

# *Roundtable on* **Nigeria's Future: The Challenges to Security and Economic Development Caused by Boko Haram and the Way Forward**

*Sponsored by the Igbo Studies Association, Igbo League, Inc in collaboration with E. Franklin Frazier  
Center for Social Work Research, Howard University*

Date: 12 April 2012

Venue: E. Franklin Frazier Center for Social Work Research, Howard University Law School Campus, 2900  
Van Ness St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. (Law School Auditorium, Houston Hall)

Time: 9.30am – 11.30 am

The increasing number of terrorist attacks by Nigeria's militant Islamist group Boko Haram - *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lid Da'awati Wal-Jihad*, which is fighting to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state - should be a matter of urgent concern to all interested in the future of Africa's most populous nation. While these attacks pose a serious challenge to Nigeria's security and economic development, there are growing concerns about the failure of the international community to recognize the serious danger that Boko Haram poses to Nigeria, West Africa's regional stability, and the global attempt to fight terrorism. Since 2009, Boko Haram has carried out several bloody bombings in Nigeria, including the Christmas Day attack in 2011 at a Catholic church that killed dozens of worshippers; the bombing of UN Headquarters in Abuja in August 2011, and the police headquarter in Abuja earlier in June that year. Nigerians also witnessed coordinated attacks in the northern city of Kano in January 2012 that targeted the country's security apparatus and civilians, killing 185 people. This Roundtable provides an opportunity for policy makers, scholars and community activists to discuss the dangers posed by Boko Haram's terrorist activities to Nigeria, her neighbors, and the international community and offer suggestions for the way forward.



## *Moderator*

**Ambassador Robin Renee Sanders** U.S. AMBASSADOR TO  
NIGERIA, 2007-2010 & REPUBLIC OF CONGO 2002-2005

Dr. Robin Renee Sanders served as U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2007-2010. Prior to that she served as the International Advisor and Deputy Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces—one of the U.S. military's premier colleges at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. – where she also taught National Security Studies, International Affairs, and African Studies. Ambassador Sanders also has served twice as the Director for Africa at the National Security Council at the White House. She has a range of policy and development experience working on elections, education, food security, energy, democracy, human rights, and reconstruction. Ambassador Sanders holds a Doctor of Science degree from Robert Morris University, Masters of Arts degree in International Relations and

Africa Studies, and Masters of Science degree in Communications and Journalism from Ohio University; and, she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Hampton University.

## Panelists



**Eric Guttschuss** is the Nigeria researcher at Human Rights Watch. His work has focused on inter-communal violence in central Nigeria, the human rights impact of police corruption, and extrajudicial killings by government security forces. He has testified at government commissions of inquiry investigating sectarian violence in the city of Jos. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Guttschuss worked in Conakry, Guinea, where he helped set up a prisoner advocacy project in Guinea's largest prison. He has also previously worked in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Rwanda. Guttschuss holds a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



**Herbert Ekwe-Ekwe** is an independent scholar who specializes on the state and on genocide and wars in Africa in the post-1966 epoch – beginning with the Igbo genocide, 29 May 1966-12 January 1970, the foundational and most gruesome genocide of post-(European) conquest Africa. Since 1980, he has researched, published, taught and lectured extensively in universities and colleges in Africa, Europe, the United States and South America on the state and political economy of genocide and conflicts in Africa and in pursuing alternative political institutions and systems. His new book on the subject is entitled *Readings from Reading: Essays on African Politics, Genocide, Literature* (2011) and he blogs at <http://re-thinkingafrica.blogspot.co.uk/>



**Pat O. Utomi** is a fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants of Nigeria and founding Senior Faculty of the Lagos Business School-Pan African University. Professor Utomi was Director of the Centre for Applied Economics at the Lagos Business School. He has served in Senior positions in government as an Adviser to the President of Nigeria; the Private Sector, as Chief Operating Officer for Volkswagen of Nigeria. He is the author of several management and public policy books including the award winning *Managing Uncertainty: Competition and Strategy in Emerging Economies* and *Why Nations are Poor*. He has been a scholar-in-residence at the Harvard Business School and the American University in Washington DC. He is the founder of the Centre for Values in Leadership; The Widow Support Centre and the Concerned Professionals, which was bulwark against-military oppression, among numerous other social enterprise initiatives.



**Michael O. Maduagwu** is a Professor and Senior Fellow at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru. He holds M.A. (Philosophy) from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, 1982 and Ph.D (Philosophy/Political Science) 1984 from the same University. His special areas of research interest include Human Rights, Political Philosophy, Ethno-Religious Conflicts, Federalism and Civil-Military Relations. He is the author of *Ethical Relativism versus Human Rights* (London 1987). Prof. Maduagwu was a Visiting Professor at the University of Abuja in 2006 and was Fulbright Fellow at Hoover Institution, Stanford University in 1992.

**Augustine (Gus) Fahey** is a Senior Desk Officer for Nigeria in the Bureau of African Affairs at the Department of State. He has worked for the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom and USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. Prior to government service, Gus was a project manager at several private

firms, including Oracle Corporation. Gus holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University.

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