

**FACTS AND FIGURES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN BRUTALISED BY THE
NIGERIAN ARMY DURING THE ZARIA MASSACRE OF 2015**

(ZAHIRIN ABIN DA YA FARU DA KUMA TABON DA TAADANCIN SOJOJI SUKA HADDASA A KAN
MATA DA YARA LOKACIN KISAR GILLAR ZARIA TA 2015)

LECTURE DELIVERED

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE

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THEMED: ZARIA MASSACRE: A TURNING POINT IN CONFRONTING CRIMES
AGAINST HUMANITY

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Focus: Exposing the realities of Nigeria Army brutality on women and children and the subsequent deleterious impressions created.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The 12th of December 2015 marked the beginning of a long period of extreme sorrow and grief to not only activists of the Islamic Movement but the entire follower of Alhul bait in this country. That day was a transition period between the famous annual Ashura mourning activities and celebrations of birth of the Holy Prophet (SAW) but it was turned out to be endless mourning.

The sorrow continued over years in a slow ripple propagation form, turning successive festive periods like New Year and Sallah into similar mourning moods.

This distress moods were caused by the Federal Government of Nigeria through its military establishment from nowhere.

The Army had orchestrated a large scale genocide operation on a very soft target that was never like it before in the history of this country, just to bring an end to a peaceful Mass Movement, the Islamic Movement in Nigeria.

Their Aim:

The utterances, actions and body languages of the Federal and State Governments and the Nigerian security agencies over the years with respect to the Movement have clearly shown their aim and enthusiasm in dealing with it. The aim has been to completely eliminate the Islamic Movement and the decision to do that in massacre fashion was agreed upon since 2009 when Federal Government planned early bombing the resident of sheikh Zakzaky from the air to kill everybody in it including Sheikh's aged mother and other relatives.

Objective:

How they planned to go about doing that was as I overheard a Nigerian Army Military Strategist in 2014 in a group discussion, who described the Islamic Movement as a keg of gunpowder under which the country Nigeria was sitting. He saw the said danger in Zaria according to him; how an illiterate Sheikh was amassing and commanding millions of illiterate followers. That was typical of the hate perceptions the Military had towards the Islamic Movement.

The discussion went as far as removal of the keg of gunpowder to make Nigeria safer, and he demonstrated how easy it was. He said it was just; to identify the centre of gravity of the Movement, then debilitate and destabilize it, explode and finally disperse it; as simple as that. He boastfully emphasized, to prove the potency of the center of gravity technique.

Closely examining their approaches in dealing with the Islamic Movement and similar organizations over the years, one can conclude that the use of the center of gravity technique was highly accepted and famous among them.

The center of gravity of an object or a human being is an imaginary line along which its weight concentrates. The line is maintained within an imaginary supportive area known as base of support for stability and equilibrium. To illustrate the technique of using the concept of center of gravity to destroy the Movement one has to personify and perceive the Movement as an object. The personified Islamic Movement looks like a huge object that has strong hold in Zaria. Zaria is its base of support while the leader is the only connecting rod that links the Movement and the base.

In that deceptive vintage position of theirs, they thought the Movement is strong and stable only when the mighty weight of it is within its Zaria base of support. Therefore, to easily destroy, it will require either cutting away the rod or stem that connected the top and the bottom or simply taking away the base under it.

Consequential Damage of Massacre:

To practically accomplish this heinous schemes they very much knew that a lot of lives and properties would have to be wasted but yet they approved of it, saying, as long as the consequences were coming from the side of the Movement and the Populace and so they decided to classify every loss to be incurred as inevitable collateral damage of war that must be foregone.

You can see how evil “leaders” in authority made the associates of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria highly endangered human species in their Motherland.

Post Genocide Plan:

Considering the estimated strength and the large number of associates of the Movement, they believed it was going to be a tough task to deal with. So, the planners of the genocide; the Federal Government of Nigeria, their colonial masters and allies in transgression had to fully prepare for a war that could be extended over years. The extended planned hostility to destabilize the country on the pretext of fighting rebel Shiites was not only for the purpose of getting rid of the Movement but also to enable them actualize colonial and hegemonic interests the Islamic movement barred them from realizing.

They knew quite well that the Movement was courageous, daring and had over 20 millions of companions, according to their estimate, at the time of the onslaught and so to completely eradicate it would take years; enough to implement major colonial changes and policies, even though the Army was too novice and short sighted to figure that fact.

2. IDENTIFYING THE CRITICAL BASES OF SUPPORT OF THE MOVEMENT AND THE LINKING CENTRE OF GRAVITY

So, to plan and execute the said operation the above strategy and assumptions were adopted but were deceived by the belief that the Islamic Movement was a tangible object, that the Army could target its centre of gravity with all its might with the view to wiping it out of existence. And that the perceived Centre strategically targeted was Sheikh Zakzaky (H), the leader of the Movement whose elimination him was synonymous to elimination of the Movement, the only threat to hegemonic ambitions of the Foreign Masters.

When they might have eliminated Sheikh Zakzaky they might felt there was need to cut the head of the snake so that the wounded gigantic enemy does not recuperate and rejuvenate. Influential lieutenants in the Movement such as Sheikh Muhammad Mahmud Turi, Sheikh Mukhtar Sahabi, Dr Mustapha Said, Mal. Mustapha Potiskum, Mal. Auwal Iyal, Mal. Kabir Alkanawy and Mal Hamza Yawuri and so on, who were seen around the genocide field were specifically selected and eliminated or kidnapped.

Not only those but could any significant figure in the Movement be she or he an Amir, donor so, were to be in Zaria on that day she or he could have been subject of killing or kidnapping by the Federal Government.

From the larger base Zaria, some strategic micro bases of support for the movement were identified and prepared for obliterating operations all with wishful dream of ripping up the Movement.

3. THE MICRO THEATERS OF MASSACRE

The Army used the identified micro bases of support as micro war theaters to implement the evil premeditation. These bases were cordoned trapping hundreds of men, women and children faithful in them.

Those micro theaters were

- (i) The popular Husainiyyah Bakiyatullah,
- (ii) Residence of Sheikh Zakzaky
- (iii) The famous Darur Rahma (Film Village).

Those theaters were at fill-to-brim capacity on that auspicious day with people who came to attend the flag swapping ceremony that marked migration from the months of morning to months of Maulud celebrations.

Under such strictest control, the Army executed the atrocious mission involving brutal massacre of humans, looting of valuables and subsequent demolitions of the micro theaters, as:

- (i) Hussainiyya Bakiyatul, occupying a land roughly estimated to be not much more than 25,000 m², its human and property contents were razed.
- (ii) Residence of Sheikhs Zakzaky and adjacent buildings all occupying a roughly estimated land of not much less than 2,700 m², its human and historical and priceless property contents, including rare items and books were razed,
- (iii) The famous Darur Rahmah (Film Village), an entire village, its human and property contents, mosque, graves, historic structures and lyrics were razed,
- (iv) The Fudiyya Islamic centre situated on a land a little less than 900 m² and its contents, including a library of rare books, were razed
- (v) The building housing sheikh's mother's grave on a land not less than 700 m² and its contents were razed
- (vi) In addition to targeting the bases of support of the Movement for destruction, the person who everything revolves around him, that is, the center of gravity and his helpers available were 'found' simultaneously exterminated.

It is worthy note, that no single killing was recorded outside the marked bases of support. The flawless and lack of casualty on the side of the Army in a nearly 3 days operation was an indication of a well planned and executed massacre.

4. DIVULGEMENT OF FACTS ON HUMAN COLLATERAL DAMAGE

After the multiple days long massacre on defenseless endangered species, an assessments of human collaterals from those micro theaters revealed;

- (i) Thousands of associates of the Islamic Movement were extra judicially massacred in cool bloods.
- (ii) Several of them burnt alive to death
- (iii) Several others burnt but survived with high degrees of burns
- (iv) Several others survived with life threatening bullet wounds
- (v) Several others survived with bullet, bayonet wounds and burns.
- (vi) Several others survived with life threatening bullet wounds and dangerous lead shrapnel lodged in their skulls and bodies (the case of Sheikh Zakzaky (H))
- (vii) Several others were injured and buried alive in mass graves
- (viii) Hundreds were also arrested and duped in the Kaduna dilapidated dungeon incommunicado
- (ix) Several others were detained and denied access to medical attentions
- (x) Hundreds others were detained in similar ways for years without justifications
- (xi) Thousand others in all kinds of pain and unpleasant inhuman condition

5. WHO WERE THOSE VICTIMS OF ABNORMAL HUMAN ACTS?

Tentative figures obtained not too long after the butchery operation suggests there were;

- (i) Men (Male adult victims): -----over 500
- (ii) Women (Adult female victims): -----297
- (iii) Children (Young male and female victims below legal age of 21 years):-----193

The Mando mass grave comprises of unsorted male, female and children among which a 16 years old Karima Auwal Hanwa was retrieved shortly before been tipped in the grave. So, how many more living were not luck enough to be saved; and of course the statistics and compositions of the mass graves?

6. DID NIGERIA ARMY REALLY BRUTALISED WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

The Nigerian Government and its Army has always been living in denial of facts and does not easily take responsibilities of 'gallantry' actions.

We are all living witnesses to the shameful attitude Army displayed after the recent massacre of peaceful protesters at the Lekki toll gate, Lagos, in 2020.

When the Army was accused of involvement in the horrific carnage of killing young men and women, it first denied been present at the Lekki Toll Gate massacre site but when challenged with clear evidence it accepted have been there but said did not carry weapon. A further confrontation with evidence of it troops with guns it then accepted presence with gun but said the soldiers only shot tear gas to disperse the protesters. When shown bullet cartridges, it agreed firing bullets but said they were blank ammunitions that were not harmful. After been defeated with another facts it shamelessly admitted but claimed it shot the live ammunitions but in the air. And as soon as proves emerged of bullet wound it agreed to have shot but claimed it did not kill.

And finally when the Judicial Panel of Inquiry report was released indicting it of massacring at least 9 persons, it out rightly rejected and discredited the report.

With this chain of professional denial and blatant acceptance without remorse both the Governments and the Army would have similarly denied brutalizing women and children. .

Had they been queried whether the Army massacred women and children in the Zaria genocide, they would have definitely been furious deny and would try to prove professionalism and strength as the best Army on the continent. The Army would have said it was too mighty to stoop that low to killing powerless women and children contrary to emerging reliable realities.

We know the will always deny brutalizing women and children in the Zaria genocide but what are the facts and figures recorded to date.

7. EVIDENCE OF PRESENCE OF WOMEN AMONG THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMY BRUTALITY

Yes, there were a significant number of women victims in the carnage. From the outlines above one can perceive the presence of women among the victims of the brutality and it is quite a known fact that women heavily participate in the activities of the Islamic Movement.

Different sources as documented revealed that among the 1,000 extra judicially massacred in cool bloods. Many survivors are present here and are living witnesses.

At the time of the massacre the Movement was in peace mood of celebrations, so women and children could not be expected to be exempted.

These women were subjected to the same harsh brutality in the hand of the Army without discrimination. Some few women can be seen on the exhibition stands and posters displayed.

In addition that, the real existence of women among the victims will not precise be known until the identities of those in the graves and hidden are known; but sketchily, women were among;

- (i) The several that were burnt alive to death, as the case of 70 yrs old Goggo Binta who was harassed and set ablaze.
- (ii) The several others buried alive there were women.
- (iii) the several that were burnt but survived with a high degree, there were women
- (iv) The several others that survived with life threatening bullet wounds were Malama Zeenah the wife of Sheikh Zakzaky (H) and Malama Jummai Gilima Karofi
- (v) Surviving mothers who were bereaved of 5 or more children victims
- (vi) Hundreds that were arrested and duped in dungeons incommunicado e.g. Malama Zeenah Ibraheem
- (vii) Those forced completely unclothed, not to talk of removal of hijabs
- (viii) Those sexually abused

8. EVIDENCE OF PRESENCE OF CHILDREN AMONG THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMY BRUTALITY

Considering the legal definition of the word Children which mean a person below the majority age of 21 years, going through the list of victims of genocide one can gather a lot of in this category.

Some few example of these children can be seen on the exhibition stands and posters displayed.

In addition to that, children were among the;

- (i) Over thousands extra judicially massacred in cool bloods there were children including the one and a half years old Shahidah baby Batool.
- (ii) Several burnt alive to death there were children. Those undergoing treatments
- (iii) Several others burnt but survived with high degrees of burns. E.g. the case of 21 years old Mahdi Ibrahim with 100% of body burnt
- (iv) Others survived with life threatening bullet wounds e.g. the 11 years old Huassain Dr Mustapha Sa'id with spinal injury, depending on wheelchair for mobility to date.
- (v) Several others survived with bullet or bayonet wounds and burns; e.g. the 16 years old Mohammad Abdulkarim Zaria with permanently damaged bladder. He has been carrying urinary catheter and urine drainage bag along since then to date.
- (vi) Several others that survived with life threatening bullet wounds and dangerous lead shrapnel lodged in them.
- (vii) Several others injured and buried alive in mass graves many were children
- (viii) Hundreds that were arrested and duped in the Kaduna dilapidated dungeon incommunicado were also children below the age of 21 years e.g. Ali Abdullahi Danladi
- (ix) Several others that were detained and denied access to medical attentions.
- (x) Hundreds detained for years without justifications
- (xi) Many that were on treatments when set on fire, e.g. Muhammad Buhari Ismail

(xii) Several others that were buried alive. E.g. the case Karima Auwal Hanwa was picked among corpse in the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital mortuary hours before dumping them in the mass grave. Who knows the many others in same conditions with Karima who couldn't narrowly escape being buried alive?

9. WHO ELSE WAS INVOLVED IN THE BRUTALIZATION OF THESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

The intention to bring an end to the Islamic Movement under the leadership of Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky (H) has been on the executive table of leadership of this country for a long time and successive regimes have made efforts in different ways using both kinetic and barbaric non-kinetic approaches. Remember, the idea and wish to eliminate the Movement is not the agenda of the Nigerian regimes who come and go but belongs to the foreign powers: USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Israel and Saudi Arabia (the financier), that have been dominating and manipulating the affairs of the country.

The Nigerian authorities happened to be directly involved in the agenda massacre because of being willing stooges to the foreign powers and the role of a stooge is to take unpleasant orders without modification and execute as directed by the masters, without of course, recourse or having considerations for consequences. It is for this singular reason that even friends and sympathizers of the Movement easily turn aggressors towards the Islamic Movement as soon as they sign to serve as stooges.

Personally, the Islamic Movement has never been a threat to any government official, regime or the nation but to the interest of the colonial masters who are embedded in the system plunging its resources.

When stooges are dealing with the Movement, roadmaps are dictated and resources are provided to help them carry out the dirty job with additional engagements of state apparatus such, as the security agencies (the Nigerian Army), the legislature, the judiciary and so on. That was how a matching order and full paid came for the execution of the Zaria 2015 clampdown which latter turned out to be the worst genocidal operation in Nigeria.

The groups that responded foreign matching were;

- (i) The Executive arm of the government, led by its president, General Muhammadu Buhari. State apparatus at his disposal activated for this operation were, the Nigerian Army (headed by General Tukur Yusuf Buratai), Department of state security service (DSS) (headed by Lawal Musa Daura), other agencies.

- (ii) The Kaduna State Government: headed Governor Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai. The state apparatus mobilized for the operation were: KASUPDA, other state agencies, local personalities, thugs and so on
- (iii) Some necessarily vital members of the National Assembly
- (iv) Other selected religious and political groups or organizations and traditional institutions and personalities in the society.

To coordinate and direct the inputs of these units for successful execution, a powerful Forward Operation Base (FOB) was inaugurated at Kaduna, some 80 km away from Zaria, the battle field. Throughout the period of the operation, the President, General Muhammadu Buhari, being the commander general of the FOB and Governor Ahmed El-Rufai were hooked to the headquarter of the base in Kaduna to remotely facilitate, direct, monitor and evaluate progress as the massacre went on.

Therefore, to itemize those directly involved in the extra judicial killing of the women and children, apart from the foreign masters and sponsors, all of the above listed groups must be captured.

10. HOW WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE BRUTALIZED BY THE ARMY?

The Army under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Muhammadu Buhari, barbarically and ruthlessly did all the brutalization using heavy artilleries on the defenseless men, women and children civilians who did not wield even cutlasses as a mean of defense.

You imagine how soft target and vulnerable these targets were.

They used dangerous and powerful weapons like;

- (i) The weapon that could cut human being into halves from a distance of hundreds of meters. The case of Shahid Muntaka Haruna, a staff of A.B.U., Zaria was a typical example.
- (ii) Explosives were thrown followed by sporadic firing into family homes.
- (iii) Women's' hips and breasts were deliberate targeted for gunshots and bayonet stabs to damage organs of reproduction.
- (iv) Sexually harassed to inflict them with psychological and stress injuries

Ladies and gentle men, as we speak today, 6 years after, some of these wounds are still fresh and are still bleeding. The survivors are still in severe pains.

11. DECLARATIONS OF MISSION ACCOMPLISHED AND PREMATURE JOCULARITY

After fully been convinced that Sheikh Zakzaky (H) and his principal supporters were eliminated, the bases of support for the Movement and related properties were totally destroyed and haven made sure that all signs of possible revivals were blocked or buried and all objectives set were confirmed to be achieved, General Tukur Buratai on 14/12/15 boastfully declared the end of the mission of dealing with the Islamic Movement by saying: **“No more Shiite and no more properties of Shiite”** in Nigeria.

There were seemingly successful execution of the mission and they believed the set objectives had led to hitting the right targets.

That extraordinary dirty feat was lavishly celebrated and the major actors were honored and rewarded

12. WAS THE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED REALLY ACCOMPLISHED?

The mission that was declared successful and accomplished was latter realized that it was not accomplished when every achievement was seen reversed and undone. Though, thousands had been killed but the most important target, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky (H) who they thought to have been killed was still alive and surviving now outside the combat zone, too late for the wicked to redo the killing. As long as the Sheikh was alive all the losses the Movement suffered with the exception of the over one thousand lives everything could be rejuvenated, including the Movement itself. It was then they discovered that their efforts were fruitless and wasteful. A woeful and shameful failure from ‘gallant’ and ‘professional’ military Generals.

The Nigerian government and its instrument of death failed because of ignorance and ineptitude of what the Movement was. To hint a little, the needed to acknowledge that the Movement was subtle and not tangible as they wrongly perceived it. It was an ideology, concept, awareness and spiritual in nature and it existed on its own bases of support in the devout hearts and minds of individuals and not on the mapped out micro theaters in Zaria.

To fight it, would require having access to the hearts and minds, which I know, you can never get and using spiritual weapons contrary to the conventional ones, which again is beyond your reach, and then, wagging the war in the theaters of war domiciled in the pious hearts and minds of everyone of the millions of the activists of the Movement at a time, unimaginable feat.

Only God has presence and ability in arenas of the heart and mind, even the crafty Shaitan does not have, not to talk of you, weak fleshy creatures. As your confusion deepens, the fact still remains that you can never be able to fight the Movement and succeed even in your wildest dreams.

13. REALISATION OF FAILURE AND COVER-UPS

Some days after the genocide when dust began to settle and things started to become clearer, little by little, the done became undone, the achievements turned unachieved and the mission accomplished turned out to be mission unaccomplished.

The Governments and the Army on realizing that failure was definite and the consequences were going to be dear, they started to take damage control measures to save their ugly faces or at least to offset or minimize the effects of the damage their crimes had caused. They immediately engaged in cover ups and senseless blame game.

COVER-UPS

Implicating Traces and Foot Prints:

- (i) Splashes of human bloods on the grounds and the walls,
- (ii) Bullet hole
- (iii) Bullet cartridges and shrapnel
- (iv) Littered corpses and pieces of human flesh
- (v) Pile of charred human bodies
- (vi) Soot and burning signs
- (vii) Odors of decomposing human bodies and bloods
- (viii) Pieces of exploded weapons in buildings and on streets
- (ix) Unexploded explosives and unfired bullets
- (x) Survived victims
- (xi) Presence of ear and eye witnesses
- (xii) And so on

Clean-up Techniques:

- (i) Staged propaganda of been provoked and assassination attempt on the Army Chief.
- (ii) That no one was killed, they only shot tear gas to clear way
- (iii) Picking, sweeping and clean all signs including the streets
- (iv) Demolition of all structures and cutting away every dust particle and transporting them to unknown destinations, far away from the sight of any curious eye.

- (v) Arrest of ear and eye witnesses victims and dup them in dungeons incommunicado so that no information was leaked
- (vi) Enforced disappearance of other eye witnesses
- (vii) Vehicles, motor bikes, etc belonging to the victims that were squashed and kept far behind MTD compound
- (viii) Hiding corpses and their signs in secret multiple mass graves
- (ix) Force silencing survivors and families of victims to give up
- (x) Early filing of complaint with the NHRC immediately after the genocide to appear as the victim
- (xi) Inauguration of Judicial Court of Inquiry (JCI) into the slaughter to completely exclude the victims by the Kaduna state governor.

14. INVOCATION OF SCORCHED EARTH INITIATIVE AND ESCALATION OF CRISIS

Right from the inceptions of the scheme to crackdown on the Islamic Movement, the masters had a provision to take the hostilities to higher level of full blown war considering the depth of entrenchment of the Shia ideology in minds of people. The soldiers ruthlessly and gruesomely killed beyond limits and wantonly destroyed without restricts all out of annoyance and frustrations for not been able to obliterate the Movement.

To guarantee their ambitions, they;

- (i) Escalated tensions using false intelligence reports of reprisals
- (ii) Intimidated, blackmailed and framed up the victims
- (iii) Continued provocation, instigation and incitement of the victims to take up arms
- (iv) More propaganda of calumny, war rhetoric and hate speeches against the Movement
- (v) Illegal detentions nicknamed “**Protective Custody**” of Malama Zeenah and Sheikh Zakzaky (H) to provoke and escalate tensions.
- (vi) Withholding or seizure of international travel passports belonging to Malama Zeenah and Sheikh Zakzaky (H) is meant to provoke and buy time.

A little mistake as wielding a toy gun by a single child of the Movement could have been leveraged upon by the enemies of the country to create a storm of war that could consume everybody. But for the good nature of Islamic discipline and comradeship

qualities instilled in them by the leader of the Islamic Movement, that didn't happen. We thank God for that. That was an intercontinental treacherous trap that any strong community with full ability to fight would fall in, but the Islamic Movement was able to scale over it.

They would have seized the opportunity to kill more women and children and destroy more properties and gradually expand the killing spree in the north, to the west and the south of the country, all on the pretext of now fighting a dangerously armed outlawed Shiite group.

They can stage war from where war doesn't exist as they manufactured and kept dramatizing the Boko Haram episodes for decades out of thin air which till now remains concealed to most Nigerians.

So, to save face was to fabricate a scenario of a fight between 2 armed rival groups, between them and the victims which could help them becloud the atrocities they committed in December 2015 in Zaria. With media propaganda they can amass causalities on their side, implicating and making the innocent youths responsible so that people could no longer be talking about the Zaria genocide.

When the fight as they wished, would spiral to a ripped stage, may be to some years, at a time when the escalation would have reached its peak, when the entire security outfit, economy and the fabric of the society could have been over stretched and weakened or depleted; the paymasters and colonial masters would then find it easier to implement their hegemonic policies of resource control and domineering at the detriments of the current and future Nigerian citizens.

This is the opportunity they lack and are having growing pessimism with the increase in strength of the Islamic Movement, being a tip of the global Resistant Movement that defeated and purged USA and NATO out of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and the entire East Asia.

For reasons of wanting to maintain their grips on Nigerian Africa, the stretched arm of the Resistant Movement is targeted for crushing at all costs and the most effective point to hit it, apart from the center of gravity was its most active population, which was the youths and the source of further procreations, the women population.

The elimination, crippling and termination of procreation inspired the codename of the evil operation: "No more Shiite and no more properties of Shiite" as well as the gingering slogan used.

If they had succeeded in extending the crises with the 'Shiite' after the Zaria mass killings in 2015 to the level they desired, it could have sufficed them, and there couldn't have been need for creations of terrorist groups like the **Fulani herdsmen, Bandits, Unknown Gun Men** and the newer versions of **Boko Haram**.

The seizure of international travel passports belonging to Malama Zeenah and her husband Sheikh Zakzaky (H) is a form of a scorched earth technique in their bid to struggle for even a minimal credit to recover their losses.

15. FIGURES (IMPRESSIONS) OF THE ARMY BRUTALITY ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Apart from the dead, injuries and destructions inflicted on the Movement, the brutal clampdown has also created so many impressions such as;

- (i) Disabilities
- (ii) Post trauma disorders
- (iii) Post stress disorders

- (iv) Stress of fights for rights and justice
- (v) Poverty on dependants children, wives, parents and relatives
- (vi) Depressed survivors, dependants-children, wives, parents
- (vii) physical and psychological scars

The impressions manifested on the:

- (i) Survivors,
- (ii) Relatives of victims,
- (iii) Movement
- (iv) Shiite community
- (v) Transferred aggressions to the larger society

Subsequently, the Zaria Army violent behavior and effects continued to spread even wider in the country. The statement usually credited to Martin Luther King (Jr) "*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere*" stands true and rightly depicts the situation in this country. The statement means; if injustice exists anywhere, it is a negative force and is harmful even to places where justice currently exists and that this injustice can spread should it be tolerated anywhere.

Unfortunately majority of Northerners did not only tolerate injustice but supported, assisted and merrily celebrated the extra judicial killings in Zaria and excitedly scavenged on the dead bodies of the victims. Many analysts have attributed the spread and swell of brutalisation, bloodbath, genocide, massacres, extra judicial killings, sexual

assaults, destruction of properties, chaos, confusions, uncertainties and so on the injustice committed in Zaria to other places.

These broadened injustices have actually engulfed more;

- (i) Individuals
- (ii) Groups
- (iii) Societies and communities
- (iv) The entire country.

If we had collectively stood against the injustice right in the bud, the brutalisation could not have even taken place in Zaria let alone spreading to somewhere to the scale we are witnessing it today.

16. WAS THE BRUTAL MASSACRE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN PREMEDITATED OR ACCIDENTAL?

The Nigerian Army was nothing more than a tool in this operation like its commander in chief. It might not be clear to some sincere soldiers but some knew the source and content of the scheme right before the operation. If it had not failed and exposed, there wouldn't be question about it and it would be a forgotten issue; but since things went wrong no one, including the masters and the Army that was at the site, was ready to take responsibilities.

The Army would always deny deliberate killing of women and children even with the most convincing evidence. At worst if it will accept, it may attribute the killing to either accidental flying bullets or accidental discharge, the usual excuses the so called professional Army gives as neck saving policy.

Their actions on those days were deliberate, premeditated and not accidental, for reasons being that;

- (i) The estimation of the strength of the Movement before the crackdown
- (ii) The operation was codenamed
- (iii) There was a long time consultations with religious leaders
- (iv) The brutalized and massacred of the women took place indoors, at homes not on the street,
- (v) The babies killed were on the laps of their mothers or crawling
- (vi) In some cases the women were arrested in groups before torturing to death,
- (vii) The massacre happened in broad day light where figures of women and children were distinct and clear

- (viii) The genocide was well organized, smooth and not haphazard unlike what we see when dealing with Boko Haram or Bandits, so there were ample time to separate women and children
- (ix) No single woman, child or any person was killed outside the mapped areas.

17. WHAT DOES THE LAW SAYS ABOUT BRUTALISING WOMEN, CHILDREN?

- (i) According to **UN**: the multiple UN conventions on rights of women and children, the right to life and right to properties, right to protections etc.
- (ii) According to **UN** agencies such as **UNICEF**- that protects woman's and child's Health
- (iii) According to International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**): Hague regulation (1899) Article 23(c) and Hague regulation (1907) Article 23(c) provides that killing of unarmed soldier during war is especially prohibited: "to kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down arms, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion"
- (iv) According to **Nigerian Government**: the Nigerian military operational code (1967) and Nigerian military manual (1994) corroborated the ICRC position, and provides that killing of defenseless ENEMY during war is especially prohibited "to kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down arms, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion". What more of defenseless civilian and what much more defenseless innocent women and children?
- (v) According to **Religion**: women and children must be protected even on the battle field b the warring parties.
- (vi) According to **common sense, logic and reasoning**: for fairness in contest, competition, game and war; equality, category, class, gender, capability, expertise, and capacity are considerations must be complied with.

For instance in;

- Soccer: eleven players play against eleven players: this is fair play
- Age category: under 18 vs under 18, or under 23 vs under 23: Good and fair game
- Expertise: Heavy weight vs heavy weight: Good and fair game
- Gender: women vs women, men vs men: Good and fair game
- Capability: Paralympics vs Paralympics: Good and fair game
- Capacity: war between high resource capacity and low resource capacity belligerent: it's asymmetric and unconventional.

- Nigerian Army vs few armless women and children: Genocide
- Army generals vs Baby Batool: Madness, Barbaric and animalistic
- Army massacre of women and children in Zaria was tantamount to crime against humanity according ICRC and others

The legendary battle between David and Goliath was miraculous and fascinating because little and weak David defeated giant and experienced Goliath. So, the gruesome killing of baby Batool and others by Army Generals is not heroic.

In summary of these laws: the women and children deserve right to life that is required to be protected at all times and for the purported war crime committed by the Nigerian Governments and Army against them they deserve justice

18. WHAT WERE THE CRIMES OF THE ZARIA WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

The army once accused some Islamic Movement activists of blocking access for the army's chief in which it said it had to kill some 7 out of them before clearing the way. Did the women also block road for the Gen in their matrimonial homes? Or did they also fire at Gen Usman Kukasheka along Sokoto road in Zaria or were they also suspects in killing Cpl Kabiru Dan Kaduna? At least President Muhammadu Buhari did not say he saw women scornfully beating the chase of Army Generals. For these, what were the precise crimes of these women and children to warrant those heavy handed brutalities?

In the whole blame saga, belligerents forgot to label anything blame against the women and children. Neither President Buhari who ordered the killing, the Nigerian Army under Buratai who executed the operation and the Kaduna State Governor, El-Rufai who closely supervised and facilitated did not blame them of anything. Even if they had they would have been set scot free by the two Federal High Courts in Kaduna just like their male counterparts who were label with several dubious allegations.

The 2015 Zaria massacre is the largest and the most brutal inhuman massacre carried out on sinless and faultless women and children in the history of this country.

From all standards and definitions these innocent, weak and defenseless women and children civilians couldn't be classified as incidental or consequential or collateral damage of a war that didn't exist.

Having known their innocence let's give the precise meaning of the aggressors actions in line of justice and rights

19. WHAT IS IN A NAME?

They latter arbitrarily labeled their actions as defensive in order to save the life of the Chief of Army Staff from assassination attempts by some associates of the Movement but the real intrinsic qualities of them suggest something different.

We can correctly qualify the actions of the Nigerian Military on the harmless, weak defenseless and armless women and children better if we weigh them base on what the precise meanings of their actions were. Thus, what they did was;

- (i) **Brutalisation**: When they treated women and children savagely or viciously, which they did.
- (ii) **Murder**: When they unlawfully killed women and children without justification or valid excuse, especially with malice aforethought, premeditation. Exactly that was also confirmed.
- (iii) **Pogrom**: When they organized massacre of helpless women and children. Yes.
- (iv) **Mass murder**: When they murdered a number of women and children, typically simultaneously or over a relatively short period of time and in close geographic proximity. They mass murdered.
- (v) **Extra judicial killing**: When governmental authorities killed women and children without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process. Their actions were qualified for this too.
- (vi) **Commit Genocide**: When they deliberately and systematically destroyed a group of women and children because of their religion. Yes, committed
- (vii) **Massacre**: When they deliberately and brutally killing many people (up to 5 according to FBI). Yes, the actions were massacre.

There was none of the above meanings that don't qualify what they committed in the Zaria 2015 unpleasant incident in the real sense of it. The Nigerian Army headed by General Tukur Yusuf Buratai, the Federal Government of Nigeria, led by General Muhammadu Buhari and the Kaduna State Government governor, Ahmed El-Rufai directly committed all of the above listed crimes on the hundreds of women and children victims in less than 3 days.

Going by the codename of the operation and the slogan used to inspire the soldiers, massacre, genocide and any form of atrocity, not war, could have been committed on the women and children in Zaria in December 2015 and so these women and children

cannot be considered collateral damage for a war that was not fought. It as a sheer war crime against humanity according to international criminal court, ICRC and other international bodies and the Government of Nigeria.

20. DECISSIONS ON INNOCENT OR OTHERWISE OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF ARMY BRUTALITY

Since it is now crystal clear that the defenseless women and children were truly brutalized by the heavy arms of the Nigerian government and its murder Army leading to deaths and injuries, it would good at this juncture we decide the fate of these victims of Army brutality.

The heavy handed arms of the 'professional' Nigerian Army on to the armless civilian women and children was heavily unequal and highly disproportionate. Evidence have proven that none of the women and children was harmful or sinful to anybody at the time massacre and the brutality that led to their death and injuries was preplanned and executed b the authorities with intentions of genocide.

The victims were not caught up in cross fire in their homes as there was no battle being fought. The entire International and local communities and bodies have not only prohibited killing of defenseless civilian women and children but even an enemy on battle field that loses mean of defense or surrenders. In words of these bodies, killing of women and children under such condition may be considered as a crime against humanity identical to war crime. For this reason, their actions must be condemned by all.

21. JUSTICE FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF THE ARMY BRUTALITY

The perpetrators of the Zaria 2015 genocide would always hide their crimes not minding the sufferings of the victims. To help these victims to get justice I believe our first port call is to assist in exposing the true colours of the criminals that perpetrated the crime as well as the detail realities of their perpetrations.

These gruesomely extra judicially killed, maimed injured and harassed weak and vulnerable victims have suffered for 6th year without justice. Hence, I wish to have the privilege and the honour to call and solicit for justice on their behave from the;

- (i) Human right advocates; at local and international levels
- (ii) Amnesty international and similar bodies;

- (iii) The international community; the claimants of democracy and civility championships
- (iv) UNICEF; whose area of responsibility is mothers and children affairs
- (v) Feminists; at local and international levels
- (vi) Advocates of women's right

And also to partner with the following public influencers to reveal the true colours of the Nigerian governments, their colonial lords and allies in crime, the Nigerian Army and other players as well as the realities of what took place in the dark hours of 12 to 14th December 2015 in Zaria:

- (i) Scholar: researcher, analysts, investigators,
- (ii) Artists: film/movie makers, cartoonists, comedians, humorists, graffitists, dramatists, singers, etc
- (iii) Writer: authors, journalists, playwright, poets, etc
- (iv) Bloggers and Social media activists
- (v) Celebrity: superstars, Movie stars
- (vi) Famous personalities and organizations

A recent example of the power of the above list in creating awareness was the case of the #bringbackourgirls hash tag lunched in the White House in U.S.A. by the U.S. first lady Mitchell Barak Obama in response to the kidnap of 176 remote school girls in Chibok Borno State Nigeria. The lunching was highly resonated that within a short period the hash tag was chanted in every home, workplace, official gathering, publication house, TV and radio channels, from America, to Europe to Asia and Africa by every top personality and Head of Government.

Measuring the impact on tweeter alone, over 5 million tweets of the #bringbackourgirls were recorded in 5 months. There and then, the whole world became aware of the trauma the Chibok girls went through and there was sympathy for them and call for justice.

Similarly, we can do the same and attract sympathy for the Zaria 2015 victims who were not only kidnapped but sexually harassed and mercilessly murdered by known institutions who were supposed to be their protectors.

These awareness efforts if well harnessed will help prepare the ground for arraigning the heartless aggressor before the International Court of Justice with war crime or similar charges.

22. Conclusion:

Ladies and gentle men, the available facts and figures including the four Federal High Court Judgments have proven that the Nigerian Army barbarically massacred these hundreds of women and children in cool blood without reasonable justification.

The hundreds others injured, other surviving victims, the dependent and relatives of the massacred are scarcely breathing under the excruciating mighty knees of their local and foreign aggressors and are about to die. Similar to Georg Floyd, some have died over the years while some are few seconds away from the 9 minutes deadline. They cannot breath, just like Georg Floyd's neck beneath the knee of Chauvin Derek.

These weak and vulnerable women and children deserve justice and it is our collective duty as humans in this International Human Right week to rise and get it for them in the same manner we got for others before their forceful enemies sniff lives out of them.

To the unrepentant belligerents, after having all their atrocities well thought and done, yet their nemesis, the Islamic movement, the solace of these women and children victims, still stands tall, stable and at the most advantageous equilibrium than ever. Alhamdulillah!

23. PRAYERS

Ladies and gentle men, kindly allow me ones more, to extend my heartfelt empathy and prayers to;

- i) All the women and children victims of Army December 2015 Zaria massacre
- ii) The survivors that are still in different forms of pains
- iii) The prime victim and David of this battle, Maulana, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky (H) and his wife Malama Zeenah
- iv) Brothers and sisters that have suffered and are still suffering
- v) Other pained relatives and sympathizers

For Allah's direct intervention into their affairs in addition to the little humans can do to get them out of these predicaments inflicted by the Kaduna State and the Federal Government of Nigeria, sooner and not latter.
