



Nigeria's insecurity reaches Westminster Hall

On the 19th of July, over one-hundred bandits riding motorbikes attacked Ruwan Godiya, and Kwai village in Faskari Local Government Area, Katsina State, killing six people and injuring several more. Events such as this are typical across the North of Nigeria, where lives are lost on a daily basis, schools are forced to close, and citizens remain in captivity for months or even years.

Only a few hours later, a debate took place over four-thousand miles away in Westminster Hall, London, addressing Nigeria's security situation. This debate was called by Dr Matthew Offord MP, after reading our (PSJ UK) newly published report: 'On the Brink: Addressing Nigeria's Security Crisis'.

If you'd like to read this report or watch the debate, they can be accessed via the PSJ UK website and YouTube channel respectively.

Matthew Offord moved the motion and declared what many Nigerians already know to be true – insecurity in the West African country has now reached crisis levels. A statement made even more palpable by the events that preceded it in Katsina State that same day.

Six key causes of insecurity in Nigeria were identified by Matthew Offord in his opening statement, these were (1) Islamic extremism, (2) kidnappings for ransom, (3) intercommunal and religiously motivated violence, (4) human

trafficking, (5) electoral violence, and (6) extreme poverty.

One by one, each of these issues were expertly unpacked to provide a more complete picture of the multifaceted situation facing Nigeria. This was carried out by Matthew Offord for a simple reason – he insisted it is time for the UK to stand up and support its Commonwealth partner.

Such sentiments were echoed by other notable politicians including the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fiona Bruce MP, as well as the head of the Freedom of Religion or Belief All Party Parliamentary Group, Jim Shannon MP.

In response, the Minister for Africa, Vicky Ford MP, gave the UK Government's perspective and reaffirmed Nigeria's importance to West Africa and Europe more broadly, while highlighting the various packages of support offered by the UK.

The Minister for Africa clearly stated that "Nigeria is, of course, a priority partner for the United Kingdom; its success matters."

This may be the case in theory, but does Nigeria's success really matter to the UK? Both nations committed themselves to renewing a Defence and Security Partnership this year, originally signed in 2018, however it is difficult to identify any notable successes from such.

Many Nigerians would go as far to say that violence, conflict, and extra-judicial killings have only been increasing in the past years. The Bandit Warlords of Zamfara by BBC Africa Eye further



demonstrates this point and shines light on the systematic impunity crippling any hope of law and order.

Nigeria has been delicately poised on a knife-edge for too long – meaningful solutions need to be introduced by the UK Government before insecurity inevitably collapses the state, only six decades after it gained its independence. A full list of our recommendations can be found at the end of our report, 'On the Brink'.

February's Presidential elections offer hope of a brighter future, but it also embodies the potential to be Nigeria's undoing. Conflict continually erupts around elections and severely restricts ordinary citizens from being able to cast their vote, for instance in 2011 around 800 people lost their lives

due to electoral violence.

It is thus pivotal for the UK Government to support Nigeria by any means necessary to ensure safe, fair, and democratic elections take place – only then can Nigeria start to rebuild its future and rediscover its potential.

Time is running out.

PSJ UK

The International Organisation for Peacebuilding and Social Justice (PSJ UK). PSJ UK is an international social justice charity with a current focus on Nigeria. It seeks to bring together the skills and capabilities of the Nigerian diaspora to advocate for the nation to maximise its potentials. To contribute, visit www.psjuk.org

Several residents evicted as FCTA demolishes houses

The Federal Capital Territory Administration began demolishing houses and evicting residents in the Durumi 3 area of Gaduwa, Abuja.

Hundreds of people were left homeless and jobless as some homes and petty-trading shops were demolished, instilling fear and anger among residents living in unplanned areas of the country's capital city.

Mohammed Adam, an eyewitness who spoke to our correspondent, said the eviction began around 10 a.m. on Wednesday and was supervised by Nigerian Army officers.

"Before they came today, they shot a young person in the leg about two months ago when they came to mark the houses for demolition," Adam explained.

According to an affected resident who spoke to our correspondent on

the condition of anonymity, the FCTA cited alleged terrorist infiltration of the community as the reason for the demolition.

A Central Mosque and a church belonging to the Redeemed Christian Church of God were among the properties demolished.

This is one of several house demolitions and evictions that have occurred in the country's capital city in recent years.



As of press time, our correspondent's efforts to reach the FCTA had been futile.