

*December 2018 E-mail Discussion with Professor A in Sokoto*

*Can you explain to me why Yaqub Musa Hassan Katsina is also known as Yaqub Musa Kafanchan? In particular, how or why did he get the "nickname" Kafanchan? Family origin? Activities in 1987 clashes?*

Sheikh Yakubu Musa was born in Gwaram, Jigawa State in around 1940. However, he grew up in Jos (Plateau State) under the tutelage of his brother, Sheikh Ibrahim Maishadaddu, a leading figure in the Tijjaniya Sufi movement in Jos. Right away, Sheikh Yakubu Musa became a Salafist in 1978 when Izala was established.. As you know, the Sufi and Salafists don't get on well. Legend has it that his brother 'cursed' his being a Salafist.

Meanwhile an Islamic school was established in Kafanchan, a mainly Christian town, in the Emir's palace courtyard. The Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) sent Sheikh Yakubu as a teacher to this Kafanchan school, and naturally, preached Salafism. Subsequently Yakubu became a wandering preacher of Izala from his base in Kafanchan. He also married a woman from Kafanchan. During the Kafanchan riots in 1987 Sheikh Yakubu Musa was hotly critical of the government which led to his arrest. Subsequently he became known as Yakubu Musa Kafanchan. He relocated to Katsina in 1979 to attend Higher Islamic Studies school, a breeding ground for Izala adherents. He subsequently assumed the leadership of Izala in Katsina, but was unable to shake-off the "Kafanchan" appellation to his name.

Thus he made Katsina his home, but is originally from Gwaram, Jigawa, and came to Katsina via Kafanchan. I think privately he prefers to be plain Yakubu Musa.

*Is the Higher Islamic Studies school you mentioned that Musa attended the same as "Katsina Teachers College"? And is it similar/equivalent to Sokoto Teachers College and BOCOLIS/MOGBOLIS in Borno?*

No, There is a difference between the Teachers Colleges and the Higher Islamic Studies colleges. Katsina Teachers' College is an old Western-type colonial college (like all the others) established by the British in early 1920s in Katsina to train teachers to teach in newly established primary and later secondary (high schools). It remains the most respectful educational institution in northern Nigeria. It became a reference point for excellence in British education in the period. The Higher Islamic Studies college was just that - a place to produce judges and Islamic scholars (a similar one exists as School of Arabic and Islamic Studies in

Kano). Located in Katsina town, it was subsequently relocated to nearby town of Daura and renamed College of Arabic and Islamic Studies Daura. It was while it was still in Katsina that Yakubu Musa attended. Thus Teachers College are secular, while HIS colleges were religious.

*Is Yakubu Musa's mosque in Katsina in Kofor Kaura known as the Kandahar Mosque and if so since when? Is that a post-9/11 thing when passions were high?*

The Izala had always been allies of the Taliban, so renaming (even if unofficially) his mosque to Kandhar mosque is a tribute to the May 2011 battle of Kandhar in Afghanistan. It certainly was post 9/11 tribute. Musa himself was arrested as being an Al-Qaeda when an unnamed Libyan Arab (perhaps Ammi Hassan?) with connections to Al-Qaeda visited him in Katsina in 2001. The CIA had been on the trail of the Libyan and alerted the Nigerian government which led to the arrest of both the two. Musa was later released and the Libyan deported.

I am afraid I don't know the scholars you mentioned and whose article you pointed out. I do know, however, that his nephew did join the 'Yaran Malam (as BH are referred to) and merged with a faction.