



**XXI TecMUN Jr.**  
**Office of the High**  
**Commissioner for Human**  
**Rights**

OHCHR

XXI TecMUN Jr.  
28, 29 y 30 de octubre



Delegados, jueces, embajadores, mesas y autoridades presentes;

Escribo ésta pequeña carta no como Secretario General del Modelo, sino como un estudiante y un ciudadano de nuestra nación. Si bien muchos de nosotros aún no cumplimos dieciocho años creo que no hay uno solo de nosotros que no mantenga un interés por lo que le depare a nuestro entorno y, más específicamente, a nuestro país.

Últimamente me he planteado el siguiente problema en mi cabeza, algo que resuena y espero algún día poder contestar con fidelidad, pero algo para lo cual yo en éste preciso momento no tengo respuesta. Todos escuchamos todos los días muchas frases que referencian al sistema social en que vivimos. “Yo soy mexicano” es lo más clásico a mi parecer. No solamente nos postramos como parte de un cuerpo sino que definimos parte de nuestra identidad. Es por ello que cuando una compañera mencionó: “Yo soy México” surgió mi gran predicamento.

¿Cómo se debe decir ésta pequeña frase? Por una parte México es esa riqueza y tan hermosa diversidad en culturas. Es una representación simbólica de la razón de ser de un mexicano. Trabajamos arduamente y poseemos factores que muchos otros países incluso aquellos considerados más desarrollados que México desearían poseer. Todo esto es el ser México, pero hay otra parte que asimismo tenemos que considerar. México también representa pobreza y hambruna, el dominio de los pocos sobre los intereses de los muchos, un vaivén de movimientos que pudiesen o no afectar al prójimo. Representa la corrupción de la cual tanto nos quejamos. Al pueblo carente de oportunidades y, no menos importante, a tantos movimientos sociales que embotellan nuestras calles.

Esto pues no se debe malinterpretar, no digo de forma alguna que México no posea sus aspectos buenos sino que también tomo en cuenta todo lo negativo de nuestra entidad. Mi problemática es entonces si los aspectos positivos son

suficientes como para contrarrestar los negativos. ¿Qué tono de voz he de tomar al exclamar “Yo soy México”? Aquel de seguridad y firmeza o uno de humildad y derrota. La respuesta de mi parte es nula. Pues bien si soy firme en mi afán y gusto de ser mexicano llegan puntos en lo que veo a mi alrededor y me pregunto cómo pudimos haber llegados a éste punto.

Es por esto creo yo que estamos reunidos aquí. Veo cientos de caras mirándome fijamente y en ellas veo potencial. Potencial que puede orientarse a personas muy diferentes. De ésta sala podrán salir excelsos líderes nacionales que pudiesen llevar a nuestro país a grandes desarrollos, pero también existe la posibilidad de desarrollarse en personas con fallas personales que desvíen nuestro camino. Es por esto que estos tres días no los veo únicamente como un evento. Si bien toma gran labor y esfuerzo confeccionar algo como esto, mayor es la fuerza necesitada para lograr algo magno en nuestro mundo contemporáneo.

Disfruten de éstos tres días y hagan de ellos lo más que puedan. No debatan sólo por debatir o el punto foco del evento se perderá. Debatan porque disfrutan de mejorarse y generar un cambio para que algún día no solo podamos decir ante personas de otras nacionalidades “Yo soy mexicano”, sino que podamos mirarnos a los ojos y decir sin trepidación:

“Yo soy México”

Aldo Adrian Acosta Medina  
Secretario General para el XXI TecMUN Jr.

*"Las cadenas de la esclavitud solamente atan las  
manos: es la mente lo que hace al hombre libre o esclavo."*

*- Franz Grillparzer*

Delegados, ministros, jueces y embajadores,

He estado evitando el momento de escribir esta carta, pero la vida me ha enseñado que hay cosas que no se pueden posponer como el final de un ciclo, una etapa de vida, como para mí lo es TecMUN.

Probablemente se estarán preguntando, "¿por qué le es tan difícil?, es solo una carta", pero para mí no es solo eso, sino la manera de despedirme de algo que me ha hecho feliz por 6 años.

TecMUN, claro está, es un juego, un juego que nos enseña a creer que las cosas pueden cambiar, que nos hace querer mejorar nuestro mundo, querer cambiar las cosas, éste modelo nos llena de una iniciativa de querer hacer algo por este país y por este mundo. Es un juego porque sabemos que lo que aquí hagamos, aquí se queda; pero no dejen que estas ideas y esta iniciativa de cambiar, de mejorarlo, se queden dentro de estas cuatros paredes. Porque ustedes, delegados, con estar aquí ya tomaron el primer paso hacia el cambio.

En mi caso, TecMUN me ha enseñado que no basta con criticar las situaciones que nos rodean, sino, a pensar en solucionarlas, a pensar en un futuro no solo para nuestro país, sino para todas las demás naciones.

Nosotros nos vamos, delegado, pero te toca a ti continuar con este modelo que nos enseña a soñar con un mundo mejor. Es hora de que ustedes, debatan, imaginen y creen nuevas ideas, porque es con pequeñas acciones como esas con las que nacen las personas capaces de mejorar nuestro entorno.

XXI TecMUN Jr.  
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TECNOLÓGICO  
DE MONTERREY.



Todo lo bueno llega a su fin, y para nosotros ese momento ha llegado, en cambio para ti, es apenas el comienzo de una nueva aventura, disfrútala al máximo, aprende todo lo que puedas, por que como dije delegado, éste es solo el comienzo.

Siempre Suya,

Carla Denise Paucic Osorio  
Subsecretaria para la Asamblea General  
para el XXI TecMUN Jr.



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*“If you have revolutionary potential you then have a moral obligation to make the world a better place.”*

*Stefani Germanotta*

TecMUN is a game. Thousands of people like you come each year to play United Nations and try and make this world a better place. Some make it happen, some others don't. But, isn't the real UN a game? A play? Are we not always surrounded by games, plays and theatre? Following this logic, it is up to you to decide how real or how illusory TecMUN is, and how it will affect your life from this day onwards.

During these three days, we will tackle on situations going on right now, and we will all come together to solve them. Do not expect any grown-up or any person “with power and influence” to come and solve things for you. You can be that grown-up, and that person with power and influence, that can push the boundaries of tolerance, respect, love, so that the little universe inside our minds can make the big creation outside a little better.

There's something really special about the concept of theatre and the way human kind has always resorted to it in times of need. The urge to be someone else, to be something else. I want you to always push yourself harder to be everything you want to be. For three days, in the stage that is the world, you are a delegate. You are not just another kid in this country; you are the authorised representative of an entire nation. You have the power to improve the lives of millions, but you are not alone. Maybe your ideas will crash with the ideas of someone else, maybe you will feel you are not good enough or strong enough in comparison to someone else, but you must always remember that you are both a grain of sand drifting in the winds of time and space and the most important being in the whole of creation. The potential to choose between them at any given time is what makes the difference, and what makes you an activist for change.

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TECNOLÓGICO  
DE MONTERREY.



Stephen R. Covey says: “Most people do not listen with the intent to understand, they listen with the intent to reply”. Free your mind. Be open to otherness. Be still. Don't break character.

Juan Carlos Velázquez  
President of the Office of the High  
Commissioner for Human Rights.



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## **Topic A: The situation of political prisoners in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its international ramifications.**

### **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Office of the High Commissioner for the human Rights was born as a mandate on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1993, and was consolidated with the Centre for Human Rights as a whole on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1997. It derives from Articles 1, 13 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and is headed by the United Nations' High Commissioner. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, but it has another base of operations in New York city.

The Office seeks to represent the commitment of the international community to the global notions of equality and human dignity, while encouraging individuals to empower each other and themselves with the ideas of justice and "otherity". Its priorities can be found in the OHCHR Plan of Action and its Annual Management Plan, but among these we can find greater country engagement, implementation of the human rights standards on the ground, and partnership with civil society and other agencies in the UN.

It also supports other mechanisms that work to keep the beliefs of human rights alive, such as the Human Rights Council and the core treaty bodies.

### **Background**

It is the duty of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to look after the people and their rights in every country in the world, regardless of their condition and life choices. That is why many human rights organizations, like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have criticized the harsh and life-threatening conditions of prisoners in North Korean prisons.



According to several reports, the inmates are subject to inhuman treatment, e. g. secret and public executions, and torture. Even if prisoners are not victims of these treatments, they're also likely to die due to illnesses, starvation and work accidents. Many times the North Korean government has denied all allegations of human rights violations in prison camps, since the criminal procedure law explicitly prohibits it, yet the credible reports persist.

The North Korean prison camps and facilities are also known to have large private internment camps to house the much-debated-about political prisoners, as well as reeducation camps and workshops of reinsertion to society. They are believed to have been operating since the 1950s.

### **Camps for political prisoners**

The local internment camps are run by North Korea's State Security Department. These political prisoners are deported with any close family they may have, without any lawsuit or conviction, and are detained for the rest of their lives.

The internment camps are completely isolated from the rest of the world, for example, they are often found in secluded mountain valleys.

Amnesty International released a statement saying the approximate number of prisoners is estimated to be 150,000 to over 200,000. These camps are separated into two sections:

- Political prisoners in lifelong detention, for those alleged to have committed serious crimes such as those against the regime.
- Re-education camps for prisoners with the vague hope of eventual release. In this section of the camp we can find those deemed to have committed less serious

offences, like being critical of any kind of government policy, of illegally crossing the border, etcetera.

They are forced to work in agriculture and mining, as well as other physical activities, with archaic instruments. They are fed with really small food rations, and henceforth the inmates are constantly on the brink of starvation. They face the numerous other dangers in the camps such as diseases, infections, and exhaustion, among others. All things combined lead to huge numbers of deaths. Those who survive have to struggle with crippling accidents, frostbite, heat strokes and torture.

Whenever, and if ever, any prisoner gets released, they do so under strict orders to never reveal details of what they saw or experienced while they were held in the camps—nothing about their treatment, the works they were forced to do, the public executions, et cetera. Political prisoners are also released on one other condition: They are banned for life from joining the North Korean military; without serving on the regime's military, finding employment anywhere is nearly impossible.

Thousands of prisoners are thought to be captive solely over guilt by association, which means collective punishment that holds relatives and other acquaintances responsible when an individual breaks the law.

### **Human experimentation in the Hoeryong concentration camp.**

Human experimentation was described by several North Korean defectors, including former prisoner Lee Soon Ok. Lee described an experiment in which 50 healthy women prisoners were selected and given poisoned cabbage leaves. All of

the women were required to eat the cabbage, despite cries of distress from those who had already eaten. All 50 died after 20 minutes of vomiting blood and anal bleeding. Refusing to eat the cabbage would have allegedly meant reprisals against them and their families.

Kwon Hyok, a former head of security at Penal Labor Colony No. 22—also known as Camp. 22—located in Hoeryong, described laboratories equipped with gas chambers for suffocation gas experiments, in which three or four people, normally a family, were the experimental subjects. After undergoing medical checks, the chambers were sealed and poison was injected through a tube, while scientists observed from above through a glass. In a report reminiscent of an earlier account of a family of seven, Kwon claims to have watched one family of two parents, a son and a daughter die from suffocating gas, the parents tried to save the children using mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for as long as they had the strength. Kwon's testimony was supported by documents from Camp 22 describing the transfer of prisoners designated for the experiments. Kim Sang Hun, a London based expert on Korea and human rights activist, identified the documents as genuine. A press conference in Pyongyang, organized by North Korean authorities, dismissed this.

### **Testimonies of horror**

Released prisoners, visitors, former workers, families and even guards have made numerous statements regarding the inhuman conditions the captives live in every day of their stay. A former camp guard, Ahn Myong Chol, once confessed that all the guards from all levels are trained since the very beginning to treat the detainees as sub-human, as they allegedly no longer have rights.

Another widely known case was that of Kim Young Soon. She was sentenced to Yodok political prison camp for nine years just because she was a classmate and friend of former secret consort for the emperor, Hye-Rim. She knew

of her relation with Kim Jong Il and gave account of the things she had to endure while being there.

When a North Korean civilian gets sentenced to a camp, they enter without knowledge of their crimes, or even if they have committed any.

Soon was sentenced due to guilt-by-association. While in the camp, Soon witnessed sick babies being fed roasted rats, public executions of prisoners who were caught trying to escape, and mothers struggling to keep their emaciated children alive. At the age of 16, all the detainees were sent to work in the mine.

### Numbers

Around twelve political prison camps existed in the early days of the regime. But some merged with other local camps around Japan, and others were just shut down as time went by and they started losing inmates.

Nowadays, there are six known prison facilities. We can find them documented because of the testimonies of inmates or former workers and people who live in the neighboring areas.

PRISON CAMP	OFFICIAL NAME	LOCATION
Kaechon Political Prison Camp	Kwan-li-so No. 14	South Pyongan
Yodok Political Prison Camp	Kwan-li-so No. 15	South Hamgyong
Hwasong Political Prison Camp	Kwan-li-so No. 16	North Hamgyong
Pukchang Political Prison Camp	Kwan-li-so No. 18	South Pyongan
Hoeryong Political Prison Camp	Kwan-li-so No. 22*	North Hamgyong

Chongjin Political Prison Camp	Kwan-li-so No. 25	North Hamgyong
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**\*Allegedly closed in**

**2012**

The Chongjin Camp recently expanded to add agriculture camps, buildings and guard posts according to satellite images released by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) and the U.S. commercial satellite image company Digital Globe.

The camp is believed to house about 5,000 inmates, and “there is an even chance that the prisoner population has increased or that the camp is preparing for growth in the near future”.



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The logo of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is displayed in a light blue color. It features a stylized figure of a person with arms raised, surrounded by a laurel wreath, with the letters "OHCHR" in a large, bold, serif font below it.

## **Topic B: Safeguarding of human rights in the Boko Haram conflict.**

### **Background**

Boko Haram is an Islamic movement occurring in the northeast region of Nigeria. Its proper name is Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awati Wal Jihad, roughly translated to Congregation and People of Tradition for Proselytism and Jihad; the term "Boko Haram" comes from the Hausa word book, "western education", and the Arabic word haram, figuratively meaning "sin" (literally, "forbidden") — "Western education is forbidden". Its purpose follows its name: Ban westernization and man-made laws to purify Islam. It was founded in 2001 by Mohhamed Yusuf, and it is widely known for its attacks on schools, on Christians, and the bombing of churches. Yusuf's followers come from a variety of places and backgrounds, but a large number of them are unemployed and poor youth, attracted by the statements against the police and political corruption they live in.

### **Dawn of violence**

The group is considered an extension of Mohhamed Marwa, "the Maitatsine" and the riots he caused during the last decades of the past century. In 1995, the group was said to be operating under the name Shabaab, with Mallam Lawal as the leader. Eventually, Mallam left to continue his education, and Mohammed Yusuf took over the leadership of the group. His guidance opened the group to various political influences and popularity.

But the group wasn't officially founded, as we know it, until 2002 in the city of Maiduguri with the aim of establishing a Shari'a government in the Borno State under then-Senator Ali Modu Sheriff mandate. After that, several facilities—

including a religious complex with a mosque and a boarding school—opened; many disenfranchised families from across Nigeria and from neighboring countries enrolled their children.

During Boko Haram’s first seven years of existence, the sect acted in a peaceful way. Their modus operandi usually consisted of rallies, Internet campaigns, advertising themselves in the media, but investigations by the Nigerian movement claimed that certain important members of the group were arming themselves. The governments’ actions sparked clashes between Boko Haram followers and members of the security armed forces, as well as the police force. These altercates are said to have caused the death of an estimate of 700 people, as well as the death of Mohammed Yusuf himself, who was in police custody during the last days of the fight.

<b>Timeline September 2010-July 2013*</b>	
7 September 2010	Bauchi prison break
31 December 2010	December 2010 Abuja attack
22 April 2011	Boko Haram frees 14 prisoners during a jailbreak in Yola, Adamawa State
29 May 2011	May 2011 northern Nigeria bombings – FIRST TERRORIST ATTACK
16 June 2011	The group claims responsibility for the 2011 Abuja police headquarters bombing
26 June 2011	Bombing attack on a beer garden in Maiduguri, leaving 25 dead and 12 injured



10 July 2011	Bombing at the All Christian Fellowship Church in Suleja, Niger State
11 July 2011	The University of Maiduguri temporarily closes down its campus citing security concerns
12 August 2011	Prominent Muslim Cleric Liman Bana is shot dead by Boko Haram
26 August 2011	2011 Abuja bombing
4 November 2011	2011 Damaturu attacks
25 December 2011	December 2011 Nigeria bombings
5–6 January 2012	January 2012 Nigeria attacks
20 January 2012	January 2012 Kano bombings
28 January 2012	Nigerian army says it killed 11 Boko Haram insurgents
8 February 2012	Boko Haram claims responsibility for a suicide bombing at the army headquarters in Kaduna.
16 February 2012	Another prison break staged in central Nigeria; 119 prisoners are released, one warden killed.
8 March 2012	During a British hostage rescue attempt to free Italian engineer Franco Lamolinara and Briton Christopher McManus, abducted in 2011 by a splinter group Boko Haram, both hostages were killed.
31 May 2012	During a Joint Task Force raid on a Boko Haram den, it was reported that 5 sect members and a German hostage were killed.
3 June 2012	15 church-goers were killed and several injured in a church

	bombing in Bauchi state. Boko Haram claimed responsibility through spokesperson Abu Qaqa.
17 June 2012	Suicide bombers strike three churches in Kaduna State. At least 50 people were killed.
17 June 2012	130 bodies were found in Plateau State. It is presumed they were killed by Boko Haram members.
3 October 2012	Around 25–46 people were massacred in the town of Mubi in Nigeria during a night-time raid.
7 May 2013	At least 55 killed and 105 inmates freed in coordinated attacks on army barracks, a prison and police post in Bama town.
6 July 2013	Yobe State school shooting: 42 people, mostly students were killed in a school attack in northeast Nigeria.

\*IRIN News – UN  
Office for the Coordination  
of Humanitarian Affairs

## Rebirth

Almost two years after Yusuf's death, 2011 saw the group launch their first extremist attack in Borno. Since then, violence has only escalated in terms of intensity as well as frequency. By early 2012, bombings, kidnappings, shootings and jailbreaks were already part of their agenda, and the group became responsible for over 900 deaths.

Since May 2013, there's been an active state of emergency in the provinces of Yobe, Adamawa and Borno in an attempt to fight the group's activities. This action led to the public impression that the group was finally being halted, and that the

group no longer stood a chance against the security forces. In light of this, Boko Haram's new leader, Abubakar Shekau, released a video denying those reports and claiming that the group had not lost to military forces.

Later that month, Nigeria's former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, said during a conference in Rome that the root causes of the group needed to be understood first before the problem could be resolved:

"The first thing is to identify the remote and immediate cause of that problem," he said, and that while criminality—particularly involvement in weapons and human trafficking, as well as drug cartels—was definitely behind the insurgency, fundamental problems like poverty and unemployment also played a great role.

Along with its rebirth, numerous youth movements began fighting back, not unlike the Civilian Joint Task Force, also known as CJTF. Unfortunately, they turned out to be just as dangerous as the sect itself. The Borno state secretary, in light of this, issued a statement saying "We are appealing to the Youth Volunteers to be careful not to take the law into their hands and should be aware of politicians who might use them against their opponents in order to score cheap political goals".

## **Assessment**

The group is considered a major threat to Nigeria and other countries, especially the United States of America. In October 2012, the Human Rights Watch announced that Boko Haram could be prosecuted by another United Nations branch, the International Criminal Court, due to possible crimes against humanity. But earlier that year, after the 2011 Christmas bombings carried out by the group, US President Barack Obama made official the cooperation between the United States, Nigeria, along with other African, European and Middle Eastern governments against the group.

## **Ideology**

Mohammed Yusuf, leader of the group in 2009, stated his belief that the concept of a spherical Earth is contrary to Islamic teaching and should be rejected, along with Darwinian evolution and the concept of rain originating from water evaporated by the sun. Before his death, Yusuf restated the group's objective of changing the current education system and rejecting democracy. Nigerian academic Hussain Zakaria told that the controversial minister had a graduate education, spoke proficient English, and lived a wasteful lifestyle. Scholars, like Jacob Zenn and Atta Barkindo, have often compared their ideology to Salafism or Jihadism. Both of these ideological schools of thought seek to “expose the roots of modernity withing Muslim civilization”, as stated by Gilles Kepel in his book *Jihad* (2004).

## **Collaborators and funding**

Where the group came up with resources had always been a mystery both for Nigerian officers and the United Nations, but in 2012 it was revealed that, while Boko Haram had initially sustained itself with donations from its members and its ties to Al-Qaeda, it has also received help from the Al Muntada Trust Fund, the Islamic World Society, and politicians or groups from Kano, Saudi Arabia, Africa, and even the United Kingdom.

The Borno State Chapter of the All Nigeria People’s Party condemned the burning of Mala Othman’s residence in July 2013, the state chairman of the party, by the CJTF, due to accusations of the chairman being an accomplice of Boko Haram.

In August 2013, Comrade Shehu Sani, in an act labeled as ‘manipulative’ by some, allied himself with the leadership of the sect. He’s a famous self-proclaimed human

rights' activist and writer, but has been accused of following a progressive Marxist ideology.

Sani issued a statement saying he had only done so to negotiate a peaceful settlement with Boko Haram and the President, Olusegun Obasanjo. The negotiation was aborted after federal agents involved were discovered spreading details of the talks and allegedly 'undermining the negotiations'.

Muslim leaders were also involved in pressing the government to reopen talks with Boko Haram shortly after the previous dialogues fell through, even though the popular opinion was strongly against it. They even arranged a committee to enter negotiations with their leaders. Sani was to serve in the committee, but later on declined – which led people to think that assisting Nigeria with the sect was not among his priorities.

The president of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, once received a recommendation of military assistance by America's House of Representatives. The public opinion once again accused the foreigners of having hidden motives, saying that the help to fight the terrorist threat should be "scrutinized openly and not shrouded in secrecy":

This highly sensitive and troubling matter of alien hired fighters on our soil, whether through executive fiat or congressional legislative effort on the part of the Americans, does once more raise serious questions about Jonathan's sense of judgment and suitability for the position he currently occupies. With their history of arrogance and disdain toward the mores as well as rights of local populations where they have operated, be it in Iraq or Afghanistan, for instance, America's "special forces" have left a grim trail of wanton barbarity and atrocities - gruesomely mutilated bodies, the systematic destruction of homes, torture, harassment, degrading and inquisitory interrogations, etc. – which are cavalierly passed off by successive American regimes and

their complacent friends in the media as “collateral damage”.

(Aonduna)

President Jonathan’s regime has relied on subjugation to try and keep the population at bay, but it has only increased the anarchy and strife that is slowly swallowing the country. Credible reports have also appeared of Israeli mercenaries and bounty hunters working for the government, but Jonathan’s representatives have repeatedly denied them.

Another situation slowly branching off this is America’s military and informative presence in Nigerian soil that has done nothing but escalate the already existing issues for the past year.

The faults in Goodluck Jonathan’s regime have made it possible for groups like Boko Haram, and other extremist groups related to it to exist and perpetrate their activities.

Another group that gets benefited from this is the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, otherwise known as MEND, one of the largest militant groups in the Niger region of Delta. It claims to expose exploitation and oppression in this particular region towards minorities and to fight the devastation of the natural environment by joining public-private partnerships with the Federal Government. As Aonduna says, “with Jonathan, MEND and Boko Haram couldn’t have had a better ally”.

## **Recruiting**

As mentioned before, a large number of the sect’s members come from disenfranchised and unschooled—either by choice or by lack of resources—youths. Boko Haram members have also reportedly attacked Christian centers to

"trigger reprisal in all parts of the country," distracting authorities so they can unleash attacks elsewhere.

The group is also known for using the Internet to propagate its activities and enhance its radicalization and the circulation of extremist ideologies. By using these kinds of means of communication, they can also increase its following throughout the states. A spokesperson in Naija reported that Boko Haram has been involved in a recruitment drive, and they are allegedly targeting Muslims between ages of 17 and 30, and have also been recruiting freed prisoners through prison breaks, which would explain one of their very first moves, the Bauchi prison break.



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