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Smuggling Activities and its Effects on Religious Institutions in Border Areas of Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract. It is instructive to note that the issue of smuggling calls for concern. This is due to the havoc that is perpetrated not only to the socio-economic climate of the nation, but also to the religious uneasiness that results from the activities of smugglers in Idiroko and its environs in Ogun State. The social impact of the activities of this group calls for speedy intervention by both the government and the religious organisations. Lives have been indiscriminately lost in the process of the operation of this group. Economic activities are paralysed and religious activities hindered. It is in this view that this paper examines a socio-religious assessment with the view to knowing the impact it has on religious institutions within the area of study. The study posits that the activities of smugglers are inimical not only to the economic growth of the nation but also to the spiritual dimension of the people by inhibiting the process of fellowship and religious activities which occur on worship days. As such, efforts should be made by both the government and religious leaders to mitigate their activities.

Keywords: Smuggling Activities, Religious Institutions, Christianity, Islam, Ogun State

1. Introduction

Smuggling is one of the issues that cut across every country in the world because every country must have a border or a boundary. Obviously, it has become a threat to the security of many countries and has from time past destroying the peace and security of most African countries. Smuggling and proliferation of small arms into the country cannot be overemphasized. The illegal crossing of contrabands items and goods that are also locally produced in the country are also a threat to the economy of the nation. Some of these illegal imported goods are hazardous to the health of the citizens because some of them have already expired or because they are of low quality and are not meant for consumption for people of the environment. Because smuggling is a criminal offence, the smugglers take the bush path and consequently destroy the habitat, and degrade the environment.

2. Conceptual Framework: Smuggling

According to Hornby, (2005:139) "smuggling is the crime of taking, sending or bringing of goods secretly and illegally into or out of a country". It also means to bring in or take out illicitly or by stealth. Smuggling is to import or export without paying lawful customs charges or duties. It has to do with the secret importation of prohibited goods or goods on which duty is due and bringing in goods from a foreign country. It has to do with the smuggling of guns and ammunitions into a country secretly and illegally (www.thefree-dictionary.com).

The Wikipedia sees smuggling as the illegal transportation of goods or people, such as out of a building, into a prison, or across an international border in violation of applicable

laws or other regulations (en.m.wikipedia.org). According to the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), smuggling is not only a forceful passage of imported goods through the borders, but also false declaration and concealment of goods… a willful underpayment of custom duties, trafficking prohibited or restricted goods and use of unapproved routes and parts. It also includes the forging of custom documents, touting in custom goods and documents (Echerim, 2013).

Smuggling is also seen as the illegal transport of goods especially across border lines. People engaged in smuggling to avoid taxation or obtain goods which are prohibited in a particular region. The following are major items that are often smuggled; alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and foods of different types, arms and even immigrants (uslegal.com). It is observed in the smuggling of immigrants that criminals involved do this also for financial purpose and the condition of the immigrants are inhumane and are usually overcrowded in trucks (sometimes boats) and fatal accidents occur quite frequently. This is one of the effects of smuggling immigrants.

It is clearly seen from several contributions to the meaning of smuggling that the act is illegal, it is a criminal act, and it is an offence to the laws guiding a particular region. The motivations to the criminal act of smuggling include the participation in illegal trade such as in drug trade, in illegal immigration or emigration, tax evasion providing contraband to a prison inmate or the theft of the items being smuggled. Non-financial motivations to smuggle include bringing banned items past a security checkpoint or the removal of classified documents from a government or corporate office.

Smuggling has a long and controversial history, it may be dated back to the first time whereby duties were imposed in any form, or any attempt made to prohibit a form of traffic (wikipedia.org). Much smuggling occurs when enterprising merchants attempt to supply demand for a good or service that is illegal or heavily taxed. As the smugglers face significant risk of civil and criminal penalties if caught with contraband, smugglers are able to impose a significant price premium on smuggled goods. It appears that the profits involved in smuggling goods are extensive since they dodge tax payment imposed by government on the goods. Take for example, a smuggler might purchase a large quantity of bags of rice in a place with low taxes and smuggle them into a place with far higher taxes, where they can be sold at a far higher margin than would otherwise be possible.

There is a difference between people smuggling and involuntary trafficking of people. People smuggling is a service to those who want to illegally migrate. It is a service rendered by the smugglers to those who voluntarily want to cross the border to the other side. It can also be used to rescue a person from oppressive circumstances, and in this case the smuggled person is free having reached his or her destination at the other side. Meanwhile, in human trafficking, victim is coerced in some way; victims do not agree to be trafficked; they are tricked, lured by false promises or sometimes force into it. The following are some of the major coercive tactics used by traffickers; deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, physical threats, debt bondage and even force-feeding drugs in order to control their victims. The major victims are women and children and few men.

It is observed that hundreds of thousands of migrants are moved illegally by highly organized international smuggling and trafficking groups every year, often in dangerous and inhumane conditions. The phenomenon is increasingly growing recently as people of low income countries are aspiring to enter developed countries in search of jobs. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking are two separate offences, while smuggling has to do with facilitating the illegal entry of a person into a place, trafficking includes an element of exploitation (wikipedia.org). In smuggling, concealment can involve concealing the smuggled goods, or go as far as hiding the whole transport thereby avoiding border checks, such as by small ships, private air planes, through lands, smuggling routes, smuggling tunnels, and even small submersibles. This also applies to illegally

passing a border oneself, for illegal immigration or emigration. Smuggling is an act common to most if not all borders found in every nation of the world in defiance of the law guiding the country, the only difference is that goods smuggled differs. Smuggling has greatly affected the society both economically, socially and religiously.

3. Causes of Smuggling

Much blame has been shifted on the smugglers for engaging themselves in such a criminal act as this. Nevertheless, there are combinations of factors that account for this unhealthy trend. Some of these factors are discussed in this part of this work.

(a) **The high cost of clearing goods**. Consequent upon the high import duties on goods some of the clearing and forwarding agents are pushed into smuggling. The profit margin realized by evading these duties is very high and this is one of the main reasons why people engage themselves in smuggling goods into the country.

(b) **The quality of local products** place the imported goods at an advantage over locally made ones. Funny enough, some of these smuggled materials are even lesser in price compared to the same inferior locally made goods. Particularly, when there is restriction or prohibition, the incentive to smuggle these goods is very high as also the smugglers are assured of a ready market. A visit to the market reveals contraband goods that flock the Nigeria markets brought into the country by Nigerians and their foreign business counterpart who are into importation of several items from neighbouring countries (Newswatch, 2013).

(c) Another cause of smuggling is the fact that even **Nigerians appreciate the smuggled goods** and so patronize them. Why do we cry out against smuggling when we the citizens are the ones encouraging them by patronizing their smuggled items? Some of these smuggled goods ranged from "heavy-duty materials to the low commodities such as textiles (finished and unfinished), frozen foods, vegetable oil, assorted wines, utensils, used tyres, toiletries, furniture and fittings, body spray, drugs and ammunitions to mention a few" (Newswatch, 2013).

(d) **The illegal optional routes** beside the government approved routes are another source of encouragement for the smugglers. Since they know they can easily smuggle goods into the country using illegal routes especially at odd hours, they continue with the criminal act and they even encourage others. There are only 84 regular and government approved routes leading to the national borders, but research made us to understand that there are other 1,497 illegal routes where the smugglers always patronize in order to escape customs checks and tax duties. These routes promote the increasing number of illegal trade such as smuggling of contrabands goods, adulterated drugs, stolen cars and cars that have exceeded the permissible age limit prescribed for use in Nigeria, poultry products and so on (Onuoha, 2013).

(e) **Encouragement from the security personnel** is another root cause of smuggling. Some corrupt practices are found among the security operatives at the borders. The smugglers are in the act of bribing the customs officers to have their way into the country. A report says "It is very tempting for customs in border patrol not to allow these trucks loaded with rice to come into the country… the money being offered the security patrol at the border in order for trucks with rice to come in is too tempting for anyone to refuse" (Daily Independent, 2014). Another report from Podo Sunday one of the News reporters for Daily Newswatch says that:

Interestingly, the smugglers' movement are by no means restricted or hampered; they travel during the day and in the evenings. They move in convoy to the Nigerian border lines and file out at night into Nigeria when 'bookings' have been concluded. The smugglers operate like serpents, very wise and wild; they pay for passage, protection and even information. Very organized and coordinated in connivance with customs officers. This customs-smugglers synergy is so much alive that when peradventure some customs patrol teams or monitoring squad run into the smugglers' convoy, they could only collect what they called OD (Officers-on-duty) because some 'ogas' somewhere have been settled and pronto, a call to that oga would only

give the 'allow' order to any of such patrol or monitoring teams and the journey continues (Newswatch, 2013).

These are some of the criminal acts that support and encourage the smugglers to continuing in such an act. Corruption has caused instability and creates roots for criminal organization and activities.

(f) **The provision made by the government for the customs service** and even by the customs department for anti-smuggling campaigns is not adequate. The borderlines are left wide open at some kilometers from the borders. The officers engaged in smuggling campaign are ill-equipped for effective performance of their duties. This denies the customs the ability to go for adequate patrolling of these illegal routes as the criminals make use of these illegal routes for their operations. They need scanning equipment and sophisticated communication equipment to meet with the present day trend of smuggling activities in the country that will make them fit into this present day globalization.

(g) **The Republics of Niger and Chad, Cameroon and Benin** are all areas where there had been aged-old traditions of trade, culture link and even blood ties between the people of other countries and Nigerians at the borders before the advent of the Europeans and the partition of Africa. In some places (Maduga in the West, for instance), the demarcation line vertically cuts villages into two with one part being Nigeria while the other is in Benin. These people at the border claim a natural and tradition of right of trading with their relatives on the other side of the border (Mowetei, 2004). This is one of the reasons why the controls of smuggling with our border lines are wide open, and has become almost impossible to curtail.

(h) Another factor responsible for smuggling is the **ethnic militia conflicts**. The internal ethnic fights within the country also encourage smuggling. The traditional security group such as the Oodua Peoples' Congress, The Bakassi Boys, The Arewa Boys e.t.c order for small arms outside the country for security and conflict purpose. The traditional use of weapons is a source of encouragement for small arms smuggling.

4. The Effects of Smuggling

Smuggling has posed diverse effects to the society and this is a source to the major setback in the society. Among the major effects of smuggling to the society are those discussed below:

4.1 The Economic Effects of Smuggling

One of the definitions of smuggling is that it is a willful under-payment of customs duties, trafficking in prohibited or restricted goods and use of unapproved routes and ports. (Nigerianewsday.com, 2013). One of the major reasons why people smuggle goods is because they don't want to pay the tax rate placed on those goods by the government. Escaping this payment or paying a lesser amount will help them to have more profit at the expense of the nation's economy. Smuggling has become destructive pipelines for an ailing economy.

It has been discovered that smuggling severely harms the economy of a country in multidimensional ways. It determines the local industry, discourages legal imports and also reduces the volume of revenue collected from duties and levies by the state. A major proportion of the revenue to be collected by the government is being lost, over and above the adverse impact that the smuggled items cause to the industries with the nation (Zafar, 2010). The smugglers generate money into their own pocket by avoiding state controls, regulations and related costs. Illegal trade accounts for a huge share of foreign trade in many developing economies added Pitt (1981). Observation from the World Bank shows that about N750 billion ($5 billion) worth of assorted goods are smuggled into Nigeria through Benin Republic on a yearly basis (Gatewaynigeria.tv, 2011).

It will be of good help to first know common goods that are prohibited from been smuggled into the country. The federal government placed some certain goods on prohibition lists; they are not to be imported into the country. Most of these goods are prohibited in order to protect the local industry. Majority of these goods are also manufactured by the local industries but people

choose to patronize the smuggled ones because they are cheaper. When local industries are not patronized, local industries may fold up and render workers jobless.

According to the Nigeria Customs Service, the following goods make the import prohibition list: Live or Dead Birds including Frozen Poultry; Pork, Beef and Birds Eggs; Refined Vegetable Oils and Fats, but excluding Linseed, Castor and Olive oils.

Crude vegetable oil is however, not banned from importation. Others are Cocoa Butter, Powder and Cakes; Spaghetti/Noodles; Fruit Juice in Retail Packs, Waters, including Mineral Waters and Aerated Waters containing added Sugar or Sweetening Matter or Flavoured, ice snow; other non-alcoholic beverages, but excluding energy or Health Drinks; Beer and Stout and Bagged Cement.
Some common medicaments are also prohibited from importation. They include drugs made in the country such as Paraceutamol Tablets and Syrups, Cotrimoxazole Tablets and Syrups, Metronidazole Tablets and Syrups, Chloroquine Tablets and Syrups; Haematinic Formulations; Ferrous Sulphate and Ferrous Gluconate Tablets, Folic Acid Tablets, Vitamine B Complex Tablet (except modified released formulations). Others are Multivitamin Tablets, capsules and Syrups, Aspirin Tablets, Magnesium trisilicate tablets and suspensions are also on the list. Others under medicaments are Piperazine tablets and Syrups, Levamisole Tablets and Syrups, Clotrimazole Cream, Ointments - Penicillin/Gentamycin; Pyrantel Pamoate Tablets and Syrups, Intravenous Fluids and Waste Pharmaceuticals. These drugs are available in the country and are not to be imported.

Also highly prohibited are Soaps and Detergents in retail packs; Mosquito Repellant Coils; Sanitary Wares of Plastics and Domestic Articles and Wares of Plastics, but excluding Baby Feeding bottles; flushing cistern and waterless toilets. The Customs also prohibit importation of "Rethreaded and used Pneumatic tyres but excluding used trucks tyres for rethreading of sizes 11.00 x 20 and above."Corrugated Paper and Paper Boards and cartons, boxes and cases made from corrugated paper and paper boards; Toilet paper, Cleaning or facial tissue, but excluding baby diapers and incontinent pads for adult use; Exercise Books." Others are Telephone Re-charge Cards and Vouchers, Textile Fabrics of all types remain under import prohibition; African print, Nigeria wax and English Wax and Carpets and Rugs, but excluding the Lace Fabrics, Georges and other embroidered Fabrics.

The list includes Made-up Garments and other Textiles; All types of Foot Wears and Bags including Suitcases of leather and plastics, but excluding Safety Shoes used in oil industries, Hospitals, Fire fighting and Factories, Sports Shoes, canvass shoes all Completely Knocked Down blanks and parts. Also not to be imported are Used Motor Vehicles above 15 years from the year of manufacture, Furniture, but excluding Baby walkers, laboratory cabinets such as microscope table, fume cupboards, laboratory benches, Stadium Chairs, height adjustments device, base sledge, seat frames and control mechanism, arm guide and head guides. Also excluded are skeletal parts of furniture such as blanks, unholstered or unfinished part of metal, plastics, veneer, chair shell, etc. Also excluded are Motor Vehicle seats and Seats other than garden seats or camping equipment, convertible into beds. Ball Point Pens are however, not to be imported into Nigeria.

There are only eight categories of goods currently under the export prohibition list. They are Timber, Raw hides and skin, including Wet Blue and all unfinished leather; Scrap Metals, Unprocessed rubber latex and rubber lumps; Artefacts and Antiquities, Wildlife animals classified as endangered species and their products, such as Crocodile, Elephant, Lizard, Eagle, Monkey, Zebra and Lion, among other; and of course all goods imported (Nigerianewsday.com, 2013).

Amazingly, a visit to the market and some major streets in different parts of the country still reveals that one can still find the contraband goods mentioned above in the market. Over aged vehicles, frozen food products, used

electronics to mention a few are still freely sold in the market. This does not give the impression that the government agencies saddled with the responsibility of policing the borders or checking importation of contrabands into the country are doing their job well. The fact that these goods are found in the domestic market often involves bribery of public agents and other forms of corruption. They are part of the criminal spectrum of the underground economy that negatively impacts our society.

This is an odd act from the security agencies that has immensely contributed to the proliferation of contraband goods in the local market causing a great havoc to the local industries and to the economic growth of the nation. They are only interested in enriching their own pocket. In as much as these smuggled items are still in the market the economic status of the nation will continue to depreciate because these goods evades the national duties since they find their way to the market illegally.

The smuggling of petroleum products out of Nigeria has remained great economic drain to Nigeria. Refined products which are heavily subsidized by the Nigeria State meant for local consumptions are smuggled out to neighboring states through the porous borders. This account for shortages in the domestic market and consequently led to increase in the price of petrol, kerosene and diesel. The Government of Nigeria has long admitted the failure of control measures at the border or sea routes. The "MT African Pride" saga best reveal the level of economic drain and institutional failure (Eselebor, 2005).The World Bank therefore opines that smuggling into Nigeria will further hamper the operational efficiency of the customs service and cause more revenue losses if urgent steps are not taken by government to tackle it (Gatewaynigeria.tv, 2011).

In 2012, customs sources said Nigeria lost N32 billion to rice smuggling only. But Rice Miller, Importers and Distributors Association of Nigeria (RMIDAN) say the country loses about N36 billion in tax revenue to rice smuggling. The amount is the $11 million tax revenue per month due to smuggled rice imports, which the RMIDAN says it is capable of adding to the government coffers if rice smuggling and importation can be put to stop. Nigeria's yearly consumption of rice is about 5.5 million metric tons. While 1.8 million metric tons is locally produced in the country, the country relies on importation to make up the balance of 3.7 million metric tons. A report says 50 percent of this imported rice was being smuggled into the country through porous borders. The quantum of rice being smuggled through our land borders from the Republic of Benin is increasing on a daily basis. An estimated 30,000 metric tons of rice is being smuggled on a monthly basis into the country, which is equal to the loss of N3 billion worth of revenue monthly. A survey of our local markets especially in the South Western area of the country will testify to this fact as most of the rice products on display are smuggled into the country through our land borders. It was also discovered that the country loss another N1.8 billion to illegal imports of poultry product within three years (2009 and 2011). The informed sources said the imports of chicken and turkey which were smuggled into the country within those years weighed about 3.05 million metric tons. (Nigeria Newsday, 2014).

4.2 Social Effects of Smuggling

Smuggling didn't just greatly affect the economic growth, but to a greater extent it also affects the social condition of the nation. The odd relationship of people with one another especially with those from other ethnic society is been aggravated by smuggling. The smuggling of arms and ammunitions is one of the sources of conflicts and different types of violence which constitute a great danger to both the rural and urban population of the country. Mowetei (2004:28) added that:

Any laxity on the importation of arms apart from being a challenge to the country's prohibition laws would enable many unauthorized persons to own dangerous arms resulting in the abuse of use. The accessibility of dangerous weapons to reckless and irresponsible young men or even mad men is as much a risk to the public as those that find their way to the robbers.

In addition to the above fact, Ola - Aluko (2012) opines that:

Many countries of West African sub-region has been through series of violent conflicts, some of which lasted for over a decade, while a good number of these countries are facing the problem of insurgencies as a result of the growing tendency of armed ethnic militia, others are faced with the problem of kidnapping, armed robbery and assassination. These are occurrences that are promoted by the availability and acquisition of small arms. The level of sophistication of the weapons used during these crises is a reflection of unchecked smuggling of arms and rising weak security structures at the borders. Smuggling of arms across the borders is a catalyst to the development of ethnic militia and armed conflicts in the sub-region, it promotes availability of arms, it flourishes and increases community violence and promotes criminal activities such as armed robbery and assassination.

The above contribution is obvious to the present situation of Nigeria as fear grips the mind of the citizens of the nation instilled by the criminals and their act of criminality. The proliferation of arms and ammunitions has affected and still continues to gravely affect all segments of the Nigerian society by some ethnic nationalities; examples are the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), The Bakassi Boys, e.t.c. The organizations stand to challenge with the use of force, any government that tries to introduce any policy perceived to be fundamentally detrimental to the socio-economic and political well-being of their ethnic group.

Small arms in conflict is not only limited to death but has often created refugee problems. In each violent conflict situation, there are survivors who became homeless, have no property, no parents or husbands, no food and have to forcefully, even though temporary relocate. A category of people in each violent conflict becomes internally displaced.

Another area that can be cited in the nation's social fabric that has become negatively affected by surplus arms in the country is the militarization of the social environment of Nigeria's tertiary institutions. This has manifested in the proliferation of armed secret cult groups in the entire nation's institution of higher learning, with arms they engage themselves in violent clashes (Undie, 2004).

The insurgence of Boko Haram group in Nigeria since 2009 is also as a result of smuggling through the porous borders. As aforementioned, some of these terrorists are from the surrounding nations, both the people and the ammunitions they are using are being smuggled into the country. The Boko Haram group has eclipsed Nigeria's longstanding security threats such as piracy, militancy, kidnappings, and armed robbery. The group has ramped up various violent attacks on diverse government and civilian targets, including a suicide bombing attack on the United Nation building in Abuja on August 26th, 2011. Over 3,500 people have been killed in violence blamed on the group, while tens of thousands more internally displaced by the insurgency and associated military crackdown (Onuoha, 2013). In addition was the kidnapping of 276 female students from the Government Secondary School in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria, on the night of 14/15 April 2014. All these are social vices caused by smuggling.

Smuggling of drugs that are harmful and dangerous to the health either because they are expired or are fake reduce the life span of the citizens. Some of these drugs are not certified by NAFDAC and can be harmful to the health. Other social vices include the wild nature of the smugglers which is not friendly to the environment and people living around the borders. The smugglers through bad driving and attack on the customs security agencies either on patrol or at the check points kill the indigenes and sometimes the custom officers.

Smuggling also leads to acts that are capable of destroying the health of the citizen through importation of expired, fake, and other drugs that are prohibited by the government. The list of harm the menace can cause can be a long one with far reaching negative implications both on the individual and on the state. Smuggling paralyses the local industries and can be a drain on the foreign earnings of the nation. It

encourages acts of criminality that can lead to armed robbery and other heinous crimes, even as it remains an unpatriotic act that can lead one to jail (Nigeria Newsday, 2014).

5. Smuggling and its Implications for Socio-Religious Development

It is factual that smuggling affects the social and economic growth of the environment but it doesn't stop there as it also affects religious activities and creates fear in people. There was a case of sporadic shootings from the struggle between smugglers and the security personnel (Custom Officers) which eventually led to the disruption of church service and other activities in the town. There was an uproar in the town of Idiroko and a great confusion so much that people at home found it difficult to come to church and those in church were panic. Because of the fact that the smugglers are living around and some in one religious sect or the other, the clerics sometimes find it difficult to preach against this menace purposely because they are the financial backbone of the institution. The profits the smugglers make in smuggling is a source of encouragement for the youths to want to join and anyone who stands on their way is their enemy.

As aforementioned, smuggling encourages the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Consequently, the youths could at any time cause either religious or ethnic violence and this could hinder the spread of the gospel and create fear in the Christians to expand and build churches in such places especially in the north where youths are easily aroused for religious crises.

Smuggling encourages insurgency and this has severely injured the nation as it spelt and unleashed untold hardship on the people. Religious activities in the north is bleeding, it has brought division among the religious leaders, fueling hostilities among the adherents of Islamic and Christian religions. People from among the other part of the nation have to think twice before travelling to the north much more settling there. The insurgency of *Boko Haram* in Nigeria is a big blow to the nation. The group is so terrifying that people find it difficult to attend programmes even on Sundays because of attacks. The South-westerners are now finding their way to the west, as a result the numerical strength of churches in the north is reducing on a daily basis.

In November 2011, they staged deadly attacks in Maidiguri as well as Yobe's Damaturu and Potiskum targeting churches, mosques, banks and Police stations. But the bombings of churches on 25th of December 2011 at Madallah Niger State that killed dozens of people raised fears about the possibility of another spate of religious violence between Muslims and Christians basically because most attacks are on Christians in the north (Vanguard, 2011).

Religious crisis is another implication resulting from the smuggling of different ammunitions into the country. The availability of small arms and light weapons has aggravated religious conflict in the nation. Several forms of religious crisis have been reported in the country. Religious attacks against the Christians by the Islamic sects are made easier through these arms that are made available by the smugglers. The Christians are also thinking of getting some ammunition not to revenge but for protection. Smuggling fosters disunity instead of unity, death instead of life, replaced war for peace and there is no freedom of worship. States like Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Adamawa, Borno and Plateau especially have been experiencing one religious crisis or the other.

The incessant blood shedding in the nation in the name of religion has been made easy through the availability of arms and ammunitions. In the last four decades, hardly can a year go without religious unrest in Nigeria. Smuggling of small arms and light weapons is one of the factors responsible for the religious crisis in Nigeria. During this crisis, different ammunitions are found in the hands of the youths which have helped to aggravate religious violence in the nation. In Nigeria, experience shows that the incidence of religious violence has become a yearly ritual often leading to the destruction of lives and properties, the loss of precious time, money and energy. This way of handling

religion leads to self-destruction, backwardness and abandoning the word of God (Iwara, 2006).

It was reported in the News Rescue paper published on Sunday, March 11th 2012 that some five (5) men were arrested in Ghana smuggling arms to Nigeria on January 11th 2012. This among many is the cause of the chain of events that resulted into deterioration and breakdown of peace, security, law and order in the country. The supply of weapons, arms and ammunitions, bombs and other instruments of terror and violence are responsible for this crisis. The fact that the criminals that are responsible for these religious vices have weapons to fall back to, they are eager to embark on physical combat made possible by smuggling.

6. Conclusion

For operatives of the Nigerian Customs, Immigration and Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency on one hand, and the army of unrepentant smugglers on the other hand, it is nightmares made possible by the thousands of illegal crossings on Nigeria's borders. Problems caused by porous borders in the country over the years almost grounded the economy of Nigeria to a halt. Smuggling is seen as a worldwide problem and those who engaged in it are referred to as economic saboteurs. It is a destroyer of economy and robs the nation of her revenue as it affects provision of social services to the entire citizens of the country.

Smuggling severely harms the economy of the country in multi-dimensional ways. It determines the local industry, discourages legal import and also reduces the volume of revenue collected from duties and levies by the state. Consequently, it affects the social development of the areas as money generated from the land borders is not encouraging for social development. People also patronize imported goods than the same local products because of its quality, lesser price and durability. Therefore, The Nigeria Custom Service (NCS) should also improve upon their delivery to upgrade the national and international security of the nation to a global standard. There should be a collaboration between nations sharing the same border link, harmonization is needed for a joint patrol on the same goal, collaboration in common areas against fight and illegal importations of goods most especially the prohibited ones.

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