PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS/LIGHT WEAPONS AND CONFLICTS IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

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Abstract: Proliferation of small arms and light weapons has been on the increases since the end of the Nigerian civil war. The trend has continued despite the illegality of trade. Today proliferation of arms has taken a serious dimension since the beginning of the current political dispensation 1999 to date. However, the consequences of this, is that, Nigeria has faced serious security challenges ranging from Boko Haram insurgency, militancy in the Niger-Delta and the perceived attack from herdsmen in certain parts of the country especially in the Benue Valley. Using secondary source of data collection it has been observed that these conflict leads to loss of lives and properties worth millions of naira destroyed, caused destruction to the food architecture of Nigerian state among others. Porosity of borders, corruption, inadequate manpower and logistic support, poorly patterned borders, institution framework and political instability and economic crisis in neighbouring countries encourage proliferation of SALWs in Nigeria. This ugly trend call for establishment of forest guards, constant monitoring, surveillance of our borders by the security agencies, government should be proactive in dealing with security issues through modern methods of intelligence gathering, sharing, training, logistics, motivation and deploying advance technology to manage security challenges among others to enhance National Security.

Keywords; Proliferation, Small Arms/Light weapons, Security, Conflict, National Security.

INTRODUCTION

The illicit and indiscriminate proliferation of small arms and light weapons is one of the many challenges that states and governments globally are currently fighting to manage. Since the end of the Second World War and, even more recently, the dawn of the new millennium there seems to be a critical rethinking of the nature and scope of security and other issues of concern. Since the tripod attack on the United States from Al-Qaeda, the international system has continued to grapple with new issues of security concern, and such issues have remained front burners at the United Nations, European Union among other regional organizations, including African Union, as well as national committees.

The end of the Cold War generated worldwide optimism for international peace and security. A shift from superpower proxy conflicts in the Third World to socio-economic development appeared a viable project. However, actual events in recent years have disastrously shattered those expectations. In place of enhanced security, virulent internal conflicts accompanied by unprecedented civilian casualties and gross violations of human rights have emerged at an alarming rate. The local roots and causes of the conflicts are numerous and diverse. However, in nearly all of the conflicts, the diffusion of small arms, particularly from the industrialized nations to the developing world has played a decisive role in the escalation, intensification of these conflicts. In the last decade, Liberia and Sierra Leone have been embroiled in protracted civil wars; Guinea-Bissau experienced a brief internecine conflict in the late 1990s. Casamance separatists have continued to battle the Senegalese as they have done for two decades, Cote d'Ivoire suffers Insurrection, Tuareg problem has simmered in Mali, Niger, Liberia and Guinea continue to accuse

each other of launching cross-border raids against their territories, in a conflict also involving Sierra Leone rebels. The ongoing Daffur crises in Sudan is also another clear case of diffusing small arms and light weapons. Thus, in contrast to the conventional view inherited from the Cold War era, emerging violence attest to the role of weapons as stimulus to conflict and a harbinger of massive human rights violation and humanitarian crises. In many cases, the availability of weapons has engendered violent conflicts. Thanks to advancing globalization and the new private order, the trafficking in light arms has made them a weapon of choice. Illicit arms transfer is not a particular country's problem nor does the spread of deadly weapons stop at national borders. Guns and small arms are no longer the preserves of militaries and police force but have fallen into the hands of ordinary criminals, terrorists, ethnic militias and death squads around the world.

Globalization is becoming an ever-influential "architect" of the new international security agenda. Its impact on the evolution of the relations among states is contradictory. On the one hand, globalization contributes to accelerated development of productive forces, scientific and technological progress and ever more intensive communication among states and people. On the other hand, it has facilitated the easy transportation of illegal arms from one country to another and has transformed a domestic law and order problem to a national and international security threat. It results to the long term irreversible contraction in the domain of state authority. Coupled with liberalization, states have in effect lost control of markets as reflected in the development of parallel informal economics, the rise of grey and black markets and the inability of the states to prevent the flow of illicit arms because of the porous nature of most borders and the adoption of policies such as "free movements" of people in particular regions.

Evidence indicates that illegal arms transfers are easier in periods of political transition that are normally preceded by periods of violence.

The state, then focuses its resources in areas of reconstruction and development only, leaving gaps for the illicit transfer of small arms by crime syndicates. In recent times Nigeria has witnessed the upsurge of conflicts. Years of pent-up anger suppressed by prolonged periods of military misrule found outlets as Nigeria joined the third democratic wave. It is not arms that cause these conflicts, but the ease with which these arms are available, leads to easy escalation of festering conflicts. This paper seeks to interrogate the proliferation of small arms/light weapons and conflict in Nigeria; implication for national security.

Conceptual Clarification

Small Arms; This are arms used by one person and which include notable firearms and other destructive arms or devices such as an exploding bomb, an incendiary, a missile, a missile system or landmine: it also includes revolvers and pistols with automatic loading; rifles and carbines, machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns.

Light Weapons: These are portable arms designed to be used by several persons working together in a team and which include notably heavy machine guns, portable grenade launchers, mobile or mounted, portable anti-aircraft cannons, portable anti-tank cannons, non-recoil guns, portable anti-tank missile launchers, mortars with a caliber of less than 100 millimeters. Specifically, some of these SALW are;

> The Tokarev TT pistols, Makarov PM pistols, AR-70 assault rifles (Beretta, Italy), Type 64 assault rifles (Japan), AKM-47 assault rifles (Kalashnikov), portable rocket propelled grenade RPG-7V1 Mukha 'fly', G3 assault rifles (Heckler and Koch, Germany), FNC (Fabrique Nationale Carbine, Belgium), 7.62mm PKMSN-2 machine guns (GPMG), light Machine Guns (Kalashnikov), General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMG), Light Machines Guns (UK 59; Rachot Czech), AK-47 under-barrel grenades launchers, RPG-47 under-barrel grenade launchers RPG-42 hand grenades (Soviet), F-1 hand grenades

(Soviet), Dynamite, explosive (Nitropil, dynamite, plastic), and electronic remote detonation devices. More sophisticated weapons acquired by militia include those with features of night vision and increased targeting accuracy (Ikelegbe, 2014).

Conflict: Conflict is a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals. From the foregoing, conflict is a social phenomenon but it is important to note that it is not every conflict that is violent and destructive. Some conflicts are mere disagreements or disputations over issues or interests, which may pave ways for amicable solutions that may bring the parties involved to closer relations.

Nature of Small Arms Proliferation in Nigeria

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the globe in general and in Nigeria in particular has gradually developed over the years to a rate that is currently quit alarming and has put the security and stability of the entire African continent in the balance. Small arms and light weapons have very evidently become useful instruments in the hands of terrorist groups and other criminal groups and non-state actors to inflict considerable damage on the state and more importantly on the individuals of whom the state has a responsibility to protect, reducing the capacity of the state to fulfil its security mandate. The United Nations Security Council took a similar position by asserting that the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world increases the intensity and duration of armed conflict, undermines the sustainability of peace agreements, impedes the success of peace building, frustrates efforts aimed at the prevention of armed conflict, hinders considerably the provision of humanitarian assistance and compromises the effectiveness of the Security Council discharging its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Estimating the growth and impact of small arms globally, Renner (2008) asserted that, guns outnumber passenger vehicles by 253 million or 29 per cent. The International Action Network on Small Arms (2006) and the Geneva Declaration in (2008) reported further that small arms are used to kill as many as 1,000 people each day around the world. Batchelor (2001); Batchelor (2003) and Fahrenthold and Kunkle (2009), also emphasizing the danger of availability and use of small arms, asserted that each year about eight million new small arms, plus 10 to 15 billion rounds of ammunition are manufactured enough bullets to shoot every person in the world not once, but twice.

Salopek (2001) reported that there is an estimated over 100 million small arms and light weapons circulating in Africa, a figure which is derived from the over 550 million (SAS, 2001) to over 875 million (Karp, 2007) small arms and firearms in circulation globally. Counting the cost of these high levels of proliferation, a small arms commentator, Michael Renner, reported that Africa alone has suffered about 5,994,000 fatalities in the last 50 years due mostly to SALW (Renner, 2006). Ero and Ndinga-Muvumba (2004) argued further that in West Africa alone, …while there are no official figures, an estimated 30,000 people have been killed by SALWs in conflict each year since the end of the Cold War. This largely illegal proliferation has been facilitated by, among other factors, issues related to border control; poorly border policing, inefficient border control strategies, insincere and corruption customs officers and other border patrol agencies.

Factors Encouraging Proliferation of SALW in Nigeria

The study discovered in details the challenges to border security as it could be observed that Nigeria lacks border protection and much importance has not been accorded to our national borders as evident in the vulnerabilities of threat pose at our national borders such as trans-border activities and the prevalent terrorist attack that befall the

country resulting in the unrestrained influx of migrants through the routes. The challenges are discussed below:

1. Porosity of Borders; The porous borders contributed and continue to encourage the cross border crimes and instability in the region. Also, promotes the increasing number of illegal trade such as smuggling of contra bands goods- adulterated drugs, stolen cars including cars that have exceeded the permissible age limit prescribed for use in Nigeria and other goods like shoes, poultry products and many more. The porous borders could also be explained in the use of dried tree, oil drums as well as rims of tyres to demarcate the national borders, this makes the border to be disorganized, poorly managed and in secured. This promotes the unrestrained influx of illegal migrants and cross border activities. However, there are indefinable corridors or regions that served as a route to these illegal migrants, thereby posing a serious threat to the country and the national borders. For instance, it has been discovered that Nigeria has 1497 irregular and 84 regular routes as movements were done through the illegal routes (Nigeria Immigration Service).

The major border countries with Nigeria are Cameroon (1,690 kilometers) in the east, Niger (1,497 kilometers) in the north, Benin (773 kilometers) in the west, and Chad (87 kilometers) in the northeast. Most of these border areas are either mountainous or in the jungle which makes effective surveillance in the borders very difficult.

In these major borders, there are over hundreds of illegal routes in Nigeria that link or lead to some neighbouring African countries. Nigeria's borders are massive with hundreds of footpaths crisscrossing to neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger with links to Mali, Libya and Sudan. From conservative estimate by locals, there are well over 250 footpaths from Damaturu/Maiduguri axis that link or lead direct to Cameroon, Chad or Niger. These paths are mostly unknown by security agencies, are unmanned, unprotected and thus serve as leaky routes for arms and ammunitions trafficking in to

Nigeria. It is disheartening and unfortunate that the "merchants of death" have since devised methods use to beat security agencies at the borders and through the footpaths. These methods include the use of camels, donkeys and cows to traffic arms, ammunition and drugs, like cocaine into Nigeria. The fact that the weapons are small, light and collapsible makes it easy to be concealed and moved on camels and donkeys' back in a specially crafted skin or thatched bags mainly meant for the illegal "expedition" unexpected, unsuspected and therefore undetected. Similarly, some cows and grains merchants in the North- East sub – region of the country, devices means of hiding cache of arms and ammunition in empty fuel tankers, under vehicles' engines and inside bags of grains mostly undetected by security agencies at the affected border posts. The "grains" are transported in large number via trucks, trailers, Lorries and old model pickup vans and jeeps with little attention given to them by security agents. Further analysis on security challenges can be drawn from the series of report from border criminal activities resulting from the outnumbered illegal route as against the Legal route which lacks adequate management coverage by the Nigeria security agents.

2. **Corruption;** The corrupt practices of the security operatives at the borders pose a serious challenge to the border security. The corrupt and inept attitudes of border officials resulting in the numerous check points of bamboo suspended by oil drums also contributed negatively to the influx of arms in Nigeria. It is important to note that these checkpoints are not meant to check passport by but to extort money from people. Hence, the criminals easily infiltrate the borders as smugglers bribe their way into the country. It also explains why we have many criminals involving in trans-border activities and terrorists in the country as criminals move in arms and ammunition and thousands of innocent Nigerians have been killed and many more die in the hands of Islamic sects with the influx of weapons in the country as smugglers continue with their business without being punished.

3. **Inadequate Manpower and Logistic Support;** Another problem related to border security in Nigeria is the inadequate manpower or

personnel which has a negative impact on the security of our national borders. It makes it difficult for the security operatives to adequately maim the national boundaries and effectively patrol these several corridors that lead to the country. The inadequate manpower does not allow for adequate patrolling of these illegal routes as criminals use the illegal routes as a means of entry into the country. Also the criminals sometimes outsmarted the security operatives at the borders due to inadequate personnel and logistics problems.

4. Poorly patterned Borders; Nigeria borders are artificial creation from colonialism which continues to pose a serious threat to the country. The demarcation of the borders were done by the colonial masters without considerations to the culture of the people as can be seen in the cultural ties of marriages, celebration of religious festivities, language and many more. It should be noted therefore, that boundary delimitation affects the cultural and ethnic homogeneity of the border communities to the extent that one cannot differentiate a Nigerian from Nigerien due to culture and linguistics in which communities with homogenous culture and language are found at different sides of the borderline hence makes it difficult to put in place immigration laws when members can just change their identity when they feel like.

5. Institutional Framework; ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of People, Goods and Services was established by the ECOWAS Member States in 1979. The main aim of this Protocol is to facilitate the free movement of people, goods and services within West Africa without Visa; this simply means that any ECOWAS citizens who possess valid travelling documents and International Health Certificate can traverse the entire region without a visa. Thereby, compelling all member states to abolish the use of visa in order to ease the movement of people in the region. However, in spite of the positive pronouncement of this protocol, it has its own negative effects. This protocol allows the movement of criminals to move across the border and also engage in cross border activities under the pretext of this protocol. It is important to note that; border has become a safe passage for people without identities as ECOWAS

Protocol on Free Movement has been abused to mean an entry without valid documents. The following factors pose a serious threat to the internal security of lives and property in the country, as the infractions at the border calls for enforcement of reforms of the border control system. While terrorists move from in and out of the country, smugglers of all kinds of contrabands continue with their business. For instance, the recent security challenges in Nigeria, there are speculations that these groups are also from neighbouring countries, this would not have been possible if there were adequate security at our national borders. The borders are seen as means of smuggling of illegal weapons and all contrabands goods, even armed robbers usually escape through the boundaries after committing crimes in the country. All these tend to endanger the socioeconomic development of the country as well as the political stability. Also, the integrity and the image of the country is now put to questioning as Nigerians face a lot of harassment and subject to all kinds of humiliation outside the country.

6. **Political Instability and Economic Crisis in Neighbouring Countries;** Nigeria is the most populous as well as the richest in West Africa, in terms of economic, population preponderant, military capability, Nigeria dwarfs all these countries. This explains the more reason why crisis in neighbouring countries such as political instability, famine and diseases split over to Nigeria as her proximate neighbours depend solely on Nigeria. This was also evident in Babangida's speech the former President of Nigeria, when he said that none can benefit in the economic collapse of any country in the sub-region. This simply means that Nigeria national security is the security of its immediate neighbours as this is demonstrated in both scope and intensity of cross border smuggling activities which obtain in their daily interaction. However, when Ghana was suffering from economic downturn in which many citizens of Ghana flew to Nigeria to make ends meet. Nigeria was badly affected that she had to send them back to their country due to these illegal aliens that invaded the country. The factors enumerated above tend to pose a serious challenge to the country by spreading to the internal insecurity of

lives and property as can be seen in Benue state and other states in Nigeria at the moment.

7. **Security Sector Black-racketeering:** A large portion of illicit firearms consist of leakages from members of the armed forces and the police both serving and retired. This includes the remnants from the Nigerian civil war and leakages from returnees of peace keeping operations.

8. **Local Manufacturing:** Nigeria also has a significant local supply of legitimate and illicit SALW through local manufactures.98 Section 22 of the Firearms Act prohibits the manufacture of firearms. However, the government established Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) set up in 1964 via the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act, is legally empowered to produce arms and ammunitions in the country mainly for use by the military and the police. Given the legal status of its mandate, this does not constitute a significant source of illicit small arms. However, this is not the case with the cluster of unlicensed local craftsmen located in different parts of the country, who produce on the aggregate, a substantial quantity of illicit guns99 in contravention of section 22 of the Firearms Act. The clandestine nature of their activities negates due diligence, transparency and regulation as required by international standards. It also makes their products difficult to trace and makes the SALWs position of Nigeria opaque.

Implication of Proliferation of Small Arms on Nigeria's National Security

The continued proliferation of small arms in Nigeria have most definitely resulted in several consequences, some of which have been devastating and highly detrimental to the growth and development of the country and in fact threatened the existence of several states in Nigeria. Small arms, of themselves, are not capable of causing conflicts, although Jekada (2005) argues that they are not merely symptoms of violence, but they also contribute to the intensity, duration and destructiveness of internal conflicts. However, the debate, acknowledged by Jekada (2005), borders on whether the

proliferation, accumulation and easy availability of weapons should be viewed as a sufficient factor in triggering violent behaviour. Although small arms in most cases are as important as other root causes (permissive factors) in instigating internal conflicts, it is more accurate to include small arms as part of the approximate causes of internal conflicts. The difference between the two types of factors, Jekada (2005) explains, is that while the existence of permissive conditions makes violence more likely, it is the approximate causes that transform potentially violent situations into full-scale confrontations‖. Again, small arms, in addition to playing a role in the initiation of internal conflicts, have arguably had more detrimental effects on ongoing conflicts and on post conflict peace-building and reconstruction.

The availability of small arms may prolong fighting, increase human and material loses, reduce willingness of conflicting parties to find negotiated solutions to their disagreements, prevent international and non-governmental organizations from engaging in conflict prevention as well as management and resolution efforts, cause serious problems for the countries surrounding the conflict area, and even trigger interstate violence within regions, and much more, but it must also be mentioned that there are factors that overtime have led to the consequences which small arms have unfortunately sustained (Jekada, 2005 and Pirseyedi, 2000).

Small arms are arguably, obviously, the cause of several protracted and prolonged conflict situations across the continent, but could they also be an effect of a continent founded on conflict and violence? The sources of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) proliferation in Africa are varied and dynamic. Edeko (2011) observes that they range from the manufacturer and supply of new weapons both inside and outside the continent, to the remnants of weapons shipped into Africa in the 1970s and 1980s by the former Soviet Union, the United States, and their allies to facilitate different interstate and intra-state proxy wars.

The violent protests and struggles against colonial rule as well as the acts of pacification and suppression of these protests with the use of weapons; the years following the independence of the African continent and the continued efforts of Europe to remain relevant in the politics and economy of Africa has greatly propelled the transfer of illegal arms across time and space in Africa. Through efforts of military aid and interventions, peacekeeping operations, as well as other similar conditionality's, non-estimated small arms and light weapons, have 10 gained access into several states on the continent and have continued to proliferate among individuals, especially rebel groups, terrorists and other non-State actors, and have continued to inflict untold harm on other civilian population, especially women and children, as well as the state in particular and the continent in general.

The availability and misuse of small arms in our world has dramatic consequences. A single weapon, misused, can change the fate of an individual, a family, or even an entire community. A flood of small arms can shift the entire balance of power in a community, leading to a lack of personal security that destroys the rule of law. Small arms are used to facilitate an entire range of human rights abuses, including rape, enforced disappearance, torture, forced displacement and forced recruitment of child soldiers... An increase in expenditures due to deteriorating security conditions also results in decreased support for economic, social and cultural rights. No corner of the world has been left untouched by armed violence.

In yet another report, she further observed as follows: The most visible impact of small arms on human rights is the human carnage, including half a million people killed each year in war, homicides, accidents and suicides. Millions more are disabled or die from untreated injuries inflicted by small arms. The lives of those affected by small arms-related violence are often changed forever due to long-term disability and ongoing psychological trauma. In addition to the immediate impacts on life and health, small arms-Human

Security' related misuse affects the entire spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Small arms have become the tools of choice in facilitating the barbarous acts which, a half-century after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights pledged to eliminate them, continue to outrage the conscience of humankind. On the bases of this grim picture, the international community has concluded that SALWs have killed more people than other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and that SALW are the most destabilising conventional weapons.

Nearer home, the devastating and pernicious effects of SALWs proliferation have also been felt. In justifying its existence, the Preamble to the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by ECOWAS Member States in 1998, noted "that the proliferation of light weapons constitutes a destabilising factor for ECOWAS Member States and a threat to the peace and security of our people". These declarations evince solemn concerns regarding the devastating effects of the proliferation and misuse of SALWs, and the need for effective regulation at all levels.

The long years of colonial rule and the authoritarian nature of rule promoted by these colonial administrations in Africa and Nigeria in particular have left a political legacy of authoritarian rule on the continent; the psyche of Africans have been negatively confined to a trend of independent authoritarian regimes and leadership styles across the continent, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, until recently, are all cases in point. The corruption, unaccountability, non-representativeness and the other ills that characterized colonial rule have remained for several decades after independence. The several years of defective military regimes across Africa have also adversely affected the nature of leadership on the continent. These leadership trends have led to wide oppositions and resistances from the African people, resulting from gross exclusion of groups from development processes, declining standards of living and poorer wage levels,

increasing unemployment rates, increasing poverty, among others; insurgent groups have resorted to arms in order to be heard, and have been infiltrated by other criminal and terrorist groups, unleashing mayhem and insecurity on both the government and citizens of several state in Nigeria. The small arms problem is not connected only with the wider problem of violent political disputes within States, small arms are also the main tools of violence for criminals operating either on a national or transnational basis (Pirseyedi, 2000).

The United Nations Security Council in 2003 also captured the position above in the assertion that "the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the phenomenon of mercenaries pose complex challenges to West Africa, involving security, humanitarian and development dimensions. The upsurge in intra-state conflicts and violence has created a staggering demand for small arms, and has contributed to the continued proliferation of bandits, rebel groups, mercenaries, uncontrolled militia groups in the entire country (and in fact the continent at large). Hence, it is safe to conclude that proliferation of small arms and light weapons is both a cause and the effect of insecurity and declining state capacity in Africa.

In summary, the discourse has intermittently mentioned the impact of SALWs in Nigeria in terms of loss of lives. However, the impact of SALWs in Nigeria is not limited to homicides and injuries, though the direct deaths and injuries caused by firearms are probably the most visible impacts. Proliferation and misuse of SALWs has pernicious effects on the on the rule of law in the broadest sense and human rights, and manifest in more ways than one. Though firearms are not the root cause of crime, it is generally agreed that the deployment of illicit small arms in conflicts and crimes aggravates their gruesomeness and impact not only on the victims but also on the wider society. Again, the possession of firearms could provoke the intention or temptation to commit a crime such as robbery or rape, thus further increasing the scale of premeditated violence involving use of firearms. It also provides the courage and means to actualise

criminal intents. In these contexts, proliferation of SALWs can be said to contribute to the rate of crimes and violence in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION
The proliferation and misuse of SALWs has been linked with the prevalence of intra-state armed conflicts and violence and is regarded as the proximate cause of conflicts. However, while not themselves causing the conflicts in which they are used, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons affects the intensity and duration of violence and encourages militancy rather than a peaceful resolution of unsettled differences. This creates a vicious circle in which insecurity leads to a higher demand for weapons by the State and individuals, which itself breeds still greater insecurity.

RECOMMENDATIONS
The following recommendations are made to help curtail the current proliferation of SALWs in Nigeria;

1. There is urgent need for the establishment of forest guards to enable them curtail these proliferation of SALWs through the forest and other illegal routes in the country.

2. There is every need to review the ECOWAS protocol of Free Movement as ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement has been abused to mean an entry without valid documents to put an end to this current influx of criminals, mercenaries and other foreigners who are bent on trafficking SALWs and drugs in the country which lead to the current insecurity.

3. Increase monitoring, surveillance and control of infiltration and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), should be maintained at the borders of Nigeria by our security agencies with countries that are transit zones for international arms markets. These include Benin Republic which is a gateway to the arms networks in cote d' Ivoire, Liberia, Senegal, Guinea and Mali as well as Niger which is a linkage point to the terror markets of Libya, Sudan and Chad. Nigeria's nodal connection to terror zones demands for strong surveillance and control of infiltration and the use of Small Arms and

Light Weapons (SALWs).However, large proportion of Nigeria's borders is not patrolled by security agents thus creating entry points for unwholesome merchants like arms dealers, drug peddlers and militias in search for paid-violence employment. Strong collaboration amongst security agencies, border communities and civil society organization thus become imperative for achieving a sealed national border.

4. The Strengthening of the Security Architecture: The inefficiency and ineffectiveness of security institutions in Nigeria generally is underscored in the scope, magnitude and persistent of violent identity conflicts throughout the country. Strengthening security forces capacity to proactively detect early warning signs and respond to inter-communal tension can help better certain outbreaks of violence. This will require the creation of the state police.

5. There should be constant monitoring, surveillance of our borders by the security agencies, government should be proactive in dealing with security issues and through modern methods of intelligence gathering and intelligence sharing, training, logistics, motivation and deploying advance technology in managing security challenges among others to bring about the desire peace in Nigeria.

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