nigerian politics to a federalized system and encourage ethnic groups’ self-determination.<sup>40</sup> These different ethnic groups can be seen around the Niger Delta, which is where most of the oil is geographically located in the country. However, in the years since, it has become clear that these six zones do not cleanly reflect or represent the over 250 ethnic groups<sup>41</sup> reported to exist in Nigeria. This leads to distrust among the Nigerian public: since the attempts at restructuring the country into six zones in 1997, cultural divides have repeatedly led to threats of secession, with new sub-states in Nigeria split along the lines of the six-zone federalist system.<sup>42</sup>

To gain access to state resources, leaders in the federalized system will often resort to a practice called ‘conflict merchandising’, or the “deliberate politicization of ethnic and religious diversity by... political elites and persons.”<sup>43</sup> Conflict merchandising emphasizes a divided populace and often seeks to use nationalized funds as a means for mitigating crime-- often translated to oppressing,

<sup>39</sup> “Constitution: Six Geopolitical Zones Divide North, South.” *The Punch - Nigeria’s Most Widely Read Newspaper*, 2019.

<sup>40</sup> Jake Dan-Azumi, et al., “The Challenge of Re-Federalizing Nigeria: Revisiting Recent Debates on Political Re-Structuring,” *The Journal of Political Sciences and Public Affairs*, 2019.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

controlling, or disenfranchising ethnic minorities in the federalized zone.<sup>44</sup>

Oil funding is especially unevenly distributed, with much of the brunt of environmental destruction borne by-- and few of the funds drawn from this oil exploitation distributed to-- the south-south zone.<sup>45</sup> As of now, much of the oil revenue of Nigeria follows a system of fiscal federalism,<sup>46</sup> in which regions claim funds based on their economic activity and receive some support-- though not the majority of their funding-- from the national government. Thus, zones that have access to international waters and participate in the export (rather than the drilling) of oil seek to benefit the most, while zones that do not produce oil seek to benefit the least. This creates a Nigeria with wildly uneven standards of living and government resources for families living in different parts of the country.<sup>47</sup> Different zones disagree as to the methods to be used for resource allocation; larger zones tend to advocate for allocation based on geographical size or population (the current determinants for nationalized funds), while other zones argue that the poverty index and primary school enrollment are better markers.<sup>48</sup> This leads to further sentiment of disunity and divisiveness in Nigeria as a whole. The Cabinet must determine a more ideal, fair system for resource allocation-- should each zone reap the benefits of its own natural resource production (fiscal federalism)? Or should zones that produce less profitable resources benefit from the oil production of other zones?

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> "Constitution: Six Geopolitical Zones Divide North, South," *The Punch - Nigeria's Most Widely Read Newspaper*, 2019.

<sup>46</sup> Jake Dan-Azumi, et al., "The Challenge of Re-Federalizing Nigeria: Revisiting Recent Debates on Political Re-Structuring," *The Journal of Political Sciences and Public Affairs*, 2019.

## *Past Nigerian Policies*

Oil dependency has long been an issue in Nigeria and there have been different policies implemented, some successful and some unsuccessful, to try to combat the issues that arise from the dependency on oil.

Nigeria created the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDs) in 2004 that was inspired by the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. The NEEDS initiative focuses on the agricultural sector in an attempt to improve it and make it more efficient.<sup>49</sup>

In November 2015, the MPC, the Monetary Policy Committee, reduced the policy rate from 13% to 11%.<sup>50</sup> This will provide more support to the economy through the credit channel in an attempt to try to build the economy. Nigeria's Cash Reserve Ratio was also reduced from 25% to 20% to banks with a focus on specific sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure development, and solid minerals to try to promote growth in other sectors of the economy besides the oil sector.<sup>51</sup> In theory, the easing of liquidity should boost credit to other sectors of the economy, but due to structural issues and limited bankable projects, the impact of such policies is likely to be ineffective for the most part.

With Nigeria's focus on the diversification of its economy, import substitution has been implemented across agriculture and manufacturing. Thus, there have been duties imposed on certain products such as wheat, rice, and sugar since 2012 to try to stimulate the domestic

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Charles Eghweree, "'Oil Politics' and Development in Nigeria," *Journal of Energy Technologies and Policy*, 2014.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

economy in those areas.<sup>52</sup> This policy may struggle to yield results due to the poor trade and logistics infrastructure currently in Nigeria, as there is a lack of transportation, warehousing, and electricity for businesses and entrepreneurship to flourish.

Many of the past development plans in Nigeria have failed due to three main reasons. Firstly, there is a lack of an effective planning mechanism to successfully implement these programs and policies with desired results. It must include a variety of people to accommodate the beliefs and opinions of Nigerians. Secondly, many politicians and public officials do not have the political motivation to achieve such sets of goals due to its difficulty. Lastly, some development plans are too varied in their goals instead of focusing on a specific economic or development sector.

## Contemporary Problems

### *Political Conditions*

A potential anti-corruption drive was a big focus of President Buhari's campaign. The government has since reorganized anti-corruption bodies to be more efficient and created a structural reform program for the oil and gas sector.<sup>53</sup> However, members of the public still perceive the government to be corrupt, especially given that the President and governors are constitutionally shielded from criminal prosecution.<sup>54</sup> As the Cabinet of Nigeria, the committee must find a solution to corruption as it severely hinders its development. Due to the high success and large sum of money that comes from the oil sector, many powerful elites

want access to that resource. Thus, corruption arises from Nigeria's oil dependency. The revenue from oil can be used for a lot of socioeconomic development for Nigeria. Unfortunately, much of the money has instead led to high inflation, large exchange rate appreciation, and the downfall of many non-oil sectors, and rent-seeking behavior.<sup>55</sup>

Due to the complexity of the Nigerian oil and gas industry, it makes the industry very susceptible to corruption. Due to the many levels and bureaucracy involved with the gas industry and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), it makes it very easy for elites and the powerful to take advantage of revenue flows without being caught for their corrupt actions.<sup>56</sup> Corruption can come in many forms, such as the fraudulent awarding of legal business, oil, and drilling licenses to individuals or companies that are affiliated with-- or pay off-- members of the Nigerian government. It may also include awarding contracts to specific people and rejecting towards others without merit being taken into consideration. The oil bunkering, or the practice of stealing oil from pipelines, flow stations, and export facilities, is also commonplace. Most sources state that approximately 100,000 bpd-200,000 bpd are lost via bunkering in Nigeria,<sup>57</sup> which translates to lost public funding, lost zone funding, and increased worries of corruption from Nigerian voters.

Due to the drastic increase of corruption in the oil industry, the question of whether corruption committees (such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Jake Dan-Azumi, et al., "The Challenge of Re-Federalizing Nigeria: Revisiting Recent Debates on Political Re-Structuring," *The Journal of Political Sciences and Public Affairs*, 2019.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Donwa, P. A., C. O. Mgbame, and O. L. Ogbeide, "Corruption in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry and Implication for Economic Growth," *International Journal of African and Asian Studies*, 2015.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) are truly effective, and if not, how they can be changed to become more effective bodies.

### *Social Conditions*

The Niger Delta, one of the most prominent oil-producing regions of Nigeria, has been plagued by sectarian violence among its many rival ethnic minorities. Around the late 1980s, different indigenous tribal groups began raising concerns about international oil operations in the Niger Delta. The largest group is the Ogoni, and many other ethnic groups such as the Ijaws, Itserikis, Urhobos, Isikos, Liages, Ikwerres, Ekpeyes, and Ogulaghas also reside in the region.<sup>58</sup> Most recently, these ethnic groups raised concerns with Shell and Mobil. These companies are able to reap massive revenues from oil production with few payouts and economic rewards towards the minority groups that provide labor, who then suffer the subsequent environmental degradation from oil production.<sup>59</sup>

At first, the Ogoni began to protest and display minor levels of civil disobedience. Led by Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni formed the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP).<sup>60</sup> The situation escalated and Saro-Wiwa along with eight others were hanged by the Nigerian government. The execution sparked the radicalization of the ethnic groups in the Niger Delta. Some individuals in these groups began bunkering oil and conducted terrorist attacks directed at oil interests, while others engaged in peaceful protests and anti-capitalist, anti-Western dialogue.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Fellows, University of Houston Energy, "Oil And Violence In The Niger Delta Isn't Talked About Much, But It Has A Global Impact," *Forbes*, February 13, 2017.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

In 2015, a new group called the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) was founded.<sup>62</sup> The goal of the NDA is to force oil companies to leave the Niger Delta and give the region's ethnic groups control of all oil operations in the area. The group is well-armed with modern weapons. The NDA has succeeded in targeting Shell, Chevron, and Exxon. These attacks have significantly decreased Nigeria's oil production, with a reported decrease of approximately 80,000 barrels per day in 2016.<sup>63</sup>

It is critical for the committee to take swift action to address both the concerns of the oil companies and those of the ethnic minorities. A military solution to the issue is a contentious route of action; the Nigerian government has never defeated a militant Niger Delta group through military force. The Nigerian government could also possibly offer economic incentives and amnesty to NDA and minority ethnic groups, but the Cabinet must consider whether the Nigerian economy is in a position to offer such incentives.

### *Economic Conditions*

After the collapse of crude oil prices in 2018, the Nigerian economy took a drastic turn for the worse from which it is still struggling to recover today. According to a 2018 research study conducted by The Brookings Institution, 87 million Nigerian citizens are living on less than \$1.90 a day with projections that approximately one hundred million Nigerian citizens may be in extreme poverty by 2022.<sup>64</sup>

Nigeria is slowly diversifying its economy. A report from the National Bureau of Statistics revealed that Nigeria's

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Obasesam Okoi, "The Paradox of Nigeria's Oil Dependency," Africa Portal, South African Institute of International Affairs, January 21, 2019.

economy grew about 1.81% in 2018 and the non-oil sector of the economy grew by 2.3%.<sup>65</sup> Despite this improvement, oil still accounted for 81.1% of Nigeria's total exports. With President Buhari in power, oil production output has been at its lowest, but still dominates a large aspect of the economy.<sup>66</sup>

In order for Nigeria to break from oil dependency, Nigeria must diversify its economy. Many believe that the modernization of the agriculture sector could yield significant results as it would provide resources and improve the efficiency of agriculture.<sup>67</sup> To maximize the agriculture sector's potential, there will need to be much infrastructure and transportation development. Other possible ways to decrease oil dependency in the economy is fostering the tourism industry, as well as promoting entrepreneurship and local business leadership.

### *Environmental Concerns*

A major concern over petroleum use globally is its damaging effects on the environment. Petroleum is a fossil fuel, and fossil fuels and industrial processes account for 65% of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) worldwide.<sup>68</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> is a major driver of anthropogenic global warming, also known as climate change. Climate change is changing weather patterns around the world. West Africa is a climate-change hotspot, and climate change will likely

decrease crop yields and production throughout the region.<sup>69</sup> This will have significant implications on food security.<sup>70</sup> Under the 2015 Paris Climate Accords, Nigeria's nationally determined contribution (NDC) is a 20% reduction of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to business as usual (BAU) projections by 2030.<sup>71</sup> Reducing oil dependency and switching to cleaner fuel sources would certainly help Nigeria fulfill its commitments.<sup>72</sup>

Another more direct concern is that of oil spills, which are major environmental and environmental health issues. Every year, over 40 million liters of crude oil are spilled in the Niger Delta.<sup>73</sup> A study found that over 12,000 oil spills have occurred in the region from 1976 to 2014.<sup>74</sup> Pipeline corrosion and tanker accidents caused the majority of them.<sup>75</sup> This has serious implications for the local ecosystem of the Niger Delta and the humans that depend on it for fishing and farming.<sup>76</sup> In fact, a study found that infants are twice as likely to die in the first month of life if their mothers were living near an oil spill before becoming pregnant.<sup>77</sup>

Although oil companies are supposed to clean up spills within 24 hours of them occurring, they often fail to do so.<sup>78</sup> This is alarming because oil can persist in the environment for years, and the effects of oil spills on the ecosystem may last decades.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>65</sup> "Nigeria: Looking Beyond Oil," PwC, 2016.

<sup>66</sup> Obasesam Okoi, "The Paradox of Nigeria's Oil Dependency," Africa Portal, South African Institute of International Affairs, January 21, 2019.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> "Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data," EPA, 2019.

<sup>69</sup> Dan Shepard, "Global Warming: Severe Consequences for Africa - Africa Renewal," United Nations, 2019.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Olumide Idowu. "Nigeria Develops Third Paris Agreement National Communication," 13 September 2018.

<sup>72</sup> Olumide Idowu. "Nigeria Develops Third Paris Agreement National Communication," 13 September 2018.

<sup>73</sup> Bukola Adebayo, "Major New Inquiry into Oil Spills in Nigeria's Niger Delta Relaunched," CNN, 2019.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Kate Hodal, "'Absolutely Shocking': Niger Delta Oil Spills Linked with Infant Deaths," The Guardian, 2017.

<sup>78</sup> Bukola Adebayo, "Major New Inquiry into Oil Spills in Nigeria's Niger Delta Relaunched," CNN, 2019.

<sup>79</sup> Justin Gillis and Leslie Kaufman, "After Oil Spills, Hidden Damage Can Last for Years," The New York Times, 2010.

## Questions to Consider

1. *What are some possible ways Nigeria can achieve economic diversification?*

As mentioned in the text above, modernization of agriculture, developing infrastructure, or encouraging entrepreneurship are some of the approaches Nigeria could take to diversify its economy. What are some challenges and difficulties of each approach? What policies can be ameliorated? Which institutes will be involved?

2. *What might be the best way to combat political corruption?*

The Nigerian government has strived to combat corruption for many, many years, with most of the policies ineffective. What has been done in the past? What lessons could be learned from the past? What is President Buhari's focus on fighting corruption? How to regulate the institutions in oil sectors?

3. *What can be done to the current anti-corruption committees?*

How to make the current institutions more effective in implementing policies? Are all such committees necessary? What can be done to make the oil transactions more transparent?

4. *How should the government respond to militant Niger Delta groups?*

How can the current conflicts be resolved? What could be done in the long term to relieve ethnic tension and violence? What stance should the government take towards the ethnic groups?

5. *How should the government regulate international oil operations?*

International oil operations present both interests and harms towards Nigeria. How should the government weigh its pros and cons? How should Nigeria deal with its relationships with the big international oil corporations?

6. *What do you think is the priority now for Nigeria to reduce its dependency on oil?*

With all issues on the table, what must be done first? What development plans should be carried out? How can the development plans avoid the past mistakes and achieve their objectives? What should be some short term/long term goals of the government as a whole to reduce dependency on oil?

7. *How can Nigeria prevent environmental disasters from occurring in the future?*

Has traditional wisdom on economic development overlooked external costs such as environmental issues? How can the government compensate victims of oil spills? How can the government better regulate oil companies? What role does Nigeria, as both a developing country and oil producer, have in mitigating climate change?

## Conclusion

The economy of a country is vital to the country's growth and development as well as the well-being of its citizens. Nigeria's economy is currently extremely dependent on oil, resulting in the lack of economic variation and poverty among large populations in Nigeria. This has caused the economy to be stagnant and lacking growth and development, limiting the entire country from growing and developing as a whole. This is an essential issue that must be solved if the cabinet wants Nigeria to develop in the future.

Nigeria's dependence on oil is not only affecting the economy, but also fostering racial and ethnic tensions and discrimination within the country. Many different groups are seeking control and access to oil, but only a few are able to get it and reap the benefits with the help of discrimination. This leads to tension and ethnic divisions within the country, causing violence and civil disobedience.

Lastly, Nigeria's dependence on oil is also creating corruption within the government since it is direct access to wealth in this country. It is important to find a way to detect and limit this corruption in order to restore trust and transparency in the government.

Nigeria's dependency on oil is a complex problem affecting many different issues. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet to find a resolution to this issue to ensure the well-being of its citizens and allow for Nigeria to develop and thrive as a country.



## Topic B:

### *Resurgence of Boko Haram and Kidnappings*

#### Introduction

Boko Haram is an Islamic terrorist group based in Nigeria that is responsible for multiple attacks in northern and northeastern Nigeria.<sup>80</sup> Despite President Buhari's declaration that Boko Haram is almost defeated, there seems to be a rise of Boko Haram violence. Boko Haram appears to control 4 out of 10 zones in the northern Borno state and are well armed after several military raids.<sup>81</sup> Under Buhari, there has been 80 million US dollars allocated to fight and resist Boko Haram, but where the money goes is not clear.<sup>82</sup>

Boko Haram was responsible for the Chibok Schoolgirls Kidnapping, in which over 276 female students were kidnapped from a secondary school in 2014.<sup>83</sup> Today, over 100 of these schoolgirls are still held captive.<sup>84</sup> The Chibok Schoolgirls Kidnapping garnered significant media attention, both domestically and internationally. However, there are several thousands of other boys and girls that have been kidnapped by Boko Haram over the years that are still held captive.<sup>85</sup>

In addition, to Boko Haram, several other militia groups roam the country, inflicting violence. The Cabinet must act to protect the citizens of Nigeria against such violence.

#### Historical Background

##### *Terrorist Attacks*

In Hausa, Boko Haram translates into "Western education is forbidden," and the terrorist group was once referred to as Niberian Taliban.<sup>86</sup> Boko Haram militants are primarily located in the northern states of Nigeria, namely Yobe, Kano, Bauchi, Borno, and Kaduna.<sup>87</sup> The group has carried out a multitude of terrorist attacks on religious and political groups, police, military, and civilians in busy markets.<sup>88</sup>

It is presumed the group formally organized in 2002. Their first known terrorist attack was in 2003 near the Niger border, in which 200 militants attacked multiple police stations.<sup>89</sup> Boko Haram's uprising began in 2009, with planned attacks on police officers in Bauchi, Borno, Kano, and Yobe.<sup>90</sup> A year later, 50 Boko Haram militants, after the death of their leader cleric Mohammed Yusuf, attacked a prison. This resulted in the death of five people and the release of seven hundred inmates.<sup>91</sup>

In 2011, terrorist attacks from the group began to escalate and become more frequent. On the inauguration day of Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Boko Haram detonated three improvised explosive devices (IEDS) near a military barracks in the city of Bauchi, killing at least

<sup>80</sup> "Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, 2019.

<sup>81</sup> John Campbell, "Boko Haram Blocks Oil Exploration in Northeast Nigeria," *Council on Foreign Relations*, 1 Aug 2017.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Fidelis Mbah, "Nigeria's Chibok Schoolgirls: Five Years on, 112 Still Missing," *Al Jazeera*, 14 Apr. 2019.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> John Campbell, "Boko Haram Blocks Oil Exploration in Northeast Nigeria," *Council on Foreign Relations*, 1 Aug. 2017.

<sup>86</sup> "Boko Haram Fast Facts," *CNN*, 8 Sept 2019.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.



ten people<sup>92</sup>. That same year, Boko Haram attacked the United Nations compound in Abuja with a car bomb, killing 23 people and injuring more than 75.<sup>93</sup>

Boko Haram was labeled a “terrorist organization” on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. That same year, Boko Haram targeted churches around Nigeria three consecutive Sundays, resulting in the deaths of more than 50 people.<sup>94</sup> In November of 2013, gunmen dressed in military uniforms staged a fake checkpoint near Benisheik in Borno where they burned cars and executed travelers, killing at least 143 people.<sup>95</sup> This same year the US States Department added Boko Haram to its list of terrorist organizations.<sup>96</sup>

In 2014, after the Chibok Schoolgirls Kidnapping, Boko Haram militants stormed three villages in the state of Borno. There, villagers resisted and killed 200 Boko Haram members.<sup>97</sup>

Attacks continued throughout 2015. In 2016, Boko Haram dispatched two female suicide bombers in a refugee camp for displaced persons due to terrorism, killing 58 people.<sup>98</sup>

### *Chibok Schoolgirls Kidnapping*

On April 14, 2014, Boko Haram committed its most infamous kidnapping in Borno. At a boarding school in Chibok, around 276 schoolgirls were abducted. Although some were able to escape, most would remain captive for many years. This kidnapping sparked the #BringBackOurGirls movement around the world on social media.<sup>99</sup>

A video statement was released by the group, with one of the leaders, Abubakar

Shekau, stating that he had abducted Nigeria’s girls, and planned on selling them in markets.<sup>100</sup> By this point, the kidnapping had received widespread international attention. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, the US announced that 80 troops had been sent to Chad to help search for the missing girls.<sup>101</sup> Around this same time, the UN Security Council added Boko Haram to its sanctions list.

In April of 2016, Boko Haram released a video of some of the kidnapped girls, demanding the release of members of the terrorist group in exchange for the girls. Then in October of the same year, after a series of negotiations with the Nigerian government, Boko Haram released 21 of the schoolgirls, the most released since the original abduction. In 2017, eighty-two more girls were released after negotiations with the Nigerian government.

Today more than 112 girls remain missing, and many Nigerians believe the government is not doing enough to bring them back, causing tension between the government and its citizens.

### *Action Taken*

Though the Nigerian government has taken many measures in an effort to combat Boko Haram and other militant groups in the nation, the continued battle with such groups and government corruption has led to political instability.<sup>102</sup>

Although attacks first started in 2003, real action was not taken by the government until 2013. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan appointed a team to explore the possibility of amnesty for Islamic militants.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Fidelis Mbah, “Nigeria’s Chibok Schoolgirls: Five Years on, 112 Still Missing,” *Al Jazeera*, April 14, 2019.

<sup>100</sup> Muhammad Kabir Muhammad, “Boko Haram 'to Sell' Nigeria Girls Abducted from Chibok,” *BBC News*, May 5, 2014.

<sup>101</sup> Eric Schmitt, “U.S. Sends Troops to Chad to Aid Hunt for Nigerian Schoolgirls,” *The New York Times*, May 21, 2014.

<sup>102</sup> “Boko Haram in Nigeria - Global Conflict Tracker,” Council on Foreign Relations, 2019.

The leader of the group responded in an audio statement, saying the government needs to be pardoned by the group instead<sup>103</sup>. Even with an increase in security forces for the nation, attacks continued within Nigeria.

Multiple rescue missions have been orchestrated by the Nigerian government in an attempt to rescue civilians and captured women and children. In addition, troops have been sent on missions to raid and destroy Boko Haram camps.

In 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari was elected on a counterterrorism platform,<sup>104</sup> but already existing political and economic issues have complicated the fight against Boko Haram.

## Contemporary Conditions

### *Recent Attacks*

Despite the efforts of the Nigerian government, the problem of Boko Haram and other militant groups still plagues the country. Boko Haram, in particular, has continued a steady stream of attacks and abductions in the past three years.<sup>105</sup>

Though the 2014 kidnapping of almost 300 schoolgirls is probably the most well-known Boko Haram attack, it is certainly not the only abduction of its type. In February 2018, 110 girls were kidnapped from their college in Dapchi, a town in northeast Nigeria. In March, the Nigerian government reported that all of the girls had been freed, except for one who refused to renounce her Christianity.<sup>106</sup>

Boko Haram has also continued other forms of aggression, such as attacking an aid

camp and killing several volunteer workers. The group also carried out an attack on a funeral, resulting in the deaths of at least 65 people. The attack was reported to be a reprisal after a previous failed attack in another village.<sup>107</sup>

In August of 2017, a convoy of oil workers traveled to northeastern Nigeria to investigate oil presence in the region. The group was attacked by Boko Haram, killing between 27 and 40 people.<sup>108</sup>

### *Other Militia Groups*

Though Boko Haram is the most well-known militia group in Nigeria, there are other groups acting for their own purposes in the country.

As previously mentioned, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) has been a pain in the back of Big Oil in the region. However, the NDA is not the first or only militant group to operate in the region. Lesser known militias in the Niger Delta include the Niger Delta Greenland Justice Movement and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).<sup>109</sup>

Another significant militia group is the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) is an anti-Boko Haram armed organization. This group has also struggled with recruitment of children, but in 2017 they signed a pledge to end the use of children as soldiers. Since that pledge, almost 2000 children have been released.<sup>110</sup> The CJTF works with government troops to help protect local villages by setting up security checkpoints

<sup>103</sup> The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Boko Haram," Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019.

<sup>104</sup> "Boko Haram in Nigeria," *Council on Foreign Relations*.

<sup>105</sup> "Boko Haram Fast Facts," CNN, September 8, 2019.

<sup>106</sup> Stephanie Busari, "Most of Kidnapped Schoolgirls Freed, Nigeria Says," CNN, March 21, 2018.

<sup>107</sup> Ruth Maclean, "Boko Haram Fighters Kill Dozens at Funeral in Nigeria," *The Guardian*, July 29, 2019.

<sup>108</sup> John Campbell, "Boko Haram Blocks Oil Exploration in Northeast Nigeria," *Council on Foreign Relations*, August 1, 2017.

<sup>109</sup> Stratfor, "The Ongoing Niger Delta Militant Threat," *Forbes*, 9 Aug. 2011.

<sup>110</sup> Paul Carsten, "Nigerian Militia Frees Nearly 900 Children Used in War on Boko Haram: UNICEF," *Reuters*, May 10, 2019.

and patrols.<sup>111</sup> However, they have by no means been angels. Members have been accused of corrupt behaviors including but not limited to trading drugs, accepting bribery, and sexually assaulting women.<sup>112</sup> Preceding the 2019 elections, there was also concern that they were overly involved in politics, which distracted them from their primary role of defense.<sup>113</sup>

While armed groups may help fill a vital security gap, they can also create conflicts of their own. For instance, in May of 2018, at least 45 people died during a battle between a militia and a group of bandits.<sup>114</sup> Similarly, fighting between thieves and local militias has also led to deaths. The government is unable to properly police such areas, as most of their troops are being used to combat Boko Haram and other extremist groups.<sup>115</sup>

### *Kidnapping for Ransom*

Kidnapping for ransom is the act of forcefully sequestering an individual in an effort to gain money (or another form of gain) in exchange for their release. Nigeria has become a global leader in the rate of kidnappings for ransom, a concerning trend that matches the growing proliferation of ethnic conflict, economic downturn, and the rise of terrorist groups.<sup>116</sup> Kidnap for ransom tends to target victims whose family members have the ability to pay for release, but increasingly, groups-- especially groups of schoolchildren-- have added to the thousands of Nigerians who have been victims of kidnappings.<sup>117</sup>

Kidnapping is carried out by a variety of groups as opposed to individuals; crime syndicates, militant groups, and bands of insurgents most frequently seek the massive economic benefits that may arise from targeting individuals with a higher ransom price. Beyond providing funds for insurgent and militant groups, including those along the Niger Delta region, kidnappings may also be symbolic-- rural bandits will often target ethnic minorities or rival ethnic groups, despite the victim's families' inability to pay a high ransom price.<sup>118</sup>

Currently, anti-kidnapping measures and prosecutorial power over kidnappers is particularly weak in Nigeria. The punishment for kidnapping ranges as little as one to as much as twenty years in prison.<sup>119</sup> For many gangsters and militants, the benefits of kidnapping far exceed the potential costs; few families of victims turn to the police for help, fearing the murder of the kidnapped family member. Instead, they will often pay massive sums of money for their safe return, which in turn maintains and empowers domestic terrorism.<sup>120</sup> The Cabinet will have to address this issue on a national scale as the country-- and the world-- have a close eye on Nigeria, especially after the globally publicized Boko Haram kidnappings of 2014.

<sup>111</sup> Chitra Nagarajan, "Protecting and Harming Civilians: Perceptions of the CJTF in Northeast Nigeria," Center for Civilians in Conflict, June 29, 2018.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> Casey Quackenbush, "Nigeria: Fighting Between Militia and Armed Bandits Kill 45," *Time*, May 7, 2018.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Chukwuma Al Okoli, "Kidnapping for ransom has become Nigeria's latest security problem," *Quartz Africa*, May 21, 2019.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Eke Chijioke Chinowoku and Christopher Eraye Michael, "Militancy and Violence as a Catalyst to Kidnapping in Nigeria," *International Journal of Police Science & Management* 21, no. 1 (March 2019): 17-35.

<sup>119</sup> Chukwuma Al Okoli, "Kidnapping for ransom has become Nigeria's latest security problem," *Quartz Africa*, May 21, 2019.

<sup>120</sup> Eke Chijioke Chinowoku and Christopher Eraye Michael, "Militancy and Violence as a Catalyst to Kidnapping in Nigeria," *International Journal of Police Science & Management* 21, no. 1 (March 2019): 17-35.

## Governmental Initiatives

Just as militias have continued to stage attacks and raids throughout the country, the government of Nigeria has continued its efforts to curb them. President Buhari has taken a strong stance on Boko Haram, vowing to end the group's attacks. As recently as October of 2019, he claimed that areas damaged by the group had returned to normalcy, as the group had been weakened and was only attacking "soft targets."<sup>121</sup>

The Nigerian government has attempted to stop Boko Haram's attacks in several ways, including direct negotiation with the group and persecution of its members. Through negotiations, the government was successful in arranging the release of most of the girls kidnapped from Dapchi in 2018.<sup>122</sup> Beyond Boko Haram, negotiation also helped ensure that CJTF ceased the use of children in their militia.

In courts, the Nigerian government has been trying to prosecute those involved with the group. In February 2018, the Justice Ministry announced that 205 suspects were convicted of involvement with Boko Haram, resulting in jail terms between three and 60 years.<sup>123</sup> Over 500 people were also released for rehabilitation.<sup>124</sup>

Outside of negotiation and legal proceedings, the government has also used military operations as a way to free hostages and discourage attacks. In May 2018, as part of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), the Nigerian government announced that they had worked with

troops from Cameroon to rescue more than 1000 captives of Boko Haram.<sup>125</sup> President Buhari has placed heavy emphasis on working with neighboring countries to combat militant groups.<sup>126</sup> The government has also prioritized aiding rehabilitation and reconstruction for affected citizens, which is the purpose of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development.<sup>127</sup>

## Controversies and Effects

Though the government has made many efforts to counter Boko Haram, there are also many controversies surrounding their claims. For instance, there is the case of Amina Ali Neki, a Chibok schoolgirl, who the Nigerian government claimed was freed due by army efforts, while others claim to have witnessed her walking out of the forest on her own.<sup>128</sup> There have also been claims of rape and abuse by Nigerian soldiers and members of the CJTF of women fleeing Boko Haram, though the government maintains that these abuses have been addressed, while the army denies these claims entirely, calling them "propaganda".<sup>129</sup> Amnesty International has called for the government to do a better job of tracking those who are displaced by the conflicts, as many people have gone missing, either because of the group or its effects.<sup>130</sup>

The government's military efforts have also had unintended side effects. In January of 2017, the government conducted a bombing mission against Boko Haram. However, the unintentional bombing of a

<sup>121</sup> "Buhari Claims: Normalcy Has Returned To Boko Haram-Ravaged Areas In Nigeria," *Sahara Reporters*, October 17, 2019.

<sup>122</sup> Stephanie Busari, "Most of Kidnapped Schoolgirls Freed, Nigeria Says," CNN, March 21, 2018.

<sup>123</sup> "Nigeria Convicts 205 Boko Haram Suspects in Mass Trials," *Reuters*, February 19, 2018.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>125</sup> Stephanie Busari, Anna Cardovillis, and Bukola Adebayo, "Nigerian Army Says It Has Freed 1,000 Boko Haram Captives," CNN, May 8, 2018.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>127</sup> "Buhari Claims: Normalcy Has Returned To Boko Haram-Ravaged Areas In Nigeria," *Sahara Reporters*, October 17, 2019.

<sup>128</sup> Tim Hume, "First of Missing Chibok Girls Found," CNN, May 18, 2016.

<sup>129</sup> Bukola Adebayo, "Amnesty Accuses Nigerian Troops of Raping Women Rescued from Boko Haram," CNN, May 24, 2018.

<sup>130</sup> Stephanie Busari, "UNICEF: Boko Haram Has Kidnapped More than 1000 Children in Nigeria," CNN, April 13, 2018.

camp for displaced citizens led to the death of around 90 people.<sup>131</sup>

The ongoing conflict between the Nigerian government and the many militant groups within the country has greatly affected the country's residents and economy. In January of 2019, it was reported that 30,000 people had been forced to leave Nigeria for Cameroon in a single weekend due to Boko Haram's attacks.<sup>132</sup> In comments made in October 2019, President Buhari acknowledged that unstable conditions have made it difficult for businesses to succeed.<sup>133</sup> Boko Haram's concentration in northeast Nigeria has also harmed their oil-based economy by preventing oil companies from exploring that region of the country.<sup>134</sup> Additionally, conflicts distract the country's military and police forces, leaving communities vulnerable to attacks from bandits and thieves.

Clearly, the Nigerian government has a vested interest in stopping Boko Haram, but they have not yet succeeded, despite the claims of the country's president. Beyond simply stopping the attacks, it is also vital that Nigeria finds a way to recover from the damage and help its people and economy to overcome their losses.

<sup>131</sup> Stephanie Busari and Ibrahim Sawab, "Nigerian Fighter Jet Strikes Refugees, Aid Workers in Borno," *CNN*, January 20, 2017.

<sup>132</sup> Bukola Adebayo and Sara Mazloumsaki, "30,000 Nigerians Flee Boko Haram Violence in Two Days, UN Says," *CNN*, January 29, 2019.

<sup>133</sup> "Buhari Claims: Normalcy Has Returned To Boko Haram-Ravaged Areas In Nigeria," *Sahara Reporters*, October 17, 2019.

<sup>134</sup> John Campbell, "Boko Haram Blocks Oil Exploration in Northeast Nigeria," *Council on Foreign Relations*, August 1, 2017.

## Questions to Consider

1. *What actions should the Cabinet take to ensure Nigerian citizens are safe from the violence of terrorist groups?*

Nigerian citizens have been constantly victimized by terrorist attacks with kidnappings, bomb explosions, and other forms of violent attacks. The cabinet must find a proper and effective method of protecting citizens from such violence.

2. *How should the cabinet proceed regarding claims of corruption and misconduct by Nigerian soldiers?*

According to certain sources, Nigerian soldiers have been accused of sexual assaults against women fleeing from Boko Haram. How should the cabinet better address corruption and misconduct within the government itself? This can cause a lot of mistrust between citizens and the government

3. *How does Nigeria make businesses and the economy less susceptible to terrorism?*

Businesses and the oil sector have suffered from different terrorist attacks on both workers and factories. The economy is already suffering due to other factors and we must find ways to make the economy less susceptible to possible attacks.

4. *How should Nigeria address other terrorist activities that is not limited to Boko Haram?*

Boko Haram is not the only terrorist group active within the country as there are several others that have conducted harm within the country. The cabinet must address the issues regarding the other

terrorist groups and their wants to ensure safety within Nigeria.

5. *How should the Cabinet address the current refugee crisis out of the country?*

Many Nigerian are fleeing the country due to violent terrorist attacks. The Cabinet needs to find a way to ensure the country is safe for its own citizens as well as making sure that citizens have a safe method to take refuge elsewhere.

6. *What can be improved on past policies to ensure that future policies on terrorism succeeds?*

Many attempts and past policies have been made about terrorism within Nigeria. However, many of these policies and legislation have yet to be successful at ending the violence and chaos terrorist groups cause within Nigeria. It is essential for this cabinet to learn from the mistakes of past policies to create new ones that are actually effective in combating terrorist groups in Nigeria

7. *How can the government repair the damages of these terrorist attacks on Nigerian citizens?*

Many of these terrorist attacks have had an everlasting consequence on Nigerian citizens with the deaths, kidnappings, violence, and economic losses that they have to experience. The Nigerian government must find some form of reparation or method to repair the damages that have been caused by the terrorist group to build back the country as well as the trust of the citizens.

## Conclusion

The existence of militant groups in Nigeria, particularly Boko Haram, has caused a lot of unrest and instability in the country. Fighting between the government and these groups has hindered the country's economy and displaced millions of citizens.

Terrorism has longed plagued the country, causing mistrust between the government and Nigerian citizens. The violence and uncertainty caused by terrorist group has lead to many consequences for the country including a stagnant economy, threats and violence on innocent civilians, and creating a reputation that the Nigerian government is unable to solve this crisis

The violence that has been caused by these terrorist groups in Nigeria has caused a lot of turmoil within the country itself and it is the responsibility of the Cabinet to take the next steps forward into the future to decide how to best address this issue that has longed plagued the country. An effective and quick action must be determined as well as a sustainable and long-term resolution must be implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of Nigeria and its citizens. It is the job of the Cabinet to decide what is best for the country as well as their stance to create a comprehensive solution to this problem.

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