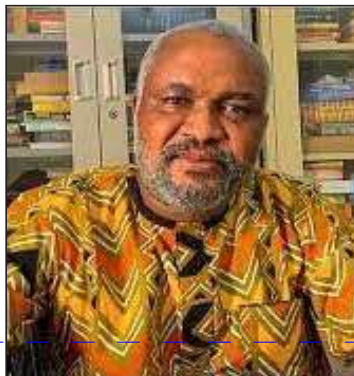


## SET UP JUDICIAL PANEL TO UNCOVER CONSPIRATORS IN SECURITY AGENCIES...HURIWA

**W**orried by the unprecedented rates of armed kidnappings for ransom payments in the Federal Capital Territory and other parts of Nigeria and disturbed by the trend that kidnappings have become a viable commercial franchise netting in over N100 billion Naira yearly, the President, commander-in-chief of the armed forces of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has been asked to set up a powerful national judicial commission of inquiry to be composed of credible judges of the Federal judiciary from Supreme Court and a sprinkling of representatives of private, public sectors and the civil society to investigate sponsors behind the trade.

Making the demand is the foremost civil rights advocacy group: HUMAN RIGHTS WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (HURIWA) stated that the successes recorded by armed kidnappers and the sophisticated nature of the weapons these kidnappers wield, demonstrates without much shadows of doubts that the leaders of these various syndicates making a kill from these terrorism business are key influential persons in the different arms of the security forces.

HURIWA said the inquiry should also focus on why kidnappers are successfully using telecommunication to negotiate and receive huge ransom payments without the security forces ever flagging them down using the information technology equipment which the police claim to have procured for over a decade.



**Comrade Onwubiko**

The Rights group said the systematic collapse of intelligence amongst the security agencies is a symptom of the deeper issues of conspiratorial collaboration between these societal undesirable elements and some key officers in the security forces, no doubt. HURIWA therefore believes that the time has come for the President to take this decisive step to expose arrest and prosecute these moles working with terrorists and kidnappers whilst operating as security operatives.

Besides, HURIWA stated that since the National Assembly that statutorily ought to probe these types of serious security threats that have become pervasive and perennial, have abdicated from this constitutional duty, the President being the Head of government and the elected person charged with the command and control of the armed forces of Nigeria since the heads of the security agencies are answerable to him, it is incumbent that in discharging his primary constitutional obligations of protecting lives and property of Nigerians, it is imperative that the president must provide the enabling environment for the unveiling of the hidden factors and personalities behind the seemingly unending cases of armed bloody kidnappings.

HURIWA is of the view that the best way government at the national and sub-national levels can assure the foreign investors of a stable and secure environment for their investments if they bring them to our soil, is by demonstrably showing the requisite commitment, passion and competencies to challenge and confront headlong, the hydra headed monsters of terrorism and general climate of



insecurity, instability in Nigeria just as the Rights group stated that the current administration just like the one before it, has continued using the unworkable security formula that has failed to uncover the real kingpins behind the supplies of logistics and weapons of the highest military grades which are deployed by terrorists and kidnapers in carrying out their daredevil terrorist attacks on Nigerians.

HURIWA said unlike the past president Buhari's maladministration that went to bed with mass murderers, terrorists and kidnapers, the fresh administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should set a good example of a government determined to right the endemic wrongs in the war on terror and war against crimes and criminality.

The Rights group suggested thus: "Setting up a credible and high powered judicial investigative board that should sit for not less than a month or two, to determine and ascertain with scientific certainty, the individuals especially those embedded within the military, police, Department of State Services, Customs, immigration and Civil defence, responsible for providing terrorists and kidnapers with weapons and the friendly environment to carry out their businesses in Nigeria without been successfully routed and uprooted for over a decade, will inevitably turn president Tinubu to a statesman."

"This will be a very qualitative way to search for a conclusive solution to the perennial terrorist activities of bandits, kidnapers and insurgents in Nigeria that have made Nigeria a laughing stock in the comity of nations because any Sovereignty that is incapable of wrestling terrorists and kidnapers and bring them down to their knees to surrender, that political entity wouldn't have any kind of respectability in the international arena whereby serious minded nations that have capacities to secure their territory and their people are talking."

HURIWA then added that no big time player in the international business environment will take the risk of committing their precious funding and technological expertise in a riotous environment full of kidnapers and their collaborators in the armed forces like it is currently in Nigeria.

Conversely, HURIWA has proposed that the security architecture of the Federal Capital Territory should be fundamentally tinkered with and re-jigged in such a way that a serving Deputy Inspector General of police should oversee the policing of the Federal Capital Territory with 6 commissioners of police assigned to take charge of the six Area Councils for at least one year.

HURIWA stated also that it is imperative that the National Assembly working on an emergency appropriation bill by the executive, should provide special funding mechanisms with necessary oversight functions to prevent corruption for the comprehensive one year special security programme to secure the Federal Capital Territory and for joint military and

police elite units to be adequately funded and necessary crime fighting technological facilities provided with the shortest possible time to rid all the FCT forests of insurgents, kidnapers and terrorists who are perpetrating intermittent killings of residents and successful kidnappings of FCT residents.

"With every sense of patriotic duty, we want to warn that if determined actions backed up by formidable security architecture are not enforced towards crushing the rising numbers of terrorists and kidnapers infiltrating the FCT, then in a very short time this year, these daring kidnapers and terrorists may find it seamless to operate from house-to-house in the very key centres of Abuja to pick and choose the potential residents to kidnap so they can maximise the benefits of the ongoing commerce which seems to have some powerful individuals sponsoring them in these criminal enterprises.

Warning that a stitch in time, saves nine, the Rights group said the federal government must recognize that if these cases of kidnappings continue to take place in the FCT, then the image of the country will dwindle further to an all time low just as Somalia may even have more respect than Abuja. HURIWA said if the USA, UK should include the FCT in their routing travel advisory they issue from time to time on insecurity, then it will be the most disappointing failure by this administration in the area of security vis-a-vis the international status of Nigeria.

The Rights group in a press statement by the National Coordinator Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko, regretted that there have been far too many cases of kidnappings happening unchallenged in the Federal Capital Territory and that the frequency has become frightening since October of last year. The Rights group said it is shocking that the political authority in the FCT are not even bothered may be because Nigeria spends so much to provide them with special security cover and protection all year round with some of these publicly funded personal security details of ministers seen wielding some of the biggest guns anyone can imagine.

The Rights group recalled that an Abuja-based lawyer, Opeyemi Adewale, has recounted her ordeal in the hands of suspected kidnapers who abducted her in the Federal Capital Territory on September 26, 2023.

HURIWA in addition recalled that the expert has cautioned citizens to always consult local security partners on the viability of traveling in and around the impacted locations. Do not discuss plans and routes publicly. If operating in the area in the long term, vary routes and times of travel and ensure the use of secure transport. Remain courteous and cooperative if approached and questioned by security personnel. Maintain contact with diplomatic representations if you are a foreigner living in Nigeria.