

PEACE OFFER RUSE IN YOBE?

Gunmen Kill Policemen, Burn Station, Churches

From **Njadvare Musa,**
Damaturu

AS the purported offer of peace talks by the Islamist Boko Haram sect continue to

generate doubts, violence flared up again, with attacks on police formations and places of worship in Yobe State yesterday by gunmen suspected to be members of the

group.

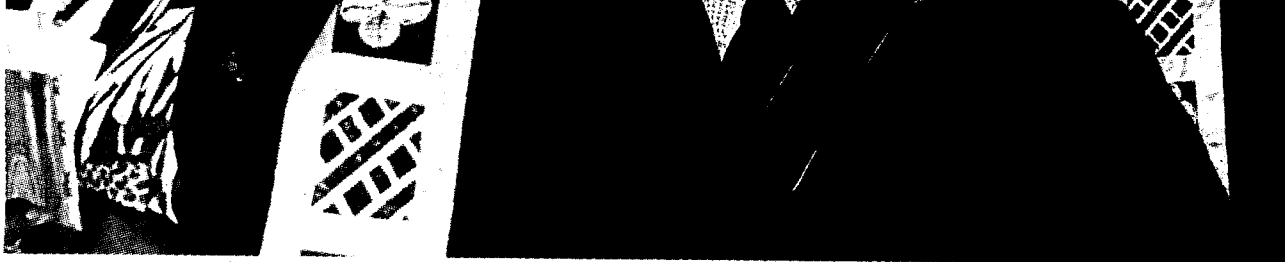
The Buni/Yadi Divisional Police Station in Gujba Council was attacked and torched in the early hours of the day, further reinforcing claims that

the offer of dialogue might not have actually come from the hierarchy of the sect.

Buni/Yadi is 54 kilometres south of Damaturu, the state capital.

The gunmen, according to an eyewitness and resident of the area, Abdu Yunusari, broke into the armoury of the police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Registrar, Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Mrs. Omolara Solaja, guest lecturer and Dean, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, Prof. Emmanuel Oladapo George and Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Saburi at the 59th Inaugural Lecture of the University

How To Fight Corruption In Nigeria, By Soyinka, Others

By Joseph Onyekwere

EMINENT scholars of international repute yesterday charted a new course to the development of Nigeria and indeed Africa, proffering suggestions on how to rid Nigeria and the continent of corruption.

Speaking at the 2012 Kuramo Conference held with the theme "The Global Commonwealth" at Eko Hotels and Towers, Lagos, yesterday, the scholars, including Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka; a professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University, Paul Collier; an international economist and microeconomic analyst, Dr. Dambisa Moyo and the Governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola SAN, decried the rate of corruption in Nigeria and the damage it has done to the economy.

Soyinka, who was also the chair of the session, said that corruption in Nigeria has become a metaphor. He stated that corruption among government officials was monumental, alleging that it manifests more in the award of contracts. "I honestly do not know how we can tackle corruption. We found the wives of local council officials driving around in government cars. We have parallel and unofficial offices that serve as appendages and contribute in plundering the economy. First ladies who are unelected running parallel governments and running pet projects which fizzle out as soon as possible contribute to the issue of corruption we are talking about."

"If you say in Nigeria that government officials should surrender their official cars, those cars would disappear through the borders before dawn or some of them would be buried under ground until the whole thing dies down," Soyinka said.

Governor Fashola in his speech said that people used to think that corruption is the cause of Nigeria's problems

while corruption is rather the consequence of the problems we have a nation.

"Corruption is the consequence of the problems we have and not the cause of our problem as a nation. The causes of desperation and vulnerability lie in the very lack of infrastructure. To me, much more developmental oriented investment by both the government and the private sector to make life more meaningful and bearable for people is the better way to tackle corruption," he declared.

But Moyo was of the view that the worst culprits in the issue of corruption in Nigeria are government officials. He stated that the greatest injustice against the African continent borders on the attitude of government officials who have elevated corruption to an official status.

Her words: "Corruption starts from the top and there must be much more aggressive sanctions and punishments if we must get out of it. When I visited Rwanda last three years, I found out that the president had advised those in government to use their personal cars. In Rwanda also, no government official is allowed to travel with government fund abroad for a medical care. If the hospitals in Rwanda are good enough for the citizens, it should be good for the government officials."

The event featured speeches and reactions on education, economy and governance. It also featured the official flag off of the Lagos Court of Arbitration (LCA) by the former managing director of Habib Bank Nigeria Limited, Alkin Kekere-Ekun.

LCA president, Babajide Ogundipe said the Court of Arbitration has come to serve as the international centre where commercial disputes would be resolved, adding that dispute resolution through arbitration is fast becoming the trend and the world's choice of business disputes settlement.

Facebook Lover Arraigned For Attempted Rape, Murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Orji said Obiora, who claimed to be an unemployed graduate of Igbinedion University, Okada in Edo State and the Centennial College, Ontario in Canada, shut all the doors in the apartment and demanded to have sex with Akabuogu. "This was after he had smoked some wraps of Indian hemp. He tried to rape her and threatened to kill her with a bottle of beer."

"The girl, fearing for her life, then jumped down from the third floor of the high-rise building," Orji said.

The prosecutor said that the incident happened about 3am. on October 31, this year.

"The girl was discovered lying unconscious in a pool of her

own blood about 30 minutes later by the security men in the premises, who then reported it to the police.

"The police took the girl to a hospital and after she regained consciousness, obtained her statement," Orji said.

He continued: "This case highlights one of the major problems of the social media. The young lady went to visit someone she doesn't know."

"She met the defendant on Facebook and they had been chatting until October 30."

Orji said that the offences contravened Sections 56 (A), 260 and 404 (1) of the Criminal Laws of Lagos 2011.

The Magistrate, Mr. Martins Owumi, granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000, with two sureties in like sum.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that 21-year-old Nkiruka sustained multiple injuries, including a fractured pelvis, and is undergoing treatment at the General Hospital, Marina, Lagos, following the incident.

Nkiruka, a Linguistics student of the University of Lagos, had told NAN on her hospital bed that she went clubbing with the young man she met on Facebook a week earlier and ended up in his family home at 1004 Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos.

She noted that the young man had earlier talked about sex on phone prior to the outing, but she told him she was menstruating.

Nkiruka said that on getting to the house, the man tore her

dress and tried to rape her and thereafter pushed her down from the third floor of the building, because of her refusal to have sex with him.

But the mother of the young man, who was at home on the night of the incident, told NAN that she was not aware of what happened.

She claimed she slept around 10 pm., while the disagreement between the pair started much later.

The magistrate adjourned the case to November 30, this year.

It would be recalled that another young lady, Cynthia Osokogu, met her death in the hands of Facebook friends, who killed her in a hotel Festac area of Lagos.

The matter is still in court.

Gunmen Kill Three, Torch Police Station In Yobe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

station and carted away an undisclosed number of rifles and ammunition, after shooting three police officers dead.

He said: "We were shocked and terrified by the firing power of the gunmen and bombings as some of us were performing our dawn prayers in mosques."

"When the police station was burning, the gunmen also marched to three different churches and set fire them on fire, but no one was killed in any of the churches in Bun/Yadi."

Confirming the incident in Damaturu, the spokesman of Joint (Military) Task Force (JTF), Lt. Lazarus Eli, in a statement said: "In the early hours of today (yesterday),

gunmen attacked the Divisional Police Station of Bun/Yadi in Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe State.

"Our men responded swiftly to the distress call from the area and beefed up security in the town to forestall further attacks and killings."

He said three police officers securing the Divisional Police Station were shot dead.

"The gunmen went away with some arms and ammunition, after breaking through the armoury with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol bombs."

On whether anybody had been apprehended in connection with the attacks, Eli said: "No arrests were made,

either by the JTF or police, but our men are pursuing the gunmen, who fled towards the Damaturu-Biu-Gombe road in some vehicles and motorcycles."

The authenticity of last week's offer of dialogue by somebody claiming to be from the sect, naming some Nigerian, including former head of state, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, as mediator, has been in doubt, with rights activist, Mallam Shehu Sani, saying it was dubious.

Sani, who had in the past maintained some links with the group's leaders, was also wary of the speed with which the federal government welcomed the offer, even when it was not made through the usual person, its leader,

Ahmed Skekau, or the usual channel.

Sani told *The Guardian*: "On the few occasions I had the privilege of being given the opportunity to facilitate peace talks, I found the government very stubborn and very stiff in its own disposal towards bringing this problem to an end."

But he acknowledged that there are people on the sides of government and Boko Haram who support a peaceful resolution of the security challenge, just as there are also those, on both sides, against any negotiation.

He said if the peace offer were genuine, it would have been preceded by a ceasefire, which is obviously not the case, with these continuing attacks.