Christians: Why This Muslim Violence?

VOLUME 3

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CHRISTIANS: WHY THIS MUSLIM VIOLENCE?

JAN H. BOER

Belleville, Ontario, Canada
Some years ago I published *The Prophet Moses for Today: 366 Social Biblical Meditations*. Many of these meditations contained stories from Nigerian life gleaned from Nigerian newspapers. Frequently Nigerian readers would ask me, “How did you get such deep and accurate understanding of our culture?”

The public is generally cynical about the truthfulness of the media, including the press. However, my readers’ common reaction told me that, in the long run, Nigerian newspapers do give an accurate reflection of the nation’s culture. This series of *Studies in Christian–Muslim Relations* is based to a high degree on these same newspapers and magazines.

This noble breed of harassed Nigerian journalists perform their tasks under the most trying circumstances with poor equipment, dangerous means of travel and grossly inadequate compensation.

THEREFORE

I dedicate this volume to and salute

All Nigerian reporters, journalists, as well as the publishers of news magazines and newspapers

Especially

Obed B. Minchakpu

and

*Today’s Challenge*

Under great stress they have courageously covered some of the ugliest chapters of Nigeria’s recent history. The pages of these studies are a testimony to their tenacity.
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ABBREVIATIONS

ABU  Ahmadu Bello University
ACF  Arewa Consultative Forum
ASUU  Academic Staff Union of Universities
BUK  Bayero University of Kano
CAN  Christian Association of Nigeria (Christian umbrella organization)
CCN  Christian Council of Nigeria
COCIN  Church of Christ in Nigeria (denomination)
CRK  Christian Religious Knowledge
ECWA  Evangelical Churches of West Africa (denomination)
EEC  European Economic Community
FMG  Federal Military Government
IHT  International Herald Tribune
ILM  Islamic Liberation Movement
IRK  Islamic Religious Knowledge
JETS  Jos ECWA Theological Seminary
JNI  Jama’atul Nasril Islam (Muslim umbrella organization)
LCCN  Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria
LGA  Local Government Area
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGC</td>
<td>Local Government Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSS</td>
<td>Muslim Student Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>NACOMYO</td>
<td>National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANS</td>
<td>National Association of Nigerian Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td><em>National Concord</em> (newspaper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCD</td>
<td><em>Nigerian Christian Digest</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIPSS</td>
<td>National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIREC</td>
<td>Nigeria Inter-Religious Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NN</td>
<td><em>New Nigerian</em> (newspaper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSO</td>
<td>National Security Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td><em>Nigerian Tribune</em> (newspaper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTA</td>
<td>Nigerian Television Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYSC</td>
<td>National Youth Service Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIC</td>
<td>Organisation of Islamic Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCM</td>
<td>Roman Catholic Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>REC</td>
<td>Reformed Ecumenical Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>RK</td>
<td>Religious Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td><em>Today's Challenge</em> (ECWA magazine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCNN</td>
<td>Theological College of Northern Nigeria (Bukuru, Plateau State)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD</td>
<td><em>ThisDay</em> (newspaper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEKAN</td>
<td>Tarayyar Ekklesiyojin Kristi a Nijeriya (Fellowship of the Churches of Christ in Nigeria)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSM</td>
<td><em>The Sunday Magazine</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIJOS</td>
<td>University of Jos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPCF</td>
<td>Uniformed People’s Christian Fellowship</td>
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