

Terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for Socio-Economic Development Chinedu, G. A. and Okpani, U.

Department of Economics, Michael and Cecilia Ibru University, Delta State.

ABSTRACT

This paper examined the socio-economic implication of terrorism on the people of Nigeria in general and the economy in particular. The reason is because terrorism and its complex manifestations like bombings, kidnapping/hostage taking, destruction of life and property, creation of fear among others has become a hydra headed monster which security agents in Nigeria appear incapable of addressing. This paper revealed that the challenge of terrorism is detrimental to the overall welfare of the people with its resultant effects in the area of insecurity of life, population displacement and even death, the destruction of business, properties, relocation and closing down of businesses. The study recommended that the Nigerian government and her security agencies should be pro-active in their responses, improve their intelligence gathering techniques and create more employment opportunities for the unemployed and equip and motivate her security forces better.

Keywords: Terrorism, Socio-economic, Implication, Development, Insecurity

INTRODUCTION

The activities of Boko Haram in the Northern parts of Nigeria have resulted in several humanitarian crisis in the region. Since 2001, Boko Haram has been perpetrating deadly terrorist attacks in the Northern part of the country. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, terrorism is the use of violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force government to act. Terrorism has become a hydra headed monster characterized by unprecedented threats, both domestically and internationally and has become a nightmare for both developed and developing countries [1]. The current wave of terrorism now poses a greater threat than ever before. It has caused severe damage to society in areas of loss of lives and property, economic loss by diverting foreign direct investment (FDI) from target countries to other non-target countries; crowding out government resources meant for development purposes, among others.

The world has recorded a lot of terrorist attacks. Some of these incidents include; the Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) attacks on hotels and resorts in 1980s in Spain; the Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacks on London's financial district at the Baltic

Exchange (April 10, 1992) and Bishopsgate (April 24, 1993); attacks on London's transport system in July 7, 2005; the al-Qaida attack on the world trade center in September 11, 2001, [2].

The level of insecurity in Nigeria both in the northern and southern part has become a major issue for the government. Since 1990 when the activities of the Niger Delta militants started until recently when Boko Haram insurgents arose in the Northern part of the country, Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented security challenges. These challenges range from kidnapping, suicide attacks, bombings, ritual killings, assassinations, armed robbery, and this has led to the destruction of lives and properties, hindered business activities, discouraged local and foreign investors, increased government expenditure on security, among others. All of these disturbances retard Nigeria's socio-economic development [3]. The current wave of terrorism in Nigeria has redirected the people's minds on issues of terrorism and insecurity. This study therefore aims at ascertaining the impact of terrorism on socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

Terrorism

Terrorism is a premeditated use of threat or violence by subnational groups to obtain a political or self-interest objectives through intimidation of people, attacking of states, territories either by bombing, hijackings, and suicide attacks, among others. It implies a premeditated, political motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents [4].

Two types of terrorism have been identified; domestic and transnational.

Literature Review

Several studies have revealed that terrorism hinders growth and development of a nation. Accordingly, [5] noted that terrorism has a significant growth limiting effects and that terrorist incident per million persons reduces gross domestic product per capita growth by 1.5% in Asia. In the same vein, terrorism increases risk and uncertainty that limits investment and hinders foreign direct investment [6]. Terrorism affects industries like airlines, tourism, manufacturing companies, and export sector, which can reduce gross domestic product and growth [7] Blomberg, [8] carried out a study on 177 countries between 1968 to 2000. The panel estimates showed that terrorism has effect on per capita income growth for all samples, and it reduces investment. [9] carried out another study on the cost of terrorism, using the time frame between 1987 to 2001. The result showed that terrorism had a significant but negative impact on GDP growth. [10] studied the impact of armed conflict and terrorism on macroeconomic variables, using a sample size of 66 low- and middle -income countries. It was observed that conflict indirectly reduces economic growth by increasing the defense spending share of government expenditure. [11] investigated the effect of terrorism on the macro economy of Israel, using quarterly data from 1980 through 2003. Applying vector autoregression (VAR), the result

Domestic terrorism involves the activities of terrorist in a host country, and their targets are fellow citizens, their properties and the countries institutions and policies either for political reasons or otherwise. For instance, the activities of Boko Haram terrorist in Nigeria. On the contrary, transnational terrorism involves more than one country. This can stem from the victims, targets, institutions and supporters, terrorist or implications (Sandler and Ender 2008). A good example of transnational terrorism is the US attack of 9/11.

revealed that terrorism has a significant negative impact on per capita GDP, investment and exports. [12] concluded that 'given the low intensity of most terrorist campaigns, the economic consequences of terrorism are generally very modest and short-lived. The economic influence of terrorism is anticipated to surface in specific sectors that face an enhanced terrorism risk, such as the tourist industry or FDI'.

Terrorism in Nigeria

Recently, Nigeria has witnessed spates of terrorism since the advent of the present democratic dispensation. The pattern of insecurity has been regionalized: militia groups in the south, insurgency in the north, kidnapping in the east and south, ritual killings in the east and west, political and nonpolitical calculated assassinations across the nation. Boko Haram emerged as a radical fundamentalist Islamic sect, formed by Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf, in 2002 in Maiduguri, Borno state. In 2004, it moved to Kanamma, Yobe state, where it set up a base called Afghanistan [13]. The sect officially calls itself "Jama'atul Alhul Sunnah Liddo' wati Wal Jihad" which means "people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and Jihad" [14]. Some of the violent attacks carried out by the sect include:

- i. 2009 - Yobe, Borno, Bauchi, and Kano - Killed over 800 persons.

- ii. 2010 - Borno, Abuja and plateau - Killed over 330 persons and freed 700 prison inmates.
- iii. 2011 - Borno, Kaduna, Yobe, Niger, Bauchi, Abuja, Katsina and Plateau - Killed over 425 persons, and over 300 persons injured; Bombed UN building in Abuja.
- iv. 2012 - Adamawa, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Bauchi, Plateau, Yobe, Abuja, Sokoto and Katsina- Killed over 1047 and many persons injured.
- v. 2013 - Borno, Adamawa, Kano, Plateau, Gombe, Yobe, Bauchi-
- vi. 2014 - Borno, Adamawa, Yobe - Kidnapped of over 270 girls from Chibok village in Borno State - Kidnapped of some women in Adamawa state, killed over 200 persons and several injured.

Other crimes committed by these Islamic sects include; destruction of vehicles; burning of churches, police stations, schools, hospitals, clinics, shops, army barracks and residential houses; adoption of expatriates.

Implication for Socio-Economic Development

For the past eight years, North Eastern Nigeria has been under serious terrorist attack from the Boko Haram sect. However, their activities which seems to be financed by both local and foreign elements has led to thousands of people losing their lives and livelihoods, tens of thousands had been rendered homeless while properties worth billions of Naira has been destroyed as a result of the Boko haram attacks, while more attacks are still going on daily. The terrorism has also affected Nigeria's economy negatively. Within the last few years, heightened social insecurity in Nigeria has arguably fueled the crime rate, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. This ugly trend poses a threat to the future of the nation's agricultural productivity and real sector levels, private sector investment volume, petroleum sector growth rate, manpower and overall economic development. In 2013, the National Population Commission said that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria Rose from 21.1 per cent in 2010 to 23.9 per cent in 2011. The NPC said the lack of sufficient jobs resulted in additional 2.1 million unemployed persons in 2011, up from 1.5 million unemployed people produced in 2010. Similarly, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that 54 per cent of Nigerian youths were unemployed in 2012. This fact which was contained in the "2012 National Baseline Youth Survey

Report" added that of this, females stood at 51.9 per cent compared to their male counterpart with 48.1 per cent. It further added that out of 46,836 youths recorded against different types of crimes, 42,071, representing 75.5 per cent were males, while the remaining 24.5 per cent were females. Among the 32 different crimes committed, Marijuana (Indian hemp) smoking had the highest figure, representing 15.7 per cent. This was followed by theft and murder with 8.1 and 7.4 per cent, respectively. The least committed crime was Immigration/Emigration representing 0.04 per cent [15]. According to the survey, the population of youths aged between 15 and 35 years in Nigeria is estimated to be 64 million, while females are more than males in all age groups.

Massive loss of human resources and its effect as well as government's unimpressive response to the various forms of crime do not offer hopes that the nation is likely to realize its short and long terms economic targets. The 2012 Report from Amnesty International indicates that Nigeria recorded 215 deaths from violent attacks by suspected members of the Boko Haram sect between June and December 2011. It adds that more than 200 people died in communal clashes in Plateau State alone during the year while hundreds of people were killed in rioting and violent attacks in northern and central Nigeria following the

presidential elections. According to the Human Rights Watch, about 2,800 lives were lost to terror-related violence between 2009 and 2012. Within the first nine months in 2012, 815 people were killed in 275 suspected attacks by the Boko Haram group and this represents more than the total number of deaths recorded between 2010 and 2011 combined. The organisation states that 211 police officers were killed while over 60 police stations in at least 10 northern and central states were attacked by the terrorist group apart from the police headquarters that was bombed in Abuja. Beyond the tragic loss of lives, terrorism took a staggering economic toll on Nigeria. In 2013 it was estimated that terrorism cost the Nigerian economy US\$28.48 billion—a number that has likely increased in light of the escalation of the ferocity of attacks in 2014.

Undoubtedly, the origins of terrorism are complex, however, economic conditions are often cited as an important determining factor in the spread of terrorist groups. Over 20 million young people are unemployed in Nigeria, and as the economy continues to be hit by the falling oil prices and the subsequent inflation that follows from a depreciating currency, things are likely to go from bad to worse. The tourism sector which ranked first in the country Nigerian and generates approximately N80 billion annually has been held stand still. The famous Argungu fishing festival, Yankari Games Reserves, the Mambila Plateau, the tomb of Othman Dan-Fodio, all of which attracts tourists from within and outside the country have been paralyzed alongside the various economic activities within value chain [16]. The infrastructural sub-sector of the northern economy has been devastated. This is because a good number of foreign and local contractors across the various northern states engaged in the construction of roads, bridges, housing estate development, the dams, National Integrated Power projects and rail way track rehabilitation have either abandoned sites or relocated to other states. This represents real setback to the

economy of the region and pushes unemployment higher as thousands of youths who would have been engaged by them now sit idle. The commercial sector which was once booming now witnesses a dwindling fortune. The commercial sub-sector which covers the small and medium scale enterprises, local markets, road side shops and stores within the affected states have been closed down because most of these businesses are owned by southerners most of whom are Igbos. [12] noted that 73.3% of business has partially closed operations in northern Nigeria because of this insecurity. This represents huge capital flight from northern economy in both human and financial terms. The most affected states in this regard are Borno, Yobe, Kano and Sokoto. Kano for example serves as a commercial nerve centre not only for the north but also neighbouring Countries like Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Western Sudan for past 500 year before evolution of Nigeria. [2] noted that some \$15 billion do flow through Kano's market each year and two million traders used to arrive daily from Nigeria and neighbouring countries selling goods from factories in the south or imported from Asia. It has the oldest and biggest multibillion-naira textile market known in the sub-Saharan African - The KantiKwari market. But now because of the Boko Haram activities the market is stifled. Kano economy has crashed, Business is fizzling, and income generated has dwindled. People find it difficult to make ends meet. Most times people come to market without selling anything. [7]; [5]. In the core service sector, schools, hospitals, hotels, parks and recreational outfits are going down. Foreign students are relocating down to the south; many doctors have transferred to other peaceful states, hotels and parks now records low turn-out of visitors. All these portend losses to northern economy. Before now, there are more than enough Human resources for business and production including professionals in different service sectors. But now some of them have lost their lives resulting in mass exodus from the north to the south for

safety. As of now, there is no direct evidence that those who migrated because of insecurity have returned to the northern states they fled. The Health, banking and insurance, and Education sector have crumbled. Even vacancy announcement with attractive salary and benefits are not responded to [13]. In Yobe state for instance, government said it has spent well over N7 billion on securities in the last three years. About 209 classrooms worth over N2.5 billion, private houses worth N629 million and other public structures were destroyed in the insurgency attacks. To ensure that pupils and students were not left out of school, Yobe state government rehabilitated most of the schools destroyed. The argument is that ordinarily, these resources would have been channeled into providing the people with water, healthcare services, roads, schools and other services [9]. This attracted series of calls by prominent sons and daughters of the sub-region and, others from various states on the federal government to, as a matter of deliberate and urgent policy, provide these states with a 'Marshall-plan' like assistance to assist them recover from the devastating loss suffered by the affected state governments, organizations and individuals. The Agricultural sector is not

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Terrorism has become an endemic problem in Nigeria, and it thrives because the government is yet to decisively deal with it. Presently, Nigeria is facing the devastating experience of the Islamic sect, Boko Haram, mostly in the northeastern part of the country; hence, the Federal Government should do all it can to tackle terrorism. This is important because, for the majority of Nigerians, the greatest

left out. Most northerners are known to be engaged in this sector. Agricultural output is dwindling greatly. Farmers in Kaduna, Plateau, and Sokoto no longer go to farm for fear of what will happen to them.

Presently, the northern economy is crippled. It will take 20 years to recover from the current predicament the north has found itself [10]. Specifically, their activities have reduced Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country is the sum total of all the goods and services produced in the country within a specific period of time usually one year, by both citizens and foreigners in the country alike; Nigeria's GDP especially from the Northern part of the country have drastically reduced over the years due to the effects of Boko Haram sect. People no longer invest in productive activities in the north as a result of fear; while businesses that would have contributed to the GDP of the country are being destroyed with bomb blast in various locations up north. Investors from other countries who are willing to invest in Nigeria are afraid to come set up their businesses here due to fear of the activities of the Boko Haram sect that have also included Nigeria in the list of terrorist countries.

desire is for the authorities to end this mindless insurgency. One thing that is certain is that the measures so far adopted to confront terrorism in Northern Nigeria are not enough. Thus, it has become necessary to re-tool the campaign against Boko Haram to end the menace and restore peace in the affected parts of the country.

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