

Porous Borders, Small Arms Proliferation, and Insecurity in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: Border security is critical and a necessity for the protection of lives and properties within a given territory. Nigeria land borders have become free entry and exit points for smugglers of all manner of contraband goods such as small arms who carry out their illicit activities with little or no reservations. Irrespective of where the border is located within the country and its geographic nature, porosity is a common feature shared by all borders in the country. The connection between porous borders, arms proliferation, and insecurity can be explained thus: porous borders paves ways for free flow of all forms of small arms in and out of Nigeria and most of this arms are found in the hands of non-state actors who use these weapons to ferment trouble and make the society hostile, ungovernable, and insecure. Nigeria's extreme porous borders are a major cause of national security threat and may remain so for some time. This is because these borders both land and marine apart from being vast, are inadequately policed. The study examines the relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation, and insecurity in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The study highlights the role of border security in finding lasting solutions to the security challenges confronting the country.

Keywords: Porous borders, small arms proliferation, border security, and insecurity

I. INTRODUCTION

Border security is critical and a necessity for the protection of lives and properties within a given territory. According to Spencer the border is the first line of defence against insecurity and the last line of a nation's territorial integrity. Nigeria land borders have become free entry and exit points for smugglers of all manner of contraband goods who carry out their illicit activities with little or no reservations. Irrespective of where the border is located within the country and its geographic nature, porosity a common feature shared by all borders in the country. While Nigeria's border problem is related to her colonial history, its porosity has been exacerbated by the failure of successive governments to properly administer these borders. Okumu observed that the high level of insecurity on African borders is largely due to the way they are administered and managed, and less to do with how colonialists drew them. Nigerian borders are characterised with limited presence of security and law enforcement officials. The few that are deployed are poorly trained, work with inadequate and obsolete equipment, and sometimes poorly remunerated. The immediate past Minister of Interior, Abba Moro disclosed that there are over 1,499 irregular (illegal) and 84 regular (legal) officially identified

entry routes into Nigeria, this explains the very porous state of these borders, which permits illicit transnational arms trafficking.

Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) noted that small arms and other lethal weapons are readily available in Nigeria markets because of the porosity of Nigeria's borders as well as the weak security system. The availability and accessibility of these weapons by non-state actors is responsible for the various forms of criminal activities witnessed across the country. Nigeria is estimated to host over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa (Edeko, 2011). Also, the porosity of the Nigerian borders has made it possible for unwarranted influx of migrants from neighbouring countries such as Republic of Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Republic of Benin (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012). These migrants who are mostly young people are some of the perpetrators of violent crime in the country (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). It is a common knowledge that easy access to small arms made possible by the porous borders, which seems underestimated has contributed greatly to deplorable security situation, escalation of conflicts, and perpetration of different forms of violence crimes such as armed banditry, cultism, kidnapping, illegal bunkering, drug trafficking, among others across the Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. This precarious security situation has resulted into the worrisome large-scale destruction of lives, properties, and economy of the already impoverished people of Oke-Ogun. The security challenges have become very difficult only because of unhindered influx of criminals and arms through the country's very porous borders.

In attempt to address the deplorable security situation in the country, both government and international organisations have invested massively in the security sector with little or no investment on how to effectively secure the country's border. Small arms proliferation and insecurity has been widely investigated by various scholars, however, it is still attracting the interest and concern of researchers (Hazen & Horner, 2007; Edeko, 2011; Adeola & Oluyemi, 2012; Ukwai, Adewoyin, John, & Ofem 2017; Okpa & Ekong 2017; Adewoyin, Ukwai, & Okpa, 2018; Ukwai, Okpa, & Dike, 2018;). It is catching the attention, interest and concerns of researchers because of the havoc perpetrated with these weapons, which has resulted to loss of lives and destruction of properties. In the light of the above the study examine the

relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation and insecurity in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The study highlights the role of border security in finding lasting solutions to the security challenges in the country. The study hypothesized that there is no significant relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation, and insecurity.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Routine activity theory

Routine activity theory, first formulated by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson (1979) and later developed by Felson the focus in studying crime as an event, highlighting its relation to space and time and emphasizing its ecological nature and the implications thereof. Routine activity theory explains the criminal event through three essential elements that converge in space and time in the course of daily activities:

- (i) Suitable target or victim: prior to the criminal incident is known as target but after the crime is committed the person, object, or place attacked become a victim. According to Cullen and Wilcox (2010), the target may be a person, object, or place. What exposes a person, object, or place to criminal attack is the degree of attractiveness or vulnerability.
- (ii) Potential offender: Felson and Clarke (1998) noted that when an accessible and suitable target - person, object and place is not kept safe from harm or injury by an individual with the ability, fitness, or quality necessary to do so, there is a likelihood that a crime will occur.
- (iii) The absence of effective guardians: Guardianship according to Hollis-Peel, Reynald, Bavel, Elffers, and Welsh, (2011) is defined as “the physical or symbolic presence of an individual (or group of individuals) that acts (either intentionally or unintentionally) to deter a potential criminal event”. A capable guardian, whose presence would discourage a criminal from committing a crime, can be a person or a thing such as a friend, police, lighting, locks, or an alarm system, among others (Argun, & Dağlar, 2016)

RAT moves the explanation of crime away from focusing solely on the offender, to also include the suitable targets, and the guardians of those targets. This theory proposes that crime occurs during every-day routines in normal life when a suitable target is in the presence of a motivated offender and is without a capable guardian (Cohen & Felson 1979)

Research setting and study population

The study area is Oke-Ogun in Oyo State, Nigeria. The area is made up of ten local government areas out of which three were purposively selected for the study (). The study area will be discussed under the following sub-title: Geographical location, people and culture. Administratively, Oke-Ogun

Area is one of the five geo-political zones in Oyo State, namely, Ibadan, Ibarapa, Ogbomoso, Oyo and Oke-Ogun. It covers an area of about 63 percent of the total landmass of the state. It is located within latitude 7⁰70' north and 9⁰ north and longitude 2⁰60' east to 4⁰20' east. Oke-ogun, which is geographically located in the North end of Oyo town, comprises of ten (10) local government areas i.e. Iseyin, Kajola, Iwajowa, Itesiwaju, Atisbo, Saki East, Saki West, Oorelope, Irepo and Olorunsogo. The serene and vast beautiful landmass is predominantly a rural settlement enclave (Aderigbe, 2014). The study population consists the total number of people residing in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. The total population of male is (421,030), while that of females is (385,023) giving the grand total of 806,053 (National Population Commission, 2010). The population comprises of self-employed, gainfully employed, civil servants, farmers, and industrialists. Others are police officers, custom officers, immigration and other para-military security outfit stationed at the border. The assumption is that, these categories of individuals are in the better position to provide dependable information on the nexus between porous borders, small arms proliferation, and insecurity in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria.

III. METHODS

The study opted for cross-sectional survey research design because the study has to do with the gathering empirical facts aimed at explaining prevailing occurrences and events (Ukwayi, Okpa, Adewoyin, Angioha, Udom, 2017). Furthermore, the design allows for the selection of samples and the generalization of findings. The study adopted both primary and secondary sources of data collection. Stratified sampling and purposive sampling techniques was adopted in the study. Stratiifed sampling technique was adopted in the stratification of local government areas into different strata. This method reduced sampling inaccuracy as it enabled the investigator to recognize and consider the heterogeneous features of the population while drawing the sample. The purposive sampling technique was adopted because it prevents unwanted elements in the study. The sample for this study consists of one thousand, one hundred and fifty-two (1152) respondents purposively drawn from three (3) local government areas in Oke-Ogun Area. A breakdown of this sample indicates that three hundred and eighty four (384) respondents were selected from the three LGAs. The data for this study was gathered using a well-structured questionnaire validated by two experts in the Field of Measurement and Evaluation, Faculty of Education, University of Calabar. Theses experts carefully study the tool vis-a-vis the research questions and the hypotheses. The reliability of the instrument which is the appraisal of the internal regularity of the research tool was established using the Cronbach Alpha method. The reliability coefficient obtained ranges from .64 to .89. Therefore, the reliability coefficient was considered high enough to justify the use of the scale in the study. The researcher distributed the questionnaire to 1,152 participants purposively selected from the study area. This exercise was

carried out with the help of six research assistants. linear regression was adopted as the statistical tool for analysing data generated from the field.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The data obtained were analysed using frequency count, simple percentages, means, standard deviation, correlation analysis and linear regression. Furthermore, to facilitate data analysis, the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20.0 was used. Detail results are presented below. Out of the 1152 copies of the questionnaire administered, 1141 copies were retrieved and found useable. Three hundred and seventy nine (379) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved from Saki West while 380 and 382 copies were retrieved from Oorelope and Atisbo Local Government Areas respectively.

In respect of sex of respondents, 662 respondents (58 per cent) were male and 479 respondents were female (42 per cent). Of the 379 respondents from Saki-West Local Government Area who responded to the questionnaire, 221 (58 per cent) were male while 158(41.7 per cent) were female. In Oorelope LGA, the result shows that 223 respondents were male (58.7 per cent) and 157 respondent (41.3 per cent) were female while in Atisbo LGA, it was 218 respondents (57.1 per cent) male and 164 females (42.9 per cent). On the distribution of their age,

30 respondents (2.6 per cent) were below 20 years while 89 participants (7.8 per cent), 128 participants (11.2 per cent), 188 participants (16.5 per cent), 262 participants (23 per cent) and 444 participants (38.9 per cent) were within age group 20-24 years, 25-29 years, 30-34 years, 30-34 years, 35-39 years respectively. The result also shows that in the three selected local governments, majority of the respondents were 40 years (38.5 per cent Saki-West, 39.2 per cent in Oorelope and 39 per cent in Atisbo LGA). In summary, a significant number of the participants were above 40 years of age.

On the nature of their occupation, out of the 1141 respondents, 450 respondents (39.4 per cent), were farmers, 457 respondents (40.1 per cent) were public servants while 194 respondents (17.0 per cent) and 40 respondents (3.5 per cent) were traders and Business men and women respectively. In terms of their marital status, 253 respondents representing (22.2 per cent) were single, 813(71.3 per cent) were married while the remaining 75 respondents (6.6 per cent) were either separated or widowed or divorced. In Saki-West, majority of the respondents were married (71.5 per cent). Similar result was obtained in Oorelepo and Atisbo Local Government Areas where (71.8 per cent) and (70.4 per cent) of participants were married respectively. This result clearly shows that majority of the respondents were married.

Table 1 Personal characteristics of respondents

Personal Characteristics of Respondents	Local Government			Total N(percent)
	Saki West N(percent)	Oorelope N(percent)	Atisbo N(percent)	
Gender				
Male	221 (58.3)	223 (58.7)	218 (57.1)	662 (58.0)
Female	158 (41.7)	157 (41.3)	164 (42.9)	479 (42.0)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)
Age (years)				
Below 20	10 (2.6)	10 (2.6)	10 (2.6)	30 (2.6)
20-24	29 (7.7)	30 (7.9)	30 (7.9)	89 (7.8)
25-29	42 (11.1)	43 (11.3)	43 (11.3)	128 (11.2)
30-34	63 (16.6)	61 (16.1)	64 (16.8)	188 (16.5)
35-39	89 (23.5)	87 (22.9)	86 (22.5)	262 (23.0)
Above 40	146 (38.5)	149 (39.2)	149 (39.0)	444 (38.9)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)
Occupation				
Farming	151 (39.8)	150 (39.5)	149 (39.0)	450 (39.4)
Public servant	150 (39.6)	155 (40.8)	152 (39.8)	457 (40.1)
Trading	66 (17.4)	61 (16.1)	67 (17.5)	194 (17.0)
Business	12 (3.2)	14 (3.7)	14 (3.7)	40 (3.5)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)
Marital status				
Single	85 (22.4)	84 (22.1)	84 (22.0)	253 (22.2)
Married	271 (71.5)	273 (71.8)	269 (70.4)	813 (71.3)
Separated/widowed/divorced	23 (6.1)	23 (6.1)	29 (7.6)	75 (6.6)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)

Source: Fieldwork, 2018

Test of hypotheses

In the null form, the hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation, and insecurity. Insecurity is the dependent variable while porous border and small arms proliferation is the independent variable. Linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at $p < .05$, the result shows that the predictor variable which is porous border, small arms proliferation significantly predict insecurity, $F(1, 1139) = 454.88$, $p < .05$. The correlation is moderately high ($r = 0.534$) and positive which means that the more small arms comes into the country through porous borders, the more likely the society will be insecure. The coefficient of determination of .285 means that

28.5 percent of the variance in insecurity was explained by porous border, small arms proliferation.

The beta weight show that porous border, small arms proliferation contributes significantly to the predictor of insecurity ($\beta = .534$, $t = 21.33$, $p < .05$), the adjusted r-square value of .285 which is a measure of effect size, indicate that 28.5 percent of the variance in insecurity was explained by porous border, small arms proliferation. The calculated r (.534) is greater than the critical r (.087) at .05 level of significance. The null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation and insecurity is rejected. Hence, it is concluded that there is significant relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation and insecurity in Oke-ogun area.

Table 2 Relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation and insecurity

VARIABLES	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.	
Porous border, small arms proliferation	10.53	2.60	.534	.000	
Insecurity	9.94	2.32			
Model summary	R	R square	Adjusted R-square	Std. Error of the estimate	
1	.534	.285	.285	1.96	
ANOVA					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	1750.75	1	1750.75	454.88	.000
Residual	4383.83	1139	3.85		
Total	6134.58	1140			
COEFFICIENT					
Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
Constant	4.919	.242	.	20.29	.000
Porous border, small arms proliferation	.477	.022	.534	21.33	.000

Significant at 0.05, $df = 1139$, critical $r = .087$, critical $F = 3.85$

Discussion of findings

The result of the statistical analysis reveals that porous border, small arms proliferation significantly promotes insecurity in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The negative impact of arms proliferations in Nigeria is partly responsible for insecurity problems bedeviling the country, accounting for increasing violence and mass killings. The connection between porous borders, arms proliferation, and insecurity can be explained thus: porous borders paves ways for free flow of all forms of small arms in and out of Nigeria and most of this arms are found in the hands of non-state actors who use these weapons to ferment trouble and make the society hostile and insecure. It is said to also contribute to

increasing number of violent conflicts, constant human and drug trafficking, which remain a challenge to authorities within and outside Nigeria. A security expert, Kabir Adamu, said proliferation of arms clearly has a huge impact on insecurity in the country, noting that the number of weapons in circulation is aiding crime. He noted that in South west, arms proliferation plays a role in gang activities, conflicts, and vandalism of critical infrastructure by armed groups. There is nothing you pick up in terms of the present security challenges in Nigeria that is not aided by arms proliferation, which find their way into the country through porous borders.

Nigeria's extreme porous borders are a major cause of national security threat and may remain so for some time.

This is because these borders both land and marine apart from being vast, are inadequately policed. According to the former Director General of the Nigeria Army Resource Centre, Major General Johnny Hamakin, the extremely porous nature of the Nigeria borders, small arms proliferation, illegal migration as well as bad governance and several other factors are partly responsible for the problem of insecurity in the country. He said the porous nature of the borders has precipitated several other crimes, pointing out that unless the borders are adequately policed, it will continue to undermine efforts geared towards addressing other national security threats. Security agencies at the borders and seaports have severally complained of the porosity of the nation's borders and water ways. The problem of porous borders is compounded by inadequate personnel, patrol vehicles, surveillance helicopters and equipment. Consequently, most of the borders are leaky and this makes effective control of intruders, smugglers and "merchants of death" a mirage.

V. CONCLUSION

The relationship between porous borders, small arms proliferation, and insecurity has generated a pugnacious debate among scholars. While some have argued that porous borders and small arms proliferation are the direct cause of insecurity, others have maintained that porous borders and small arms proliferation are partly responsible for insecurity in the country. Regardless of this disagreement, scholars have generally agreed that porous borders, small arms proliferation poses serious challenges to national security. The vastness of the nation's borders in the face of these challenges bring to the fore the need for a rethink on the management and security of the Nigeria's borders and seaports, without which effective fight against insurgency, arms trafficking and proliferation will remain a mirage. There must be innovative technology; sound policies, proficient process that will help protect our borders. It is worrisome that the exact number of illegal routes and means through which illegal aliens, arms and ammunition are traffic in to the country is largely unknown by the nation's security system. Data base on all entry and exist route into the country should be created taking into account all illegal entry and exist route. Recently at the House of Representatives, a bill for the establishment of a national commission against proliferation of small arms and light weapons passed second reading. When established, the commission would be charged with the responsibility of combating illicit trafficking of arms by strengthening laws and regulations, reinforcing operational capacity and improving the system of tracing arms flow. This is a welcome development that should be sustained when established.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The country needs a comprehensive mapping of its borders with a view to identifying the levels of migration risks posed by the various sections. This would help in deciding the types of policing

- measures to adopt at the different areas. Where possible, portions of the borders can be fenced.
- (ii) Nigeria needs to put more effort and energy into the policing of its borders to stop the dangerous cross border infiltrations that are blighting both national security and the economy.
- (iii) There is the need therefore to ensure that border patrol officials are well trained and well remunerated so that they will not fall to the allures of corruption in the discharge of their duties. It is also important to provide conducive work environment and working tools for them.
- (iv) More government presence at the border regions including a special border patrol corps (land, air, and sea) and the creation of additional border posts.
- (v) Government should adopt policies that will transform border areas from their deplorable conditions and put in place effective machinery that would speed up developmental process.
- (vi) The use of innovative technology such as radars and alarm systems are major ways modern nations utilize to monitor and secure their borders. Some radar can be used as primary detection sensor for long range remote surveillance platforms. The ability to detect slow moving targets, even in complex mountainous, thickly forested terrains and large open areas make some radars such as Blighter Radar ideal for remote surveillance and detection of vehicles and people trying to cross borders illegally. In remote areas, it is common for intruders to follow natural routes across the land, valleys, mountain paths or animal tracks. In these instances, Mobile Surveillance System provides a cost effective way of monitoring key areas with limited resources. Similarly, Blighter Radar, unlike traditional Air Surveillance Radar can effectively surveil both the land and low air zone simultaneously.

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