

Congressional Testimony of Habila Adamu

On the Continuing Threat of Boko Haram

Before the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global
Human Rights, and International Organizations

and the

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MY STORY

I Habila Adamu from Yobe state in Northern Nigeria. On November 28, 2012, gunmen came to my home at around 11:00 pm and confronted me with my family. I thought they were soldiers on patrol, and when they opened the door, I was shocked to see that they were wearing robes and masks.

The gunmen ordered me to come out with my family. And when I came out, they ordered my family to go back, and my wife begged them not to harm me. They said she should go back, because they were here to do the work of Allah.

When I heard that, I knew that they were here to kill me. And my wife brought money to them and begged them not to harm me, they collected the money and they also collected our cell phones. They asked me for the key of the door, and I gave it. One of them opened the door another two more people come inside, making them four in my house with Ak47.

They asked for my name and I told them, Habila Adamu. They asked if I am a member of Nigeria Police, I said no. Are you a Nigeria soldier? I said no. You are a member of the state security service (SSS), I said no, I told them that I am a business man.

“Okay, are you a Christian?” I said I am a Christian. They asked me why are we preaching the message of Mohammed to you and you refuse to accept Islam. I told them I am a Christian, we are also preaching the gospel of true God to you and other people that are not yet to know God. They asked me if I mean we Christian know God. And I told them we know God and that is why I preach the good news to other people that do not know God.

Then they asked me, “Habila, are you ready to die as a Christian?” I told them, “I am ready to die as a Christian.” For the second time, they asked me, “Are you ready to die as a Christian?” and I told them, “I am ready,” but before I closed my mouth, they have fired me through my nose (the entering point) and the bullet came out through the back. I fell on the ground. The gunmen thought I was already dead because they stomped on me two times and discovered I was dead, and cried out “Allah Akbar” (God is Great). Also my wife thought I was dead, she is crying, while crying she said many things, she said let God give her the heart that she can stand to the end like what I did, let God give my children the heart that they may stand in their faith. When she continues saying all those things, I told her that I am alive. She said that but even though you are alive, the way you are bleeding, you will not survive. And I told her that even though I will die I have a message to everyone that will hear

my story after I leave this world that “to live in this world is to live for Christ, to die is a gain” that is my message. I asked her to look for help. And she went out; she found out that our Christian neighbors have been killed. We have one elder in my church, (Jibring Matinja) himself and his son were killed that night, including twelve others.

I was on the ground from 11:00 pm till 7:00am in the morning, bleeding. In the morning my face was swollen, my eyes were red. Before morning I could not see anything, around 7:00 am I was rushed to a hospital in Potiskum, for medication, from then they transferred me to Jos University Hospital (JUTH) same day. I am alive because God want you to have a message. I have a message, just as I told my wife as I was left for dead, I have a message to everyone that will hear my story. Do everything that you can to end this ruthless religious persecution in Northern Nigeria. My friends knowing Christ are deeper, than hearing of his name or knowing his story.

I also like to express my appreciation to God almighty and the Voice of Christian Martyrs for their supports, in standing by my side throughout, they paid for my operation, and paid for my housing, they paid for my feeding etc. Let God bless them abundantly.

Thank you!!!

He is the resurrection and the life, in the book of John 11:25 says “I am the resurrection and the life he who believe in me will live, even though he dies.”

THE SUFFERINGS OF NIGERIA CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Nigerian Christians had been under intense suppression and marginalization in the north for so many years, which has grown to the point where they are more like second class citizens in their own land of nativity without any one speaking for them or listening to their plight. This is reflected to the struggle they do have to normal education in the secondary school and tertiary institutions, in spite their resilience and hard work to studies which had been the bedrock of Christianity. Many of them who had read wide and far were denied employment opportunities and even when they were employed, they remained in one place for the rest of their lives. Worst of all is that, Christians with higher qualifications were forced to work under the supervisions of Muslims who had lower or less qualification. Most of the Northern State Government had established Ministries of religious affairs which cater only for the Islamic religion with all staff 100% Muslim staff without the consideration of the Christians. The Christians does not have the right to lands to build Churches where they will worship freely anymore. This subjugation and sabotage of their right and privileges had been ongoing for many years. In recent times, we saw expansion and occupation of the Muslims from the far north to the central part of Nigeria through calculated attacks on Christian communities in cities such as Jos, Kaduna, Kano, and Bauchi where several lives and hundreds of churches had been destroyed.

Most times these attacks are hidden under guise of provocation which made it to look like Christian and Muslim crisis. Many Nigerian stakeholders who are Muslim took side and kept suppressing the Christian and taking over their land and their houses without any complete and fulfilled investigations by the federal or state Governments. Because the perpetrators were not punished all the times these act of violence against the Christians kept continuing until now that it has grown to a level of total annihilation plan of the Christians in the North Using the so-called Boko haram terrorist group which had alliance with other international terrorist groups. The fundamentalist group had executed over 900 Christians in the last two years and over two thousand innocent Christians had died since 2009 when the group first attacks the Christian community in Maiduguri. These they do systematically with different methods of killings in different parts of the country. In The north Eastern part of Nigeria where Christian population is about 10% or less: They had been going towns to town's villages to villages and house to house of Christians and executing them

in cold blood. Some Christians from those areas were killed in their business places and at the moment the Muslim's had comfortably taken over that business. They killed barbarically by gunshot, cutlass and machetes brutal killings while many were slaughtered like animals in their homes. They started with the killing of the Christian leaders, and Top Christian Civil servants in the Federal Governments and the few who had held some recognized offices in the state civil service and local Governments, then to every other Christians.

These kinds of killing were not in any way reported by the media; even when it is reported, they are always seen as one of those things, without any investigation, no indictment and no justice. At the moment most of the Christian and their Churches had been evacuated from those areas; especially Borno and Yobe states and for the few that are still living there who had nowhere to run to, They are like condemn criminals waiting for the day of their execution by the Islamic fundamentalist who seems to be unstoppable by the Nigeria government in their own mother land as though they are fugitives claiming the lives of over 340 Christians.

In places such as Bauchi State, with two Local Governments which are 95% Christians, the State Government itself had been terrorizing the Christian populace and given a brooding ground for the fundamentalists who had attacked over 35 villages killing over 280 Christians in the last two years. They attacked on their way to the state capital for businesses and other functions, on their farms while working and in their homes mostly in the night while sleeping. Many of the Christians had remained homeless and several of them had moved away from their villages as refugees in other parts of the neighbouring state.

These attacks continued in other North central states such as Plateau State and Kaduna state where several villages are being wiped out leaving several deaths and casualties which are always wrongly reported to seems as if it's a communal clash. These had claimed over 700 Christian lives in the last two years and over 50 villages in different parts of Plateau State had been completely destroyed and sent out of those locality. As if this is not enough, the group had attacked several churches and the Christians during church services in different parts of the North with one attacker being brought to book. These killings of Christians almost every day had clearly shows the commitment of the Islamic fundamentalists in establishing an Islamic state by total annihilation of Christians in the North. More than 350 Christians had died in these suicide bomb attacks.

THE RESULT OF ALL THE ATTACKS:

As result of all these attacks, the Christian community in Northern Nigeria had been left with the following predicaments:

- Lost of human dignity and subjugation to threats and fear with daily psychological trauma because of their faith.
- Daily increase of widows and orphans that kept becoming a fundamental burden on the Christian community.
- Lost of Churches and places of worship in Hundreds that denied them of the right to worship.
- Increase in the number of disable and disfigured Christians as a result of direct attack e.g. over 45 amputees with leg and hands amputations in Plateau State alone, 7 – 8 people with total and one eye blindness and several other disabilities and disfigurement.
- Over 240 Christians Villages deserted and over 5000 Christian's homeless.