



## **Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria**

**Olabanji Olukayode EWETAN (PhD), Ese Urhie (PhD)**

Department of Economics and Development Studies, Covenant University, P.M.B. 1023, Km. 10  
Idiroko Road, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria

---

**Abstract.** This paper examines the pertinent issue of insecurity in Nigeria and its implication for socio-economic development. Available data on the level and dimensions of insecurity in Nigeria reveals an increase over time, which constitutes serious threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities and discourages local and foreign investors, all which stifles and retards Nigeria's socio-economic development. This rising wave of insecurity has not abated but has assumed a dangerous dimension which is threatening the corporate existence of the country as one geographical entity. In the light of the above the paper recommends that government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, and sharing among security personnel, training, logistics, motivation, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges. The real solution lies in government accelerating the pace of economic development through creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure to support business and industrial growth.

**Keywords:** Insecurity, Security, Growth, Socio-Economic Development, Nigeria

---

### **1. Introduction**

According to Omoyibo and Akpomera (2013), security is a concept that is prior to the state, and the state exists in order to provide that concept. Security is the prime responsibility of the state (Thomas Hobbes, 1996). The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically states that "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Unfortunately, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has fuelled the crime rate and

terrorists attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. To address the threat to national security and combat the increasing waves of crime the federal government in the 2013 budget made a huge allocation to security, and the national assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011 (Ewetan, 2013). Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012). Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, government efforts have not produced the desired positive result. This has compelled the Nigerian government in recent time to request for foreign assistance from countries such as USA, Israel, and EU countries to combat the rising waves of terrorism and insecurity.

Amidst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with daunting developmental challenges which pose serious threat to socio-economic development. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewetan, 2013)

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 per cent in 2010 and 19.7 per cent in 2009. The country has a youth population of 80 million, representing about 60 per cent of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6 per cent per year, and the national demography suggests that the youth population remains vibrant with an average annual entrant to the labour force at 1.8 million between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, 37.7 per cent of Nigerian were aged 15-24 years and 22.4 per cent of those between ages 25 and 44 were willing to work but did not get jobs. The current level of social insecurity is alarming and unacceptable. The United Nations Children's

Fund reports that every day, Nigeria loses about 2,300 under-five year olds and 145 women of childbearing age, making the country the second largest contributor to the under-five and maternal mortality rates in the world. A greater proportion of the population do not have access to pipe borne water, health care facilities, electricity and affordable quality education. Although Nigeria is a signatory to the UN resolution on the MDG goals the attainment of these goals by 2015 remains elusive and doubtful (Ewetan, 2013).

Against this background, this paper therefore seeks to examine the pertinent issue of national insecurity, a crisis of the Nigerian state, and its implication for Nigeria's socio-economic development

## **2. Conceptual Issues**

There are divergent approaches to conceptualizing security which is the antithesis of insecurity. This paper therefore seeks to examine the concept of security to facilitate a good understanding of the concept of insecurity. Security need was the basis of the social contract between the people and the state, in which people willingly surrendered their rights to an organ (government) who oversees the survival of all. In this light security embodies the mechanism put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce, or resolve violent conflicts, and threats that originate from other states, non-state actors, or structural socio-political and economic conditions (Stan, 2004). For decades, issues relating to security were on the front burner in the development discourse. Several attempts have been made since the cold war ended to redefine the concept of security from a state-centric perspective to a broader view that places premium on individuals, in which human security that embodies elements of national security, human rights and national development remain major barometer for explaining the concept. At the heart of this debate there have been attempts to deepen and widen the concept of security from the level of the states to societies and individuals, and from military to non-military issues (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013; Kruhmann, 2003).

According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) the divergent approaches to the conceptualization of human security in the theoretical literature can be categorized into two major strands. One is a neo-realist theoretical strand that conceptualizes security as primary responsibilities of the state. The second strand, a postmodernist or plural view, conceptualizes security as the responsibilities of non-state actors and displaces the state as a major provider of security. Proponents of this approach argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. They are of the view that government should be more concern with the economic security of individual than the security of the state because the root causes of insecurity are economic in nature.

Some scholars in conceptualizing security placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country (Igbuzor, 2011; Oche, 2001; Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). Thus there is a general consensus in the contemporary literature that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. It is therefore apparent that national security is a desideratum, sine qua non for economic growth and development of any country (Oladeji and Folorunso, 2007). In the intelligence community there is a consensus that security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the existence of a robust mechanism to respond proactively to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency, expertise, and in real time.

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. According to Beland (2005) insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Achumba et al (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of

insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this paper insecurity is defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to wanton destruction of lives and property.

The conceptualization of development has undergone metamorphosis since the Second World War ended in 1945. The meaning and the conceptualization of development was greatly influenced by the ideological contradiction between the Socialist East and the Capitalist West. The issue of ideology of development posed a problem to conceptualizing development. Growth theorists argued that development is an outcome of economic growth while other scholars like Rostow (1952), Harrod-Domar (1957) posited that economic development and growth result from structural changes, savings and investments in an economy.

The failure of economic growth in most developing and developed countries of Latin America and Africa, in the late 1970s, to deliver corresponding social goods and solve problems of unemployment, poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy and ever increasing crimes and wars, necessitated the new thinking, and redefinition of development from economic growth centered perspective to human centered approach (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). In this light Chandler (2007) sees development as a broader concept that recognizes psychological and material factors that measure human well-being. Development therefore is a multifaceted phenomenon and man centered. It is the process of empowering people to maximize their potentials, and develop the knowledge capacity to exploit nature to meet daily human needs (Rodney, 1972; Nnoli, 1981; Ake, 2001). The transformation of the society and the emergence of new social and economic organizations are critical indicators of development (Stiglitz cited in Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013).

Socio-economic development is a product of development and can be defined as the process of social and economic transformation in a society. Socio-economic development embraces changes taking place in the social sphere mostly of an economic nature. Thus, socio-economic development is made up of processes caused by exogenous and endogenous factors which determine the course and direction of the development. Socio-economic development is measured with indicators, such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. Changes in less-tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society. Causes of socio-economic impacts are, for example, new technologies, changes in laws, changes in the physical environment and ecological changes.

Scholars have identified strong links between security and development since the cold war ended (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013; Chandler, 2007). They argued that development cannot be achieved in any nation where there are conflicts, crisis and war. There is a consensus in the literature that security and development are two different and inseparable concepts that affect each other, and this has naturally triggered debates on security-development nexus (Chandler, 2007; Stan 2004).

### **3. Origin and Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

According to Ali (2013) the fear of insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase and this has been compounded by the rising waves of terrorism since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. Violent crime has a root and history in Nigeria, and could be traced back to the period from 1960 to 1970. At independence in 1960 a federal structure was imposed on Nigeria by the British. Wheare (1963) conceptualizes federalism as a constitutional division of power between two levels of government which are independent and coordinating in their respective spheres of influence. Unfortunately, the federal structure bequeathed to Nigeria at independence did not conform to Professor K.C. Wheare's tenets of federalism as a system of government

where two levels of government exist each sovereign in its sphere of jurisdiction (Awotayo et al, 2013). The incursion of the military into governance, and the consequent imposition of military command structure in a federation set the tone for the distortion of Nigeria's federalism. Thus the practice of federalism in Nigeria no doubt has been distorted by overwhelming dominance of the federal government that distributes national resources to lower level government at its own whims and caprices (Ewetan, 2011).

Since independence, the demand for true federalism, fiscal and political restructuring by different ethnic nationalities in Nigeria has not abated. These agitations have contributed to violent rebellious reactions by aggrieved ethnic groups in the country, endangering the security, unity, and corporate existence of Nigeria as one country. Federalism that undermines the independence and autonomy of its federating units will only bring about conflict, threat to national cohesion and peace, and ultimate disintegration (Ali, 2013; Adamu, 2005)

Insecurity challenges can be traced to the early years of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the military during and after the Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hand of the civilians. Soon after the civil war these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery. There was also the army of unemployed youths some of whom lost their job during the civil war. The level of insecurity assumed dangerous dimensions in the prolonged years of military rule beginning from 1970 during which people procure arms and light weapons for personal defence. Some of these arms and light weapons got into the hands of unemployed youths who used them for deviant purpose. While some researchers attribute youth violence to peer group influence and other psychological factors associated with growing up, others emphasized the impact of political and economic factors such as ethnic agitation, political agitation, unemployment, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) as triggers of violent reaction among the youth.

Many scholars have identified several causes of conflict and insecurity in Nigeria that are inimical to socio-economic and national development (Ali, 2013; Okorie, 2011; Jega, 2002; Salawu, 2010; Onyishi, 2011; Ezeoba, 2011; Lewis, 2002). These causes have been classified into external and internal causes. In Nigeria the internal causes of insecurity pose major challenge to socio-economic development than the external causes of insecurity. This paper therefore focuses on the internal causes of insecurity in Nigeria. These causes include:

**Ethno-religious Conflicts:** These conflicts are caused by suspicion and distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. Ethno-religious conflict is a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious and another of such group in a multiethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation (Achumba et al. 2013; Salawu, 2010). The frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity) is a major security challenge that confronts Nigeria. Since independence, Nigeria appears to have been bedeviled with ethno-religious conflicts. There are ethno-religious conflicts in all parts of Nigeria and these have emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identities (Ibrahim and Igbuzor, 2002). Ethno-religious violence is also traceable to the inability of Nigerian leaders to tackle development challenges, and distribute state resources equitably. Other causes are accusation, and allegation of neglect, oppression, domination, exploitation, victimization, discrimination, marginalization, nepotism and bigotry. In all parts of Nigeria, ethno-religious conflicts have assumed alarming rates. It has occurred in places like Shagamu (Ogun State), Lagos, Abia, Kano, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Jos, Taraba, Ebonyi and Enugu State respectively. These ethno-religious identities have become disintegrative and destructive social elements threatening the peace, stability and security in Nigeria (Eme and Onyishi, 2011).



**Politically Based Violence:** Nigeria has a long history of politically based violence since the collapse of the first republic on January 14, 1966, and the incursion of the military into governance that same date. The electoral politics in Nigeria right from 1960s till date have been characterized with violent conflicts, political thuggery, assassinations, and arson. Politicians in Nigerian do not accommodate dialogue, negotiation and consensus (Eme and Onyishi, 2011). Political contests are characterized by desperation, and violent struggle for political power among politicians. Recurring political violence in Nigeria could be attributed to over-zealousness and desperation of political gladiators to win elections or remain in office at all cost. These misadventures have often been catastrophic leading to decimation of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities, and the destruction of properties among others.

**Systemic and Political Corruption:** This is a twin evil and hydra-headed monster that has held the Nigerian state captive. This has contributed to government failure and breakdown of institutional infrastructures. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure, traceable to systemic and political corruption. It has added another dimension of violent conflicts which has eroded national values. Corruption is bad not because money and benefits change hands, and not because of the motives of participants, but because it privatizes valuable aspects of public life, bypassing processes of representation, debate, and choice. It has been described as cancer militating against Nigeria's development, because corruption deeply threatens the fabric of the Nigeria society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). Corruption hampers economic growth, disproportionately burdens the poor and undermines the effectiveness of investment and aid (Iyare, 2008).

**Economic-Based Violence:** It is also referred to as "political economy of violence". Eme and Onyishi (2011) note that, in recent writings in the mass media, much emphasis is laid on the role of resources in generating conflict which is a major cause of economic-based violence across the globe and across political divide. Cries of resource control and revenue sharing regularly rent the air between proponents

and opponents also leading to violent agitations among the contending actors and between the state and proponents. The Niger-Delta crisis in Nigeria presents a classic case of this violent struggle that has been on since the end of the Nigerian civil war in 1970. These violent agitations have claimed many lives of Nigerians and foreigners, military and para-military personnel, and properties worth billions of naira. It has also resulted in economic misfortune in Nigeria through loss of oil revenue as a result of shortfall in crude oil exports by the oil companies occasioned by disruption of oil exploration activities by the Niger-Delta militants.

Although by no means limited to oil in the Niger Delta, the most prevalent campaign about the link between resources and conflict in Nigeria focuses on oil and the Delta region. No doubt oil has given rise to vertical and horizontal conflicts between National, State and society or between dominant and subordinate geopolitical zones, classes and groups across Nigeria, given the pivotal role that oil plays in the political economy, and power relations in Nigeria.

It is however true those other types of resource driven conflicts have received less attention in the debate. Assets such as grazing and farming, and water resource, have tended to give rise to horizontal conflicts that involve communities across the geo-political zones.

**Pervasive Material Inequalities and Unfairness:** A major factor that contributes to insecurity in Nigeria is the growing awareness of inequalities, and disparities in life chances which lead to violent reactions by a large number of people. There is a general perception of marginalization by a section of the people in areas of government development policies, political patronage, and these are triggers of disaffection, resentment, and revolt (Achumba, et al. 2013). The incessant strikes by labour, professional groups and demonstrations by civil society groups are mainly due to pervasive material inequalities and unfairness. Their agitations are aimed at drawing public sympathy for their struggle for just and fair treatment by the government.

**Unemployment/Poverty:** According to Adagba et al (2012) unemployment/poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths is a major cause of insecurity and violent

crimes in Nigeria. In particular youth's unemployment have contributed to the rising cases of violent conflict in Nigeria. Also, one of the major causes of insecurity in the country is the failure of successive administration to address challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities.

**Organized violent groups:** Organized violent groups such as ethnic militia, vigilantes, secret cults in tertiary institutions and political thugs contribute significantly to security challenges in Nigeria in different dimension and forms. Their emergence have been linked to a number of factors which include the culture of militarism that has its antecedents in military rule, the failure of the state and its institutions, economic disempowerment, the structure of the state and Nigeria's federalism, non-separation of state and religion, politics of exclusion, culture of patriarchy, ignorance and poor political consciousness (Ibrahim and Igbuzor, 2002 as cited in Eme and Onyishi, 2011).

**Weak Security System:** This is a major contributory factor to the level of insecurity in Nigeria, and this can be attributed to a number of factors which include inadequate funding of the police and other security agencies, lack of modern equipment both in weaponry and training, poor welfare of security personnel, and inadequate personnel (Achumba et al. 2013). According to Olonisakin (2008) the police-population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the standard set by the United Nations. The implication of this is that Nigeria is grossly under policed and this partly explains the inability of the Nigerian Police Force to effectively combat crimes and criminality in the country.

**Porous Borders:** Achumba et al. (2013) observe that the porous frontiers of the country, where individual movements are largely untracked have contributed to the level of insecurity in Nigeria. As a result of the porous borders there is an unchecked inflow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country which has aided militancy and criminality in Nigeria (Hazen and Horner, 2007). Available data show that Nigeria host over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa (Edeko, 2011). Also, the porosity of the Nigerian borders has aided the

uncontrollable influx of migrants, mainly young men, from neighboring countries such as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin responsible for some of the criminal acts (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012).

**Terrorism:** The most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria today is terrorism which is traceable to religious fanaticism and intolerance particularly in Islam dominated states of Nigeria (Achumba et al. 2013). Terrorism is a global phenomenon and it is ravaging the whole world. It has been defined by Sampson and Onuoha (2011) as “the premeditated use or threat of use of violence by an individual or group to cause fear, destruction or death, especially against unarmed targets, property or infrastructure in a state, intended to compel those in authority to respond to the demands and expectations of the individual or group behind such violent acts’.

Terrorism in Nigeria is not a recent phenomenon, it started with the notorious Islamic sect in the Northern part of Nigeria called Mataisine during Alhaji Shehu Shagari civilian regime of the second republic which was aborted by a military coup in December 1983 led by General Muhammadu Buhari. Terrorism rears its ugly head again during the Obasanjo civilian regime of the fourth republic which witnessed religious riots in Plateau state in Northern Nigeria. In recent times terrorism has assumed a political undertone and is spearheaded by a faceless Islamic insurgents based in the Northern region of Nigeria called Boko Haram, that has claimed thousands of lives in the North since 2009.

Terrorism in Nigeria has been linked to religious, socio-political, economic and cultural factors. Even though terrorism originated from Islamic fanaticism, it is now driven by factors such as inequalities within the country and lack among Nigerians, in terms of livelihood (economic) resources, education or access to education and good values. The current challenge of terrorism to physical security is threatening the Nigeria society on all fronts. Some foreign observers have linked terrorism in Nigeria to a number of factors which include, political conflicts, unbalanced

development that involves horizontal inequalities, religious/ethnic distrust, poor governance linked to leadership failure, and high level corruption (Kufour, 2012; Oluwarotimi, 2012).

#### **4. Insecurity Situation and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria.**

After fifty three years of nationhood Nigeria still ranks among the poorest countries in the world, also ranks low in all socio economic indicators such as life expectancy, death rate, access to water, poverty rate, mortality rate, and crime rate, and still carries the tag of a developing economy. Nigeria is a classic illustration of an oxymoron, a poor country in the midst of abundant human and natural resources. This scenario has contributed to security challenges that have bedeviled the country since independence till now with grave consequences for socio-economic development. There is no nation that can achieve socio-economic development in an environment of socio and physical insecurity. The increasing challenge of insecurity in Nigeria has also been linked to failure of leadership to deliver good governance, and secure the welfare of persons on the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. The ruling elites in Nigeria in both the military and democratic dispensation are dependent, parasitic, and very corrupt in nature, and mal-administration (Ali, 2013).

The various constitutions that Nigeria has operated including the 1999 constitutions make provisions for the rights of citizens to include; right to life, right to social security, right to work, right to livelihood, just and favourable remuneration, right to a standard of living adequate for the health, and well-being of individual and his family, including food, clothing, housing, and right to education. No doubt, Nigeria is blessed with abundant human, and natural resources to guarantee the attainment of these rights (Ali, 2013; Bako, 1998). Regrettably previous and present governments have failed to guarantee these rights and thus the onus is on individuals to seek for means to provide the basic necessities of life for him and his family.

The inability of government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities has led to resentment and disaffection among ethnic groups. This has resulted in ethnic violence, communal clashes, and religious violence in different parts of the country that has destroyed lives and properties, disrupted businesses and economic activities, and retarded economic growth and development of Nigeria. There is no investor whether local or foreign that will be motivated to invest in an unsafe and insecure environment. In a globalized world investors are not only looking for high returns on their investments but also safe haven for their investments. Thus the alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has made the economy unattractive to foreign investors, and this has impacted negatively on economic growth and development.

The table below shows available data on the level of some of the crimes from 2000-2008.

Table 1: Level of Crimes from 2000 to 2008

Year	Theft	Armed Robbery	Kidnapping	Assassination	Fraud
2000	29127	1877	243	1255	7927
2001	40796	2809	349	2120	10234
2002	35231	3889	337	2117	9134
2003	33124	3497	410	2136	9508
2004	37289	3142	349	2550	9532
2005	46111	2074	798	2074	9580
2006	41901	2863	372	2000	6395
2007	21082	2327	277	2007	5860
2008	23927	2340	309	1956	5058

Source: Adapted from Achumba et al. (2013)

Table 1 shows that on the average the rate of all the insecurity variables increased between 2000 and 2008 with the exception of fraud which decreased within the same period. In recent time there has been an increase in the rate of theft, armed

robbery especially in the banks, kidnapping and assassination in different parts of the country. However these vices are not equally distributed in the country. For instance, the South East states of Nigeria have the highest incidence of kidnapping, the South South and South West states of Nigeria have the highest incidence of armed robbery and fraud, while the Northern states are characterized by bombing by the Islamic sect, Boko Haram (CLEEN, 2012).

Available data on the violent attacks of Boko Haram from 2009 to 2012 are reported in Table 2

Table 2. Attacks by Boko Haram Sect in Nigeria from 2009 to 2012

S/N	Date of Attack	State	Location of Attack	Impact
1	July 27, 2009	Yobe	Attack on Potiskum, Yobe State Divisional Headquarters.	4 people killed
2	March 13, 2018	Plateau	Another sect operation in the northern part of Jos, Plateau State.	300 people killed
3	Oct. 1 2010	Abuja	Explosions near the Eagle Square, Abuja.	12 people killed and many injured
4	Dec. 24, 2010	Plateau	A bomb attack, in Barkin Ladi, Jos, Plateau State.	8 people killed
5	Dec, 31, 2010	Abuja	Explosions in Mogadishu Mammy Market, Abuja.	10 people killed
6	Jan. 21, 2011	Borno	Attack on Borno state Governorship candidate of all Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), for the 2011 election, Alhaji Modu Gubio.	7 people killed
7	Mar. 2, 2011	Kaduna	Boko Haram killed policemen attached to the Residence of Mustapha Sandamu, at Rigasa	2 people killed
8	Mar. 30, 2011	Yobe	Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe State, exploded and injured police officer.	1 injured
9	April 8, 2011	Niger	Bomb at INEC office in Suleja	8 people killed

10	April 26, 2011	Bauchi	Army Barracks in Bauchi bombed	3 people killed And many injured
11	May 29, 2011	Abuja Bauchi And Zaria	Multiple bombings in different locations in Northern Nigeria.	13 people killed And 40 injured
12	June 7, 2011	Borno	Series of bomb blasts occurred in Maiduguri	5 killed and several injured
13	June 16, 2011	Abuja and Borno	Nigerian Police Headquarters, Abuja, bombed by A suspected suicide bomber. A bomb blast also Occurred at Damboa town, Maiduguri	7 killed and many Vehicles damaged
14	June 20, 2011	Kaduna	Boko Haram stormed Kankara Police station in Katsina state.	7 policemen killed and 2 security men
15	July 9, 2011	Borno and Niger	A clash between Boko Haram and the military in Maiduguri, Borno State, also in Suleja, Niger State, a bomb was targeted at a church.	35 killed and many injured
16	July 12, 2011	Borno	Boko Haram threw an explosive device on a moving Military patrol vehicle	5 people killed
17	July 15, 2011	Borno	Explosion in Maiduguri.	5 people injured
18	July 25, 2011	Maiduguri	Bomb explosion near the palace of traditional ruler in Maiduguri.	8 people killed
19	Aug. 26, 2011	Abuja	A suicide Bomber drove into The United Nations building in Abuja	25 people killed and 60 injured
20	Sep. 12, 2011	Bauchi	A bomb attack on a police station in Misau	7 people killed
21	Sep. 17, 2011	Borno	Brother in-law of Mohammed Yusuf, the slain leader of Boko Haram, Babakura Fugu, shot dead in front of his house in Maiduguri by two members of the sect two days after he was visited by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.	1 person killed
22	Oct. 3, 2011	Borno	Boko Haram attacked Baga Market in Maiduguri	3 people killed
23	Nov. 4, 2011	Yobe	Attack by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe state.	150 people killed
24	Nov. 27,	Yobe	Attacks in Gendam.	7 people killed



	2011			
25	Dec. 24, 2011	Plateau	Bombings in Jos.	80 people killed
26	Dec. 25, 2011	Niger	Christmas Day bombing in Madalla.	50 people killed
27	Jan. 6, 2012	Adamawa	Christ Apostolic Church was attacked and Igbo People were also killed in Mubi in the same state	37 people killed
28	Jan. 20, 2012	Kano	Multiple attacks in Kano.	150 people killed
29	Jan. 26, 2012	Kano	The Sabon Gari of Kano State witnessed another Explosion, which caused another pandemonium in the state.	Many injured and Some luxury buses damaged
30	Feb. 7, 2012	Kano	A bomb blast in Kano market and military barracks	5 people killed
31	April 8, 2012	Kaduna	Easter Day Church bombing.	38 people killed
32	June 17, 2012	Kaduna	Multiple attacks on churches.	12 people killed and 80 injured
33	Aug. 7, 2012	Kogi	Deeper Life Church.	19 people killed

Source: Adapted from Achumba et al. (2013)

The data in Table 2 above illustrate graphically the high level of insecurity in Nigeria from 2009 to 2012, and this situation has not improved but rather it is getting worse. The worsening security situation in the country has caused enormous loss of life and property and created general atmosphere of fear and social tension in the country.

Table 3: Data on Global Peace Index/Rank, Human Development Index and Corruption Perception Index for Nigeria

Year	Human Development Index (HDI)	Global Peace Index (GPI)	Global Peace Rank	Corruption Perception Index (CPI)
2000	0.462			1.2
2001	0.463			1.0
2002	0.466			1.6
2003	0.453			1.4
2004	0.448			1.6
2005	0.434			1.9
2006	0.444			2.2
2007	0.448	2.898	117 <sup>th</sup>	2.2
2008	0.453	2.724	129 <sup>th</sup>	2.7
2009	0.457	2.602	129 <sup>th</sup>	2.5
2010	0.462	2.756	137 <sup>th</sup>	2.4
2011	0.467	2.743	142 <sup>nd</sup>	2.4
2012	0.471	2.801	146 <sup>th</sup>	2.7

Sources: Human Development Report (Various Issues);

Global Peace Index (2012) Retrieved from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia;  
Transparency International.

The data in Table 3 above show that between 2007 and 2012 there is a significant decline in peace in Nigeria in terms of the Peace Index and Rank in the Global Peace Ranking. The Peace Index declined from 2.898 in 2007 to 2.801 in 2012. Also Nigeria's position on Global Peace Ranking dropped from 117<sup>th</sup> in 2007 to 146<sup>th</sup> position in 2012. Also the values of the Corruption Perception Index between 2000 and 2012 increased from 1.2 in 2000 to 2.7 in 2012 indicating an increase in the level of corruption during this period. The implication of this is that since Nigeria returned to democratic system of government in 1999 corruption has been on the increase despite the establishment of a number of anti-corruption agencies such as Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). Thus the high level of insecurity between 2007 and

2012 was accompanied by high level of corruption indicating a positive correlation between insecurity and corruption in the country. During this same period data on Nigeria's Human Development Index, an indicator of socio-economic development, on the average is below 0.5 indicating low level of socio economic development. Thus a high level of insecurity and corruption, was accompanied by a low level of socio-economic development, confirming a negative correlation between insecurity and socio-economic on one hand, and negative correlation between corruption and socio-economic development.

Thus from the above analysis insecurity, and corruption have contributed to low level of socio-economic development in Nigeria between 2007 and 2012. The year 2007 marked the inception of President Yar'dua/Jonathan administration which is still on. From 2007 till date the security situation in the country has worsened, and a major contributor to this serious security challenge is the menace of Boko Haram insurgents.

Insecurity in Nigeria has retarded socio economic development in Nigeria in various ways. These include:

- Social dislocation and population displacement
- Social tensions and new pattern of settlements which encourages Muslims/Christians or members of an ethnic group moving to Muslim/Christian dominated enclaves.
- Heightens citizenship question which encourages hostility between "indigenes" and "settlers".
- Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life.
- General atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy
- Dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war.
- Deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity.

- Discourages local and foreign investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people.
- Halts business operations during period of violence and outright closure of many enterprises in the areas or zones where incidence of insecurity is rife and are on daily occurrence.
- Increases security spending by business organizations and governments.
- Migration of people from area or region where there is prevalence of insecurity.

Socio economic development is the primary goal of every well meaning government, and it is essentially dependent on the level of economic activities in a country; the level of economic activities is in turn enhanced by peaceful co-existence by people. In the absence of security, socio-economic development cannot be sustained as it destroys economic, human and social capital. The Boko Haram insurgency in Northern Nigeria has almost crippled economic activities in that region. Also activities of other militia groups in other parts of the country pose serious threat to the economic health of these regions. The security crises in different parts of Nigeria is destroying existing infrastructure and preventing a peaceful environment for the development of further infrastructure, and a safe environment for economic activities by individuals to give them economic empowerment that will enable households not only to cater for their present generations, create wealth, but also to provide for future generations.

The report by World Bank (2011) on “Conflict, Security and Development” reveals that about 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by political and criminal violence, which has exacerbated human misery, and disrupted development.

The bane of Nigeria’s development is insecurity. Insecurity situation is costing Nigeria its leadership role in Africa in terms of development. Consequently, more proactive initiatives regarding tackling menace of insecurity are needed in Nigeria

since security is central to development, and the national transformation agenda of the current administration may not be achieved if there is no solution to the menace of insecurity ravaging the country.

## **5. Conclusion and Recommendation**

The presence of insecurity in any environment constitutes threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities, and discourages local and foreign investors, all of which stifles and retards socio-economic development of a country. In Nigeria there has been rising wave of insecurity since the country attained independence in 1960. This rising wave has not abated but has assumed a dangerous dimension which is even threatening the corporate existence of the country as one geographical entity. The elimination of these threats should be the number one goal of governments in Nigeria at all levels as the country cannot achieve any significant development amidst insecurity and violence.

Government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, and intelligence sharing, training, logistics, motivation, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges.

The real panacea for solving insecurity challenge in Nigeria is for government to accelerate the pace of development. Development in this context consists of creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, high level of educational facilities, and medical care for the people.

Governments at all levels should ensure that rising poverty indices are reversed and a realistic social security programme is pursued and systematically implemented to ensure that the populace meets their basic needs.

## References

- [1] Achumba, I. C., Ighomereho, O. S., & Akpan-Robaro, M. O. M. (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(2), 79-99.
- [2] Adagba, O., Ugwu, S. C., & Eme, O. I. (2012). Activities of Boko Haram and Insecurity Question in Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 1(9), 77-99.
- [3] Adamu, A. (2005). True Federalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria. A Lecture Delivered at University of Jos Alumni Association, Lagos, 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- [4] Adeola, G. L., & Oluyemi, F. (2012). The Political and Security Implications of Cross Border Migration between Nigeria and Her Francophone Neighbours. *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow*, 1(3), 1-9.
- [5] Adigwe, F. (1979). *Essentials of Government For West Africa*. Ibadan, Ibadan University Press
- [6] Ake, C. (2001). *Democracy and Development in Africa*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.
- [7] Ali, A. D. (2013). Security and Economic Development in Nigeria since 1960. *Kuwait Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 2(6), 1-7.
- [8] Bako, S. (1998). *Nigerian Human Rights Report*, Lagos. Constitutional Rights Project (CRP), September.
- [9] Beland, D. (2005). *The Political Construction of Collective Insecurity: From Moral Panic to Blame Avoidance and Organized Irresponsibility*. Center for European Studies, Working Paper Series 126.
- [10] Chandler, D. (2007). The Security-Development Nexus and the Rise of Anti-Foreign Policy. *Journal of International Relations and Development*, 10, 362-386.
- [11] CLEEN Foundation (2012). *Summary of Findings of 2012 National Crime and Safety Survey*, Retrieved From: [E:/summary-of-findings-of-2012-national.html](http://E:/summary-of-findings-of-2012-national.html).
- [12] Edeko, S. E. (2011). The Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa: A Case Study of the Niger Delta in Nigeria. *Sacha Journal of Environmental Studies*, 1(2), 55-80.
- [13] Eme, O. I., & Onyishi, A. (2011). The Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria: A Thematic Exposition. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, 3(8), 172-184.
- [14] Ewetan, O. O. (2011). *Fiscal Federalism and Macroeconomic Performance in Nigeria*. Ph.D Thesis, Covenant University, Department of Economics and Development Studies.
- [15] Ewetan, O. O. (2013). *Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development: Perspectives on the Nigerian Experience*. A lecture Delivered St. Timothy Anglican Church, Sango-Ota, Ogun State, .
- [16] Ezeoba, S. L. (2011). Causes and Effects of Insecurity in Nigeria. *The National Scholar*, 8(2), 28-38.
- [17] Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012). *Global Peace Ranking*. Institute for Economic and Peace, Retrieved From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

- [18] Harrod, R. F., & Domar, E. (1957). *Essays on the Theory of Economic Growth*. Oxford University Press, London.
- [19] Hazen, J. M., & Horner, J. (2007). *Small Arms, Armed Violence, and Insecurity in Nigeria: The Niger Delta in Perspective*. Switzerland Small Arms Survey.
- [20] Hobbes, T. (1996). *Leviathan*, edited by J. C. A. Gaskin (Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 104.
- [21] Human Development Report (Various Issues).
- [22] Ibrahim, J., & Igbuzor, O. (2002). "Memorandum Submitted to the Presidential Committee on National Security in Nigeria".
- [23] Igbuzor, O. (2011). Peace and Security Education: A Critical Factor for Sustainable Peace and National Development. *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies*, 2(1), 1-7.
- [24] Iyare, T. (2008). *Corruption and the Crisis of National Values in Oyovbaire* (ed). Governance and Politics in Nigeria, The IBB and OBJ Years. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.
- [25] Jega, I. (2002). Tackling Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria. *Newsletter of Social Science Academy of Nigeria*, September, 5(2), 35-38.
- [26] Krahman, E. (2003). Conceptualizing Security and Governance. *Journal of the Nordic International Studies Association*, 38(1), 5-26
- [27] Kufour, J. (2012). Nigeria: Imbalanced Development Causes Insecurity in Nigeria, *Thisday Newspaper*, Lagos.
- [28] Lewis, P. M. (2002). Islam, Protest, and Conflict in Nigeria. Washington Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Africa Notes, No. 10.
- [29] National Bureau of Statistics. (2009). *Social Statistics in Nigeria*. Abuja: The NBS Publication.
- [30] Nnoli, O. (1981). *Path to Nigerian Development*, Dakar: CODESRIA.
- [31] Nwanegbo, C. J., & Odigbo, J. (2013). *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 3(4), 285-291.
- [32] Oche, O. (2001). Democratization and the Management of African Security. In Akindele, R. and Ate, B. (eds) in *Nigerian Journal of International Affairs*, 13(1), Lagos, NIIA.
- [33] Okorie, I. (2011). "Insecurity Consequences for Investment and Employment". *The Punch Newspaper*, Thursday, September 9, 37-38.
- [34] Oladeji, S. I., & Folorunso, B. A. (2007). The Imperative of National Security and Stability for Development Process in Contemporary Nigeria. *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(2), 66-79.
- [35] Olonisakin, F. (2008). "In the Line of Fire", *BBC Focus on Africa*, (April-June), pp19-23.
- [36] Oluwarotimi, A. (2012). US to use more Balanced Security Strategy to Fight Insecurity in Nigeria, *Leadership Newspaper*, Lagos.
- [37] Omoyibo, K. U., & Akpomera, E. (2013). Insecurity Mantra: The Paradox of Nigerian Growth and Development. *European Scientific Journal*, 8(15), 132-142.

- [38] Otto, G., & Ukpere, W. (2012). National Security and Development in Nigeria. *African Journal of Business Management*, 6(23), 6766-6770.
- [39] Rodney, W. (1972). *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. London: Bogle L'ouverture Publication.
- [40] Rostow, W. (1952). *The Process of Economic Growth*. New York. Norton and Co. Inc.
- [41] Salawu, B. (2010). Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Causal Analysis and Proposals for New Management Strategies. *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 13(3), 345-353.
- [42] Sampson, I. T., & Onuoha, F. C. (2011). 'Forcing the Horse to Drink or Making it Realise its Thirst'? Understanding the Enactment of Anti-Terrorism Legislation (ATL) in Nigeria. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 5(3-4).
- [44] Stan, F. (2004). *The Security-Development Nexus: Conflict, Peace and Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. New York: IPA Report