



Small Armed Conflict Contesting and the Nigerian Internal Security

Kontes Konflik Bersenjata Kecil dan Keamanan Dalam Negeri Nigeria

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ABSTRAK

Tantangan keamanan telah ada di seluruh dunia selama berabad-abad. Perhatian utama dari semua itu adalah, tantangan keamanan saat ini terutama di negara-negara berkembang seperti Nigeria telah mengambil beberapa dimensi baru yang mengekspos batas otoritas untuk menghadapinya. Catatan menunjukkan bahwa isu keamanan global multidimensi yang berdampak pada aspek material dan non material telah membuat negara-negara (dunia) sibuk untuk menanganinya. Nigeria sebagai negara yang menghadapi cukup banyak masalah sosial lainnya dibingungkan dengan tantangan keamanan seperti krisis etnis-agama dan militansi, konflik politik, terorisme, pembunuhan dan penculikan dalam jumlah yang belum pernah terjadi sebelumnya. Dalam studi ini, beberapa masalah konseptual dan teoritis serta empiris diidentifikasi dalam sejumlah studi terkait. Masalah terkait SALW; penyelundupan dan tantangan keamanan; masalah teoretis tentang implikasi perbatasan darat yang kerepos dan proliferasi SALW untuk keamanan Nigeria ditinjau. Namun, penting untuk menyatakan bahwa banyak literatur terkait yang tersedia tidak dapat dimuat dalam ruang lingkup terbatas dari pekerjaan ini. Oleh karena itu, karya ini hanya menyajikan teks-teks yang secara eksplisit kritis dan relevan secara sentral dengan studi tentang penyelundupan dan proliferasi SALW dan bagaimana fenomena tersebut bertentangan dengan lanskap keamanan Nigeria.

Kata kunci: Nigeria, Keamanan, Konflik Bersenjata Kecil, Perbatasan Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The challenge of security has all over the world been in existence over the centuries. The major concern of all is that, the current security challenges especially in developing countries like Nigeria have taken some new dimensions that expose the limit of the authorities to deal with it. Records have shown that the multi-dimensional global security issues that affect both material and non material aspects have made nations (of the world) busy to tackle. Nigeria as a country facing quite a number of other social issues is bedeviled with such security challenges as ethno-religious crises and militancy, political conflicts, terrorism, assassinations and kidnapping of unprecedented amount. In this study, some conceptual and theoretical as well as empirical issues were identified in a number of related studies. Issues related to SALWs; smuggling and security challenges; theoretical issues on the implications of porous land borders and proliferation of SALWs for Nigeria's security are reviewed. However, it is pertinent to state that the vast of the available related literature cannot be contained within the limited scope of this work. Therefore, the work presents only texts that are explicitly critical and centrally relevant to the study of smuggling and proliferation of SALW and how the phenomena contest Nigeria's security landscape.

Keywords: Nigeria, Security, Small Armed Conflict, Nigerian Borderlands.

1. INTRODUCTION

With regard to the implications of land border for Nigerian national security, Adetula (2014) indicates that Nigeria uses her power and resources to push her interests to immediate neighbors in order to guarantee regional peace and security (Ushie & Odey 2018). Specifically, Nigeria's internal security is determined by the happenings of Benin Republic because of the two countries' shares geography and history. For instance, the intensity of cross-border crimes like smuggling and illicit small arms trade in Benin has serious implication for Nigeria's security. Consequently, there were number of policies in Nigeria on how to offer better solution against security challenges coming from Republic of Benin. According to Blum (2014) the major security issue across the Nigeria-Benin border area has been the happening of smuggling in small firearms. The study found that, two countries' border remains the major economic strategic place across the regions. Blum analyzed cultural and geographical landscape of the Beninese-Nigerian border and also made a clarification on border porosity and the panic of criminal activities fluctuating between the two sisters countries were increasing over the years. He examined the cultural conditions of the border region, illegal businesses across the border and transnational criminal activities as the most frequent and main challenges across the area and indeed remains very multiple. These attracted so many illegal happenings including smuggling of SALWs and border conflicts simply because criminals found the place suitable for their inhuman activity to achieve desired goals without trial. The major problem found with the border (Nigeria-Benin) is the deadly operation of BH in northern part of the country which also facilitates their operational transit into Benin Republic. The author further found

that movements of individuals and exchange of goods has ensured transnational economic happenings between the countries

Smuggling of arms across the land border of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin has over time increased and intensified the number and destructive nature of robbery, persistent effect of ethnic militias and their associated conflicts (Eliagwu, 2003). It was estimated that by 2002, there had been about fifty violent conflicts in Nigeria resulting in thousands of deaths and leaving quite a number of people upset and dispossessed. Upon the escalation of arms smuggling and their influx into Nigerian societies has added much more burden to national security of the country having the attack of daughter of former president, Obasanjo fallen victim of criminal activities where in the cause of the scenario two innocent children and a security personnel lost their lives (Eliagwu, 2003). It was gathered and reported by security agencies that a Niger Republic national in person of Hamani Tijani along with his boys were caught guilty of snatching more than 2,000 expensive vehicles and led to the death of nearly 1,500 innocent people during 2000 and 2003. Another report that was revealed during year 2003 by Benin Republic Television indicated the interception of cargos loaded with SALWs. The cargos were purportedly transited into the country by Hamani Tijani (Personal communication. Guardian on Sunday September 28, 2003).

Mohammed *et al* (2019) developed a study that used content analysis to examine the importance of Nigeria-Benin land border and how it influence interdependence of the two sister States upon the borderland its gradual effects to internal security of Nigeria (Odey & Ushie 2018). The study found that Nigeria-Benin relations have been in existence period before the advent of colonial masters with happenings of economic activities and anthropological similarities of ethnic groups across the two countries. This

ensures lasting relationship even after territorial division by colonial masters while ensued symbiotic relation between the countries through which happenings of arms smuggling and it is competition against Nigeria's national security evolved. This led to different initiatives to curtail the menace to the extent of total closure of the border by the government of Nigeria. The article concerned with Nigeria-Benin border insecurity which has great link with present study only that the later is arranged to further investigate on how border insecurity has been influencing insecurity in North-west, Nigeria.

2. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES, NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE PROBLEM OF INSECURITY

It has been observed that high rate of unemployment plays a significant role and is considered as a push factor for criminal activities in Nigeria (Adora 2019). Nigeria in its effort while monitoring the challenges of insecurity and shortage of security personnel has recruited and trained about 800 vigilantes in the year 2013 addressed as "BOYES" (Borno Youth Empowerment Scheme) who were motivated and prepared for peace keeping across north-east Nigeria. The study found that the group of hunters across local areas of the zone has been playing a significant role that make use of local guns, machetes, stick and daggers in order to restore peace in the area. The effort of these hunters has called the attention of both communities and government itself in given necessary assistance (Bamidele, 2016).

In a similar study developed by Mohammed & Rao (2020), emphasized on government effort to curtail the menace of insecurity. It was through the empirical study that derived from primary data of structured interview and focus group discussion to determine both effort and weaknesses of government in addressing issues related to

insecurity. A sample of 384 was used (to gather data) across the country. The study found Nigerian government with engagement and committed in deployment, supporting and recruitment of securities but seems to be negligent in addressing issues related to poverty, unemployment and school dropouts which were considered to be the ground basis for most social problems including insecurity in Nigeria. Mohammed and Rao (2020) in their effort to fish out the role of vigilante in Nigeria have shown the relevance of vigilante in managing insecurity. The study was conducted on the basis of secondary data and content analysis which holds Nigerian democracy responsible for the escalation of insecurity from 1999 to date; It further found that, there has been existence of vigilante groups earlier before the coming of Europeans who were tagged with responsibility to safeguarding both human and non human materials, especially during night time. In the recent time while considering the various contribution sby this historic group (vigilantee), the Nigerian government recognized and incorporated them to serve as complimentary to security agencies of the country.

3. THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES, NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IN INSECURITY IN NIGERIA.

The works of Bamidele (2016) has shown how government of Nigeria has been responding to vulnerable and victims of criminal activities in the country. The track of record has been vested to both the government and NGO's. In response to victims of ethno-religion conflict Jama'atul NasrullIslam (JNI) participated in the provision of basic necessities to cater for the need and demands of the victims, although the organization receives assistance from not only government but from other organizations like National Emergency

Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), contributions of millions of naira by federal, State and Local Governments across the country while in the case of internally displaced persons, various communities, organizations including Jama'atul Izalatul Bidi'a Wa'ikamatis Sunnah (JIBWIS), Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) and different organizations of such kinds have been contributing materials for the development of shelter, provision of both food and drugs for the sustenance of victims from volatile area; Borno, Yobe and Bauchi respectively. Moreover, the effort of FOMWAN also created avenue for HIV awareness among the displaced persons in order to ensure and avoid infectious of the disease.

4. POROUS BORDERLAND AND SALW: A CONTESTATION TO NIGERIA'S SECURITY SMUGGLING

A number of studies examined the vastness and extent as well as porosity of Nigerian borderlands with her neighbours. Generally, the country manages to share boundaries with five countries of which Benin has been one of them. However, the Nigeria' boundaries differed in both size and length as Nigeria-Chad remained the smallest while Nigeria-Cameroon border the most largest border also contrasted in both geographical features and historical epoch (Bonchuk, 2014). Historically, Nigerians and Beninese established relations since pre-colonial period when some empires in what is today Nigeria ruled some parts of modern-day Benin Republic. In addition, the Yoruba and Hausa people of Nigeria had economic and cultural relations with the people of Benin (Dahomeyan). The two affirmation countries and their peoples have been sharing things in common like language and culture that invariably identified them of the same cultural

background while ensured the bond of relationship among them. Although, those affinities were somehow affected by colonial artificial borders; they remained all the more reason why the problems of porosity and insecurity across the countries' borders is difficult to be controlled.

Aluko (2012) posit that, the proliferated arms into African sub-region remained a tool used to actualize curtailed socio-political objectives which on several occasions used to invite troubles to security settings of many countries. There were records of unrest and destruction of properties; lost of lives as a result of socio-economic and political violence due to rampant circulation of SALWs. Many of WA States have succumbed to the point that most of associated social problems in the region rooted out of smuggling and availability of weapons, as such collective responsibility and effort is required from groups, organisation and individuals to curtail the menace. (Aluko, 2012).

4.1 Political Turmoil

Ituma & Uchenna (2015) obviously, rampant circulation of arms has been in existence due to governments weaknesses to provide basic necessities. The authors worked to determine the influence of SALWs with scenario observed during 2011 general election in Nigeria. The study found that the weakness of government to provide masses with basic needs has facilitated the possession of such weapons by criminals, so also circulation of the weapons has disrupted turned out of electorates during 2011 general election in the country. Proactive measures to manage the issue of SALWs couple with strengthening the efforts of security agencies were the recommendations to at least control the happenings of such activity.

Mulinzi & Kurantin (2016) The researchers had pointed out how and from where SALWs were coming into Kenya and

projected the way forward to curtail the activity. The outcome gathered from the field work has shown that, availability of the arms has made a fatal ground for violence against human dignity while brought about underdevelopment in the study area. Geographical positions of the area under study and politics were the main factors determining circulation of the arms. The study further gathered that locally made guns from within and outside the country; snatched and stolen weapons from security officers were said to be motives behind proliferation of SALWs across the country. The study also revealed that, most of the used weapons were coming from war zone neighbouring countries like Ethiopia and Sudan. In addition to that the principal actors that were involved in criminal activities include community leaders, local politicians and security personnel in some strategic places like Nairobi. Finally, the study recommends creation of awareness regarding importance of peace and harmony; controlling both influx and usage of SALWs.

Jacob (2015) tried to identify decision making process by three tiers of Nigeria's government responsible for phenomenon of ethnic conflict across the country. The author attributed it to dimensional factors that includes geo-political zone, ethnic identity, political interest, poverty and fail State. According to the author these remains back born that led to the implementation of Shari'a law in Northern States which invited consequences that caused the death of many innocent lives in the country. Most of ethnic conflict in the country has a great link with decision making made by the government which on several occasion leading to destruction of both lives and properties. The inequalities in socio-economic distribution among various geo- political zones and ethnic groups have led to violence organization to exercise agitations which

usually used to be ethnic conflict.

4.2 Economic Upheaval

Dauda. (2014) examined the extent to which BH destabilized socio-economic system in Yobe State. It indicated that insecurity has disrupted socio-economic activities. There was a decline of school enrollments across the State due to BH activities which necessitated the patronage and enrollment of children into schools that were located outside the State. Similarly, about 97% of businesses were negatively affected and some of them were closed down. The extent of the activity has injected fear into many Nigerians and the people of Yobe State in particular. The former has great relevance to the later study having touched socio-economic problem caused by insecurity but silence to provide us with source of the weapons used by criminals which is the central concern of the present study

Ewetan & Urhie (2014) discussed on lingering issues regarding insecurity and its association with economic problem in Nigeria. The study found that the level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased and made economic development of the country stagnant. It claimed the live of many innocent individuals; served as stumbling bloc to both local and foreign businesses that retard sustainability of economic development in Nigeria. However, the compounding problems required urgent action from the side of government to controlling the insurgents activity by providing modern working tool to security officers' couple with job creation and developmental programmes so as to bridge the gap created by insecurity.

Olabanji (2014) holds that security threat and its impact on socio-economic development and the escalation of multi-dimensional problem in the country responsible for destabilizing society causing huge loose of lives, properties and indeed

making business system stagnant while discouraging foreign investors. The writer recommends the introduction of modern security training, provision of equipment and motivational facilities, and interrelation with security personnel. Further argues that, all these should be determined by the government to effect socio-economic advancement. The focus of this paper centered on internal issues; while this present research focuses on how external forces (from Nigeria-Benin border) influence insecurity in Nigeria.

4.3 Socio-cultural Crisis

The rapid escalation of Arms smuggling has been given birth to ethno-religious and insurgent armies as well as kidnappers and armed-bandits especially in the North-eastern and North-western parts of Nigeria. Smuggling leads to proliferation of the arms and thus remained the major concern of experts in security affairs who succumbed to the fact that, the major sources of such items was illegal (Enamhe *et al.*, 2021). In exposing the threat of SALWs, during deliveration at a conference of international security in New York a one time Director under Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria lamented that the availability of such weapons has triggered and blocked developmental programmes (Aluko, 2011). He further made a submission that, "the arms continue to have devastating effect on the African continent considering their capacity to fuel and prolong conflicts". The excessive rising of dimensional ethnic related violence has undermined the efforts of securities in the country during 1999 and 2011. It was recorded that there were existence of more than one hundred and forty five socio-religious issues in Nigeria (Aluko, 2011). Although the deliberation during international conference has pointed out the negative implication of weapons availability

to developmental programmes in Nigeria but was not specific with the source of the weapons and the specific areas that suffers of such issues like Yobe and Zamfara State Johnson *et al.*, (2012) posits that, the possession of arms by *belligerents* in Sudan was responsible to rapid growing of conflict in South Sudan. The author found that the country has been ruled and controlled within the provision and jurisdiction of Islam while neglecting the other operative systems in the country. Recommending disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of many programmes including enlightens programmes on harmful of such weapons will atleast help minimize the level of conflict in Sudan.

Badiora (2017) examined that happenings of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) was as a result of insurgences across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in Nigeria. The outcome revealed that 678,713 was recorded number of IDPs in the three States during 2014 where 68% were females; children and weak people (by age) constituted 48% and 32% respectively. Moreover, those who lost their spouse as a result of socio-economic challenges were 37%; those who became orphans were recorded 8%; and 78% became financially hancarp been lost their source of income. Despite the contribution of natural disasters and other related issues that posed migration and influx of IDPs, the tragedy with BH was hold the major factor responsible that caused IDPs. Furter found that community displacement is becoming a serious problem in Nigeria which requires urgent action before it becomes a widespread problem across sub-Saharan Africa. The study has been specific with issue of internally displaced persons in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States but not concerned to bring out the source and how Nigeria-Benin border associates with Yobe and Zamfara insecurity.

Adamu, *et al* (2018), although not in details, highlighted the impact of small arms

on individuals and the communities; and show therein the study how the proliferation of small arms and their illegal use affect Nigerian people negatively. It is observed that the proliferation of small arms has been a challenge to security of the individuals and communities. It causes massive death and injuries of civilians through ethno-religious and political conflicts, robbery, and kidnapping. Consequently, this circumstance renders many civilians internally displaced persons. Furthermore, small arms led to the waste of financial resources which could be used to provide social services that promote human lives like provision of portable drinking water, education and healthcare delivery. The article calls for an extraordinary measure against the proliferation of SA in order to protect individual lives and their communities as well.

The work of Mohammed & Roa (2020) indicates the level of arms usage by Boko-Haram members and its effects in Yobe State of North-east, Nigeria. The study which was empirical reveals the availability and rampant usage of SALWs has caused a lot of damages including lost of innocent lives which were the severe consequence of the social group activity. 60% of the total respondents testified and characterized the activity of *Boko-Haram* insurgent group with mass killings and destruction of properties. Finally the study found that the very often usage of the said weapons has been the root cause of genocide across the area.

4.4 Communal and Border Clashes

In an attempt to fish out the correlation between SALWs with communal crisis, Ukwuyi *et al* (2017) examined the problem related to Oke-Ogun area in Nigeria to determine whether SALWs affects both political and communal scenario of the area. The findings of the study indicated a very significant relationship between

availability of such weapon and happenings with politics and communal issues in Oke-Ogun area. The result pointed out different classification of SALWs used by either political violence members or communal rebels to ascertain and justified the fact that there was existence of relationship between SALWs and socio-political conflict in the study area. Provision of solid security measures to the border area; proactive measures by the country concerned and other bodies to curtail the menace of SALWs is required in controlling the happening.

5. EMERGENCE OF ARMED AND VIOLENT GROUPS

In another study, Olayiwola (2017) disclosed the basis of the current criminal activity in Nigeria and how it has been sharpened while using weapons that believed to come from border areas. According to the author the criminal activities in Nigeria has been solemnly the product of colonialism, ethno-religion issues and widespread of SALWs. The study found that easy access and possession of weapons has remained the motive behind disruption of various governments. Following the recommendation; provision of basic needs and social amenities; strategizing effort to block influx of SALWs; involvement and initiating programmes to counter arms smuggling, possession and transfer of weapons by both civilians and security personnel couple with engagement and consultation with other countries can yield a positive outcome.

Likewise, in another related study by John & Julius (2017) seek to add more in the existing literature on the proliferation of SALWs in Nigeria. It was a qualitative study that used Nigeria as a case study to examine the uprising and dimensional changes in proliferation of SALWs. The authors identified background of the problem that associated with the arms, from misunderstanding, to the level of possession;

negative implications and difficulty in managing. According to the authors, the point of departure of the article from the existing works is how SALWs as well as their consequences are conceived in the 21st century Nigeria. Consequently, they showed how the decline in Nigeria's peace is caused by the availability of such arms in the country on one hand, and how the arms became a security factor playing against Nigeria's peaceful co-existence.

Billon (2005) stresses that despite the importance of natural resources to the development of humanity; it remains a curse to countries like Angola and Iraq where huge amount of money which are derived from endowments have been diverted to sponsoring repressive regimes and criminal activities that have great effects to the less-privileged individuals. The article argues that countries that greatly depend on resources due associate with violence that in turn affect the livelihood of citizenry. Finally the author calls upon countries for the reformation of policies and to putting needs and security of individuals as first priority. Obviously, the author gives a clue of motives behind conflict in some countries which emphasize on resources but do not touch issues in relation to border conflict which is the central focus of this study.

Halvard *et al* (2008) engaged to determine the relationship between climate and armed conflict. The paper was theoretical using content analysis of different views from different theories to support the study. The authors indicated three reasons why climate changes result to social instability and conflict. They argued that the high level of natural disaster, high resource scarcity and expansion of seas may cause an increasing destruction of properties, health problems and loose of livelihood and in turn lead to socio-economic and political instability and finally resulting to conflict. The article urges the

researchers to concentrate on natural disaster, the changes over time with resources and should also focus on regional problems in their future work. The outcomes of this paper attributed conflict with nature while sidelining issues like corruption, poverty ridden as a result to poor leadership. The paper also lack specification with area of study while this research build on issues related to social problems with specification of Nigeria's insecurity as a result of border porosity.

In the work of Havard (2014) determines the relationship between democracy and armed conflict in both internal and interstate conflicts, using content analysis by consulting relevant literatures. The findings show that there has been strong correlation between democracy and armed conflict where democracy has great influence in causing different types of conflict. The author further lamented that strong economic development alone cannot stand to bring and restore peace in a given society without a solid and vibrant democratic institution that design effective policies. It is a right discussion that democracy has great deal to do with societal peace while in this regard the paper has a relation with present study the only point of disparity is that the present work centers on Nigeria and its dangerous border area.

Melender (2005) work examine the extent to which gender is related with state armed conflict through related literatures on the basis of occupying top ranking position; the ratio in political positions like parliament and lastly educational ratio between genders. In conclusion the writer posits that lack of equitable distribution may always endanger society to falling under chaos. The whole of the work centers on unequal distribution between gender while neglecting other social units like dichotomy in ethnic groups, religious sentiments, political affiliation and unequal distribution among different sections

in the country that can serve as pushing factors to conflict. However, it is the work of the present study to make an analysis on how socio-economic imbalance influence by smuggling of arms in Nigeria.

In a study conducted by Mohammed *et al* (2020) shows how proliferation of drugs and weapons across Nigeria's borders ensures current criminal activities in Zamfara State and farmer herder conflict in Jigawa State of Nigeria. The interviews and the use of related literature of the study has indicated the influx of drugs and weapons which made youths of Zamfara State indulging into substance use and prompt them to become bandit members as many of the captive (bandit members) were found to be youths. The research further found that weapons and drugs have been coming from Nigeria's border and gradual extension of their use across North-western part of the country while influencing farmer-herder conflict in Jigawa State. However, the study has some reflections to the present study which tries to relate border porosity with criminal activities in North-west. Although the article discusses within the jurisdiction of Jigawa and Zamfara States but silent with regards to correlation between Nigeria-Benin border porosity and uprising criminal activities in Yobe and Zamfara States respectively.

6. COMBATING TRAFFIC AND PROLIFERATION OF SALWS

Despite the fact that the use of Small Arms and Light weapons has been declared a means for violence across the world, considering their accumulative roles in most of violence, the usage could be seen in positive side while being considered as one of the mechanisms in controlling crimes in the societies. Bamidele (2016) identifies sticks, machetes, daggers and local guns as weapons for crime management. The author further argues that most of the commendable efforts

of vigilante in complementing various communities and government (formal) security have been achieved while using such weapons. According to Miller *et al* (2002) Accessibility and owning Small Arms and Light Weapons by civilians has been the cause root that prompts society to indulge into various crises. Most of the violence resulting deaths across the globe due associate with the availability of such weapons and many of the people that fall victims of the tragedy were found to be less-privileged individuals like poor people, women and children. The study further argued that the possession and usage of the weapons has always affected developmental programs. Issues related to socio-economic and political policies in a given society have been seriously affected by the usage of such weapons. Despite lacking accurate data, it has been estimated that the circulation and possession of SALW has caused the death of 300,000 innocent lives (year in year out) globally while happening of other related issues like murder, suicide and accidents that involve the use of arms recorded 200,000 per year. A survey research conducted by World Health Organization (WHO) that covers 52 countries shows a total figure of 104,492 deaths out of which the United State of America (USA), Columbia and Brazil have about 100,000 recorded deaths. Issues related to high mortality rates caused by murders associates with developing countries like South Africa where we have 11,000 murders in the year 2000 (Coupland,1996). This is to attest that conflict including domestic violence is seriously related issues to proliferation of SALW worldwide.

Akinyemi (2013) examined the contributions of globalization to the challenges of Nigeria's national security on the basis of content analysis. The article found that the call for the free passage of border by the globalization process has triggered the free flow passage of contrabands, criminals and all sort of illegal issues. Akinyemi reveals

that, the negative implications happening across Nigerian border has been tagged with globalization, as such adaptation of new security strategy that rhyme with current global challenges will cure the illness with the border and if not, Nigerian border will no longer allow peace to rain in the country. The article in its approach correlate border challenges with globalization while affecting national security. The point of departure with present study is that Akinyemi tried to make analysis on general perspectives using secondary data while present study emphasize challenges that receives from Nigeria-Benin border.

7. THE NEED FOR POLICY INITIATIVES

In a study, Bashar (2014) examined the negative implications of SALWs on the WA regional security; and assesses the struggles of regional bodies to combat and offer lasting solutions to the menace of proliferation of SALWs. According to the author, SALWs has reached nook and cranny of WA while affected sub-regional security. The availability and usage of SALWs became so alarming and disturbing in WA. The study found that inability of government to provide its citizenry with basic needs; insecurity; unemployment's and corruption remains the major factors battling with good initiatives to curtail the menace. The study recommends collective effort to address and give support to the good initiatives from the region to the continent so as to ensure sustainability of peace globally. Abdullahi (2016) analyzes the level of proliferation of SALWs in sub-Saharan Africa from local to State and determined it is causes to find the sources, supply and demands of the weapons. International trade of SALWs has played a significant role to the proliferation of such arms across Sub-Saharan Africa. The study found that the establishment of international arms trade system by so called developed nations

remained the reason behind proliferation of SALWs and invariably affecting peace in WA areas. The author further posits that, the activity and happening of arms circulation and its negative impact is complex; such multi-dimensional security approach is highly required to control the menace. In addition to that also the author encourages team work between and among civilians, governmental and non-governmental organizations to arrest arms influx and circulation across the region.

In a study, Banko (2016) examines the impact of arms on humanity with regards security issues in Nigeria. The findings pointed out correlation and association between the two variables that is arms proliferation and criminal activities in Nigeria. However, the study observed that property damages, brutal killings, injuries of innocents, discomforts and relocation of many individuals had been caused by rampant circulation of SALWs couple with dehumanization acts received from security agents in the course of using such arms which placed the society into state of security trauma. Finally the study emphasized community clarion call to wipe out arms circulation; closure of illegal arms market; to apprehend and prosecute of arm dealers and enacting/imposing harsh punishments to those who commit penalty in this regards so as to cripple such business.

Hegel et al (2012) investigated the countries that adopted the use of Post Conflict Justice (PCJ) using purely content analysis on related literatures like peace building documents to determine whether free conflict countries have lamented on negative issues during the epoch of armed conflict after which the study contributed a possible way for a solution to past mistakes which researchers could use to develop further studies. The paper concentrated only on lasting solutions to past mistakes that caused conflict in order to prevent future occurrence but silent on current insecurity

trend with borders especially in West Africa where Nigeria suffers seriously with arm smuggling through land borders.

7.1 International Efforts

In an effort to control the usage of SALWs the United Nations attempted to suppress the usage using number of programs that look into considerable trend of violence and possible ways to control the happening. In this attempt UN introduced conference that recorded mobilization of different governments including NGO'S to partake in controlling the usage of such ammunitions during which policies were formulated with consideration of both international and national laws which was designed to serve as check and balance for arms smuggling. The discussion during the conference has however, attracted room for debating on the causes and negative implications of the weapons. It further created avenue specifically for the commitment of several of government to be reporting the happening in due course also, so as to restore the peaceful co-existence across the world (Laurance, 2002).

7.2 Regional Efforts

The effort and strategy on the control of illegal movement of SALWs in order to neutralize and encourage the commitment of the sub-regional preparation necessitated the initiatives of African Union Assembly in 2013 that ensured the inauguration of a committee to spearhead issues concerning SALWs while the deliberation on the achievements and challenges were made and delivered by the committee twice in a year (SALWs, 2013). Different efforts have been put in place to manage and control proliferation of SALWs and their effects to humanity. Some of which were carried out by regional bodies like ECOWAS which started on economic issues. As it is advancing, it later transform and

incorporates issues related to politics, laws, coordination, control of conflict and determine to achieve symbolic relations among member States while provides punishment to deviant member States. All to put in place is to achieve conducive atmosphere of peace around the member States which has been in the same way with provision of the article 52 of the UN charter that said regional organizations has the responsibility to cater security for their respective jurisdictions, having the fact that most of the member States do share and associates similar problems. With regards to combat of SALW, regional efforts has been recorded a track of achievements in different ways but connected with proactive role by United Nations (UN) during period after 2000 (United Nations, July 2001).

The contributions of UN to curtail the rampant circulation of SALW have been in record since 90s, which marked to be the period when proliferation of weapons was regarded and became international issues that requires attention. The United Nations (UN) in its effort creates awareness on the huge problem associates with the weapons, initiates groups of expertise to develop a critical look into the problem and propose/provides a lasting solution in the year 1999. A conference was organized and digested on negative impact of the said weapons in December 1999 where discussion reflected on measures to be taken against illicit trade of weapons by member States while the general resolution was to determine prevention, control and eradication of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. In the same vein States were required to oversee and act on destroying identifiable weapons and be able to know the number of guns produced at the point of manufacturing; to be vigilante for the account of all official weapons and most importantly initiation and coordination of agencies to be attached with responsibilities of controlling the menace.

Moreover, other roles include disarmament, demobilization and re-integration (DDR) of repent member's couple with destruction of apprehends weapons from them (United Nations, July 2001).

7.3 Regional and International Joint Efforts

It becomes necessary with the Executive Council of the AU looking at protocols and principles enshrine in both Constitutive Act of the AU and Peace and Security Council together with the provision of International Law and United Nations Charter has made attempt to curtail illegal arms trafficking across Africa following the introduction and implementation of programs and actions in accordance to United Nation in order to combat and prevent arms proliferation which was first introduced in New York (2001). The program follows with ratifying, signing, and implementations of all conventionsthat focus on regional level like Nairobi Protocol on the Control, Prevention and Reduction of SALWs in the Great lake Region and the Convention on SALWs by Economic Community of West African States(ECOWAS) held in 2006 and many of International, Regional and Sub-region (African union strategy on the control of illicit proliferation 2013, April 30).

All the stated conventions and approaches were enacted to put a stop on circulation of the weapons having indentified it a serious global social problem that usually used to brought trans-border crime and internal insecurity across various communities. Therefore, it requires collective responsibility in accordance with cooperation and introduction of a committee as pressure group to ensure a total compliance to designed policies. As such the struggles came up with ad-hoc committee as pressure group to ensure the effort of African Union and Regional bodies goes

unbend. Among the sub objectives includes, promotion of peace and unity among member States; to create awareness on the negative implications of SALW; to empower member States; to take measures against the illicit weapons; to maintain and promote effective unity and information networking among various stakeholders from continental, trans-regional, regional and even national (African union strategy on the control of illicit proliferation 2013, April 30).

8. CONCLUSION

The whole effort of the study has been guided by sociological approach, so as to develop and point out issues that brought about societal discontent. Issues were raised and clearly show how people suffer from relocation of settlements, raping, poverty, issues of unemployment, school dropouts and how they endangered teeming youth to participating in criminal activities. Therefore, the study has contributed to fish out sociological issues militating against Nigeria. While the measures suggested by the study remain a huge contribution for the Nigerian government to respond to most challenging issues in the country. In addition to that, prompt action supposed to be taken to avoid future occurrence of another dimensional security issues being the fact that number of children who lost their parents, homes and school as a result of the phenomena has been rising and the government is yet to respond appropriately. The fear is that, in the next decade (when the victims become conscious) it will likely turn to another issue.

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