NATIONAL SECURITY AND BORDER MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA: A STUDY OF NIGERIA-NIGER RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT
National Security and Border Management in West Africa is an important discourse in security studies in a time when high insecurity and other crimes such as terrorism, kidnapping, arms and weapons smuggling are pervasive. This paper seeks to outline the benefit of a good national security and adequate management strategy to the internal security of states. National security challenges in West African countries partly stem from ineffective border management strategies. Borders between states are porous, unsafe and this allows the illegal movement of people mostly allowing increased insecurity such as terrorism, smuggling, kidnapping, human trafficking and proliferation of arms and small weapons. This paper would rely majorly on secondary sources analyzing already existing documents and works on the subject matter. National security cannot be guaranteed without a proper border management strategy put in place by both Nigeria and Niger as most issues arise from poor border management. This paper intends to contribute to knowledge by arguing that Nigeria-Niger relations particularly border management is critical to the protection of the territorial integrity of the states from the activities of violent non-state actor. The efforts of the states can be impeded based on the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Goods and Persons which will not allow restriction of people in and out of ECOWAS region. This paper also interrogates the recent withdrawal of Niger from ECOWAS and MNJTF and its implications to Nigeria-Niger security arrangement particularly with the presence of various security threats common to both states. Nigeria requires Niger continuous security/military cooperation to ensure its national security is not breached around the border region.

Introduction

National security and Border Management in the West African region have become an issue of concern to most states in the region. National security as well as territorial integrity cannot be guaranteed without adequate border management strategies/programs put in place so that cross-border cooperation and relations would not be hindered. As much as cross-border cooperation is a necessity for the growth of the region, states have to protect their national security by ensuring proper documentation, screening and monitoring the movement of people and goods across their border against Terrorist attacks, illegal movement of weapons and arms, human trafficking, smuggling to mention a few (Ayodele,2019). We have a plethora of literature on this subject matter and we shall examine their dimensions and gaps in this work.

In the case of Nigeria-Niger relations the border security of both states is important and this requires cooperation from both states. This work did not provide the dynamics of cooperation between Nigeria and Niger particularly in the fight against insurgency and other threats which is made possible by poor border control. Also, the valid of free entry and exist made possible by the ECOWAS Protocol which restrict the states to deny entry and exist to suspected criminal and impeding their campaign against insurgency and other threats (Shehu&Dahla,2023).

Borders play and Important role in bilateral relations among states and the protection of the state's territorial integrity from external aggression is dependent on border security/control. In Nigeria-Niger relations border control and management is a major issue for both states as they are in close proximity to each other. This work pays attention to the issues and challenges in Nigeria-Niger border security without highlighting the security threats and their implications on national security, it also did not spotlight strategies to ensure border control and management. This paper will identify security threats and proffer strategies to ensure a proper border control and management protocol is put in place in Nigeria-Niger relations to attain national security particularly on the part of Nigeria (Arizika,2023).

The investigation of trans-national threats in Nigeria-Niger relations supported by porous borders and lack of adequate policy framework to mitigate against these threats which have become a major threat to national security. Cross-border crimes thrive due to easy exit and entry between Nigeria and Niger as a result of unmanned spaces in the border. Today Nigeria and Niger are facing a number of cross-border threats such as insurgency, Proliferation of weapons, drugs and human trafficking and Kidnapping and Banditry. This work failed to highlight the importance of a bilateral framework on border control and management to ensure that their border is safe and secure. Also, a joint security agreement outside the regional was not explored and considered and this work will interrogate this option (Gana et al,2023).

Proper border governance will guaranty national security, as transnational threats will be mitigated against based on the protocols and strategies already put in place. Border management and control plays an essential role in ensuring national security, land border helps the state to control the movement of people and things in and out and improper management would be detrimental as it allows the free entry and exist of criminals and contraband goods.

Illegal migration causes by trans-national threats such as insurgency, banditry and kidnapping area major threat To Nigeria and her neighbors particularly Niger Republic. The interrogation of cross-border threats to national security and the resultant effect which is migration is identifies although the factors supporting the trans-national threats was not examined, also attention was not paid to daunting impact of the threats to National security particularly in the era of insurgency and other major threats. (Ogbonna et al, 2023)

The factors militating against most newly created modern African states in the areas of managing their borders and safeguarding it from intrusion and invasion of any kind from aliens, strangers and unqualified neighbours suffice. The problem is pronounced towards defining and restraining people who should exercise citizenship within the context of the modern African states, not in terms of their location, but itterms of their nationality, relationship and activities across the borders. Many citizens across the divide have relations and traditional ties to people existing as citizens of different nation-states, whom they cannot divorce totally or set apart in sustaining their traditional sentiments and cultural understanding despite the rules of inter-state relations and boundary crossing.

Territorial border is one of the characteristics of a state, it is the sovereignty over a territory which is only achievable through a defined border. Nigeria has international boundaries spanning4,047km of land and 853 km (453 nautical miles) of maritime were created after the partitioning of African continent by European powers in 1885.

International borders which define the legal limits of a country could be partially or fully controlled and may be cross legally only at designated borders checkpoints. Ultimately security of borders and its management constitute a major factor in dealing with national security challenges such as arms smuggling and acts of terrorisms (Freedom,2015).

National security comprises various areas of strategic importance to a state for its survival such as energy, maritime, defense, economy and so on. Border management is important to national security as it helps safeguard people and national assets from external.

Nigeria's border management in relations with her West African neighbours has been poor particularly with the Republic of Niger. The security situations along the Nigerien borders ranging from terrorism, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, smuggling, human trafficking and banditry have become worrisome particularly in the North-Eastern part of the state which shares a large unmanned border with Republic of Niger and other West African States.

This paper seeks to explore the relationship between National Security and border management in the West African region particularly in the context of Nigeria-Niger relations given that Niger is one of Nigeria's closest neighbours towards the North-Eastern part of Nigeria. Trans-national threats or cross-border crimes are present in both states and have become a threat to the national security of both states particularly Nigeria. The paper would identity frameworks and strategies to be put in place to ensure proper border control and management, this will help in secure the state against non-state actors with collaborative efforts from Nigeria and Niger and it will give room for peaceful and cordial bilateral relations.

Theoretical Framework

Transnationalist Theory also known as *Transnationalism* holds that realism fails to offer an adequate explanation for the order that is found within our presumably anarchic system. Popular proponents of transnationalism include Woodrow Wilson, Joseph Nye, Hedley Bull, and Hugo Grotius.Transnationalists argue that state as much if not more than they compete and this cooperation they assert is more consistent than the realists' convergence of national interest among limited numbers of states. Rather states cooperate because it is in their common interest to do so; prosperity and stability in the international system are the direct results of that cooperation.

Transnationalism can be categorised into two models- institutional transnationalism and economic transnationalism(Ayodele,2019). Nigeria-Niger relations can be supported with the theory as it is reflective in all areas of bilateral relations, the political and diplomatic relations between Nigeria is premised on shard cultural values of the people around the North-Western part of Niger and the southern part of Niger. This gives room economic interaction which is beneficial to both states particularly to Niger who is a land-locked country with no access to the open sea. This theory helps to explain Border management and National security in the context of the presence of trans-national or cross-border threats which stand as a major issue to the security of both states. The effect of the threats in one state will be felt in the other state due to close proximity to each other and therefore cooperation and collaboration is required to tackle the treats together.

Transnational security threats often involve non-state actors like criminal organizations and insurgent groups. This theory can be used to examine how these non-state actors exploit weak governance structures and porous borders to carry out their activities. The Theory of Transnationalism considers the impact of globalization on security dynamics. In the context of border management, it helps in analysing how global economic, technological, and communication networks facilitate cross-border crime and challenge traditional border security measure (Gana et al,2023).

In Nigeria-Niger relations border management is a major issue and threat to securing the territory of the states against the activities of criminal and violent state-actors and both states have been grappling with the impact of these trans-national threats which is enabled by poor border management and has significant impact on the National Security of Nigeria in particular.

Conceptual Clarifications

The collocation "national security'' is of rather recent origin. Its elements can be already found in the works of Madison, and more relatively recent in Walter Lippmann's work "US Foreign Policy published in 1943. It was not until World War II that the term "national security'' acquired its place in the "strategic'' dictionary amidst the traditional terms, such as military affairs, external and military policy among others. The term national security is even at the present level of social development

linked almost exclusively with a sovereign nation state in the sense of protection of its physical integrity (Grizold,1994).

National security to any state cannot be underestimated and states take every step to protect the interest of their states and safeguard the values of all communities within the state. The major duty of a sovereign state is the protection of its society from any form of violence and invasion of other independent societies (Akinga,2017). National security encompasses the mitigation against security threats that threaten the sovereignty of a state either by state or non-state actors. These threats include insurgency, militancy, cyberattacks, kidnapping and banditry. The physical security of the state is paramount and it is not restricted to traditional military activities, national security is considered a basic pillar for the survival of the nation (Adamu,2017).

The responsibility of a responsible government is the protection of all citizens and their properties from all forms of internal and external aggression, encompassing the national interests of the state. The protection of a state's sovereignty will be guaranteed through national security which goes beyond just physical security but all other aspect of a state's survival.

National security protects state power (Shuaibu,2017). National security is an important requirement for the survival of the state through the use of various strategies such as economy, diplomacy, power and good governance. In the case of Nigeria, it is the maintenance of corporate existence of the Nigerian state ensuring national unity and cohesion in the face of various security threats and challenges (Shehu&Bello,2017). National security is the sum total of the vital interest of the state, the actualization of these vital interest and the means and methods in attaining these interests The use of state's power and apparatus is strategically important to the actualization of National security. The concept of National security is a post-cold war enabled ideology (Uchegbu,2017) and we have seen states ensure the adequate policies are put in place for the protection of national security.

Border Management

Border management exist in the context of ensuring adequate border security as part of the security architecture of a sovereign state, this ensures the safety of citizens and the territorial integrity of the state from state and non-state actors.The term Management of Border refers to an approach by border control agencies, both domestic and international, in the context of seeking greater efficiencies over managing trade and travel flows, while maintaining a balance with compliance requirements (Freedoom,2015).Border management is therefore commonly defined as the government functions of immigration, customs and excise, and policing, with the aim of controlling and regulating the flow of people and goods across a country's border/boundary in the national interest (particularly economic development, security and peace). Border management is a collaborative process between a country and its neighbours. It cannot be done unilaterally, and it is most effective and efficient when done regionally (Okumu,2016).According to the International Organization for Migration, border management effectively defines a state's territorial boundaries that must be secured and made safe for the benefit of internal security, which in turn determines a nation's sovereignty and capacity to meet its statutory obligations to those who belong, relating to how prohibited persons and harmful substances may be stopped (Gana et al,2023). Border management comes within the purview of national security, the security architecture of states is put in place to ensure the security and safety of the states from all forms of invasion through any of the domains including land (border).

Overview of Nigeria-Niger Relations

The relations between Nigeria and Niger gained momentum towards the end of the colonial rule between 1956 and 1958. Both Nigeria and the Republic of Niger were created and divided by the Berlin conference of 1884 which resolved the scramble for Africa and was able to resolve the scramble by partitioning Africa among European powers. Britain and France both got colonies as well as other powers such as Germany, Portugal and so on (Ayodele,2019). The Republic of Niger became an independent state on the 3rd of August, 1960 and became a member state of the United Nations on the 20th of September, 1960; Nigeria became an independent state on the 1st of October, 1960 and became a member state of the United Nations on the 7th of October, 1960. Therefore, with political recognition, both states decided to have bilateral relations with each other (United Nations,2000).

Their relation was not limited to political relations it included diplomatic, economic as well as military and security relations. The two states enjoyed close ties from proximity of borders, shared cultural and religious heritage, person and goods crossed easily from one part to the other which helped cross-border relations and trade. This unchecked movement has over the years

contributed to security issues along the corridor as the borders are not properly manned due to its large size (Ayodele,2019). Insecurity along the borders of Nigeria and Niger over the years ranging from Terrorism, proliferation of small arms and weapons, smuggling, human trafficking to mention a few has made both states to look into collaborative efforts to safeguard their national security and borders. The insurgency that has engulfed the Lake Chad Basin has not spared both Nigeria and Niger and their porous and unsafe borders have contributed to the success of the insurgency, banditry and kidnapping, proliferation of small and light weapons, human trafficking and a host of other cross-border crimes (Adeola,2012).

ECOWAS Protocolon Free Movement and Implications on National Security and Border Management

Transborder movement is a global challenge to states around the world and at various instance various sub-regional, continental and global organizations have made it a priority to address this issue as it the ability to spring up security challenges that can be injurious to the security of the states even though it's a blessing as globalization encourages movement of people, good and services. In west Africa, the Economic Community of West African States recognizes the undeniable presence of globalization which encourages the movement of people, skill, ideas, goods and services and therefore had to come up with a framework to ensure the actualization of regional integration. Protocol A/P.1/5/79 relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence, and Establishment in 1979 which provides that "community citizens have the right to enter, reside and establish in the territory of Member States" (Idowu&Agbalajobi,2022).

The establishment of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 to encourage sub-regional integration of the West African States in post-independence West Africa, the goal was to promote economic integration and boost the economies of members states to increase the standard of living of the citizens. To achieve this goal certain obstacles must be removed to ensure seamless integration, the most challenging is the free movement of people and goods and the ECOWAS treaty must address it(Idowu&Agbalajobi,2022).

Subsequently, ECOWAS at some point had to move towards peace, security and conflict resolution with the rise of conflict and crisis in the sub-region. The ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of People and Goods was initiated through the ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol of 1998. This allows ECOWAS citizens come in to other member states and stay up to 90 days without a visa(Idowu&Agbalajobi,2022). We have seen the inability to enforce the 90 days residential rule by West African governments and this has given room to illegal presence of citizens from various states who are undocumented and the porosity of our borders makes this ease and in end we have seen a increase in trans-border crimes threatening the national security of Nigeria and Niger.

The implication of this protocol is simple, anyone with identification of ECOWAS State can go in and out with serious security check. In the case of Nigeria-Niger relations with porous borders it gives free entry and exit to criminal elements and it is a challenge to safeguarding the borders in Nigeria-Niger relations (Idowu&Agbalajobi,2022). The protocol negates the protection of national security as entry and exist cannot be denied based on citizenship and this is limiting the protection of the orders with strong implications on National Security.

National Security Issues in Nigeria-Niger Relations

Terrorism/ Insecurity is a threat to the success of Nigeria-Niger relations and in the last few years that corridor has been thrown into devastating effect of security challenge ranging from terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, smuggling. The focus here would be terrorism along the Nigeria-Niger border particularly the impact of Boko Haram in threatening national security in Nigeria and an overlap in Niger republic which provides safe haven for insurgents to retreat into.

The Boko Haram sect, which was officially founded in 2002 in Maiduguri by Mohammed Yusuf, was with the aim of establishing Sharia regime in the states of the core north. The movement whose name 'Boko Haram', in Hausa translates as, "western education is sinful", see themselves as people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and jihad, further translated in Arabic as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda' awatiwal-jihad.

The group, established a religious centre, which soon became a recruiting ground for jihadis to fight the state. They also include members who come from neighbouring Chad and Niger and speak only Arabic (Gbadeyan,2017).Both Nigeria and Niger's national security have been threatened by terrorism and insecurity particularly terrorism which is peculiar to both of them.

In the case of Nigeria over the past several years, Boko Haram has been responsible for several violent attacks, including bombings against the

Nigerian state in the north and also extended its mayhem to the Nigeria's capital of Abuja. These attacks have occurred at high-profile government establishments, markets, banks, police stations, and churches The sect, which was originally considered to be a domestic terrorist group, has also successfully launched transnational attacks and struck international targets. This has not only fundamentally changed their description and designation, but has put them in the global spotlight (Smith,2016).

Niger has been particularly threatened from its southern and western borders. Boko Haram was responsible for most of the terrorist attacks in Niger from 2015. Targets of terrorist attacks in Niger have included government and civilian entities, as well as foreign, particularly Western entities and nationals. Kidnappings of foreign nationals have also brought millions of dollars into the coffers of terrorist groups (Ayodele,2019).

The close proximity of Nigeria and Niger to each other by virtue of shared border which over the years have not been properly protected and secured has given in to the rise of terrorism and insecurity along the axis. The opportunity of free entry and exit without going through security clearance gave insurgent and criminals safe passage as well as smuggling and movement of small arms and light weapon. The porous borders and poor border management gives access to insurgents and criminals to use both states as safe haven after attacks as both states cannot chase into the individual territories.

An arms trade expert, William M. Hartung argues that conflicts in Africa have attracted arms deal and influx of arms to different parts of North, West and Central Africa that have proximity with Nigeria. Hence, in linking the flourishing arms market in Africa to the strengthening of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria as a challenge of the nation's territorial integrity and national security, he admitted that the proliferation of arms has become amatter of concern owing to the growing security threats in the Lake Chad Basin particularly Nigeria and Niger (Babalola,2017).

In the case of proliferation of arms and light weapons during the cold war era Africans had support of both the capitalist west and communist east in fighting internal wars through the supply of arms, weapons and ammunition. Africa witnessed various civil wars and conflicts during this time and most of the weapons and arms after the wars were still much around in various part of Africa and this gave insurgents and criminals access to this weapons and arms. The lack of proper monitoring and securing of borders of both Nigeria and Niger allows for easy smuggling of weapons from their respective borders into their states and are used to carry out terrorist attacks and other criminal activities such as banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and so on.

Banditry and Kidnapping is another major security threat in Nigeria-Niger relations in the last few years both states have been impacted heavily from loss of lives, properties and large ransom payments. Bandits have terrorised north-west Nigerians for about a decade, and attacks are rising. Rape and other sexual violence, abductions and killings are just some of the atrocities citizens face daily. Interestingly we have similar situation in Niger and the porosity of the border made it easy to cross in and out and have a safe haven in Nigeria and Niger respectively.

Border Management Issues in Nigeria-Niger Relations

In the north-east, the borders Nigeria shares with Niger stretch over1,690km. Nigeria ranks 8 of the top 46 countries with long borders in the world. In Africa, Nigeria is ranked 18th on the list. Despite the fact that Nigeria has fewer neighbours with a shorter land border which should make it safer than Mauritania, Angola or South Africa, only four African countries namely: Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic, Chad and Libya, with longer land borders and more neighbours are worse off than Nigeria.

In discussing Nigeria -Niger relations border management is one of the major issues in their relations, it is the most porous border between Nigeria and other states. The relationship is a long, historical and culturally one and the nature of boundaries are characterized by a lot of arbitrariness. There is fluidity in the borders between Nigeria and Niger. There is a committee of governors of Northern states of Nigeria with governors of states in Niger that share borders that meet regularly and discuss border security issues and measures (Sana Project2018).

The fight against insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin has been tough particularly the movement of the insurgents through borders of states undetected. This is due to lack of border management policy among states in the region. These terrorists find safe haven in neighbouring border towns after attacks by assimilating into the communities which is easy as the factors such as language, physical attributes and religion are in common (sana Project).

The large expanse of border areas is left unmanned and unsecured. Adequate personnel and efficient use of high technology would be the best way to secure the borders, however, both states lack a comprehensive database of its citizen and immigrants while their passport and identification system are weak and easily accessible putting in mind the high corruption in both states (Onyejelumu,2009).

The poor border management system has allowed smuggling of small arms and light weapons in and out of both states which has fuelled the insurgency over the years. The movement of arms across borders has been made easy for the insurgency as both Nigeria and Niger borders are porous, weak and unsafe and allows smuggling of other contrabands that has aided the insurgency such as kidnapping, banditry and human trafficking (Punch,2020).

The kidnapping of the Chibok and Dapchi girls from their school in Borno state and movement of some across the border into Niger and neighbouring countries would nearly been impossible if the country's borders are adequately protected and secured (Premium Times,2018).

Trans-national crimes have gained ground because of poor border management and security, over the years the easy and unhindered access to Nigeria via Niger and vice versa by criminals and insurgents has weakened the security of the states and enhanced the operations of insurgents and criminals. National security cannot be achieved without a safe and secure land border; this requires a deliberate and functional border control/management framework from both states irrespective of politics and other issues in the sub-region.

Security Implications of Niger's Withdrawal from ECOWAS To Nigeria-Niger Relations

The recent wave of coups in West Africa and particularly the recent coup in Niger republic and the aftermath of ECOWAS sanctions against Niger led by Nigeria did put a strain on Nigeria-Niger relations. More importantly before now, Niger republic is a member of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) whose mission is to provide security in the Lake Chad Basin region against the threats of Insurgency, Banditry, Kidnapping and other security threats. The withdrawal of Niger from the MNTJTF in particularly simply means Nigeria will no longer get the support of Niamey in the fight against insurgency and other threats, which then give more space and opportunity to insurgent and criminals to perpetrate crimes in already under protected space (VOA,2023).

In reality, Nigeria will have to double its own effort in securing her territorial integrity against non-state actors going forwards by ensuring the border town are well patrolled and secured. The Nigeria-Niger relations is under threat and both states must find a way to reconcile for the security of their states as non-state actors will now explore the gap to take -over and infiltrate the unprotected spaces. Nigeria-Niger relations is currently at abysmal state and this also includes security relations and particularly the protection of the borders from insurgents and criminals. The National security can be threatened by the lack of support in the fight against insurgents and criminals on the border axis.

Recommendation

The understanding on how to achieve national security also requires the question of how to ensure effective border security. Therefore, border security is very essential for the actualization of consolidated statehood, enhancement of sovereignty and national security. Nigeria has been experiencing the problem of how to effectively secure its borders from all sort of transnational crimes that serve as a threat to national security. Despite certain efforts put in place to strengthen Nigerian borders, certain factors have contributed to serious challenge to border security such as corruption; poor technological gadgets and other facilities/logistics; issues of globalization; porous nature of the border; inadequate cooperation or coordination between security agencies etc. Therefore, to ensure effective border security, the following measures need to be put in place.

i. Adequate provision and use of ICT facilities or the technological gadgets such as the geographical information system, surveillance drones, biometrics etc are very essential in order to effectively track down the activities of trans border criminals like terrorist, robbers, arm dealers etc. The use of ICT or technological gadgets will help to complement the physical border control.

ii. Apart from provision of technological gadgets, provisions of other facilities like good accommodations, offices and logistics (like patrol vehicles, aircraft) to security agencies is very necessary in

order to curb the activities of trans border criminal activities.

iii. There is need for the government to construct adequate fences, auto-gates or border plazas. This will help to reduce the size of illegal migration, smuggling of goods and trafficking of persons.

iv. Strengthening the cooperation, collaboration and coordination between states is very essential. Nigeria and its neighbouring countries need to strengthen their cooperation especially, through the Multi-National Joint Task Force; Joint Border Control Commissions with Niger, Chad, Benin Republic and Cameroon to ensure effective border security.

v. There is urgent need to address the problem of corruption among security agencies in order to reduce the rate of trans-border criminal activities.

vi. Upgrade border infrastructure, including the construction of modern border posts and the deployment of technology such as surveillance cameras, drones, and biometric systems.

vii. Promote cooperation and coordination among various law enforcement agencies from both Nigeria and Niger, as well as with international partners to combat transnational crime effectively.

viii. Encouragement of community engagement for border and security control is very important. Involve local communities in border security efforts by raising awareness, fostering cooperation, and providing incentives for reporting suspicious activities.

Conclusion

The Nigeria-Niger border is a critical border that is prone to a wide range of international cross border crimes, posing substantial hazards to both nations. This study has provided valuable insights into the complex and multifaceted nature of transnational security threats and border management challenges at the Nigeria-Niger border. The findings shed light on the various forms of cross-border crime that affect the region, including smuggling, human trafficking, and terrorism-related activities. It is evident that these issues pose significant risks to the security and stability of both countries.

The Nigeria-Niger border dynamics and transnational threats highlight the need for comprehensive border management strategies that address security challenges while also recognizing the economic and social ties that exist in border communities. Effective border governance, cooperation, and international support are essential to mitigating the security risks associated with this expansive and porous border. The ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Goods and Persons which will not allow restriction of people in and out of ECOWAS region and the implication of the recent withdrawal of Niger from ECOWAS and MNJTF has had a negative impact on the effective border management of both countries.

Therefore, the government of the two countries should be proactive in securing their borders. The growing dissatisfaction, discomfort and distress along these borders coupled with the unabated official corruption, high rate of unemployment have heated up other violent crimes which has become leitmotif of Nigeria and Niger Republic social relation along the border.

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