Trans-Border Crimes and Joint Security Provisioning in Nigeria-Benin Republic Border Corridor in Okerete, Saki, Oyo State

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Abstract

In a bid by various governments to ensure the safety of lives and properties, Territories and State survival from any form of danger, physical or moral aggression hence resolve into a social contract to ensure safety. Meanwhile, security has been considered as a first-order value to all responsive political elite in the state. But at this Nigeria-Benin border corridor (Okerete), for more than three decades now there was relatively little work on how emerging trans-border crimes and level of security provision threatening the existence of immediate communities of this corridor and national sovereignty at large. This paper, therefore, examined the nature and settings in Okerete border corridor, the common crimes perpetrated, the level of joint security provisioning along this border corridor. Using data collected largely from primary sources such as an in-depth interview with stakeholders such as villagers, farmers, transporters, Nigeria Police, and The Nigeria Immigration Service at Okerete border, Saki, Oyo State and secondary source from diverse literature. Findings revealed that apart from major multi-smuggling and trafficking in the corridor, the minor crimes that are grave to corridor settlers are robbery/stealing, abduction/kidnapping, nomadic-farmer clashes and custom-smugglers clashes. The study also shows that the strength of security provision at this Nigeria-Benin border corridor (Okerete) was at the lowest ebb thereby encourages trans-border and border criminalities in this area. The study concludes that this forgotten (Okerete) international border, should be given a pragmatic security approach that will secure the lives and properties of the settlers. This paper recommends the need to build more border surveillance posts, erection of fences and engage local communities towards solving the problem.

Keywords: Border, Crimes, Security, Border Corridor, Benin Republic, Nigeria

Introduction

Globally, security has been considered as a first-order value immediately after the Second World War II that worth preserving. In a bid by various governments to ensure the safety of lives, properties, territories and state survival from any form of danger or risk of physical or moral aggression, citizens from harm, destruction and dangerous threat, the concept of security become inter-disciplinary discourse. Meanwhile, security has been considered as a first-order value to all responsive political elite in the state. But at this Nigeria-Benin border corridor (Okerete), more than three decades now there is relatively little work on how emerging trans-border crimes and level of joint security provision threatening the existence of immediate communities of this border corridor and national sovereignty at large Today, the concept of border security management has occupied an important position in the context of security debate as to the rate of criminal activities across the territorial frontiers increases in scale and the rate of emerging crimes from reserve and un-reserved forest mainly along the border-zone communities threatening the existence of national security.

The activities of Boko-Haram insurgence in the North-east, Fulani-herdsman in nearly all geo-political zones, and the increase in the rise in trans-border smuggling and trafficking of people, human organs, food commodities, substandard pharmaceutical and cosmetic items, arms proliferation in the Nigeria-Benin Republic border corridor resulted from high permissiveness of border, institutional weakness and unavoidably serve as safe havens for trans-border crimes and other social vices. Addo (2011), opined that African countries are loosed in their national security frameworks, a situation that results in weak collaborative efforts and defective law enforcement. Collaboratively, Brown (2013) in his note emphasises that traffickers find it conducive to operate in a West African State where the rule of law does not count while stressing that powerful cartels and terrorist organizations flourish here due to its permissive environment, vast ungoverned sea, land, and air spaces. This reflects the level of security provisioning in West African international frontiers corridors and Nigeria in particular.

However, Nigeria shared its land border with nations like Benin Republic, Cameroon, Niger and the Chad Republic who are economically weak and largely depends on Nigeria even for physical, human, and food security of lives and territory. Nigeria has a total land border of 4,047km with 84 approved border control posts and over 1,400 illegal routes (Otoide, 2014). This implies how ungoverned and the level of security provisioning and insecure is Nigeria space while the consequences are the national instabilities, crises and insecurity issues.

Nigeria-Benin republic border corridor (Okerete border corridor) does not only serve as a passage for trans-border crimes but also serve as a chronic tension terrain where imaginable crime and other social vices being committed by the two categories of movers which are; transient and migrants. Nigeria bordered with the Republic of Benin in southwestern Nigeria; are Seme border (Lagos state), Idiroko as major and several routes (Ogun state), Ayegun and Okerete border (Oyo state). Okerete border community is one of the buffer zone corridors that lead to the Benin Republic and this corridor separates with natural features (Opara River). This corridor is known for multi-smuggling and trafficking of mostly consumable commodities as a result of its location. Ering, (2011) observed that the strategic location of a country determines opportunities for illegal activities that exist or can take place in its border areas. To this end, countries are more threatened by insecurities or mismanagement or weakness of other countries borders than their own. This could be as a result of an institutional framework on the ground, or hostility of border host communities towards the border agencies or lack of central government to extend its reaches to those areas. Moreover, the phenomenon of trans-border crimes between Nigeria and Benin Republic corridors can be traced to the cultural condition of the border demarcation where the same socio-cultural affinities were separated by a European power. The majority of those who involve in these menace activities at this border corridor were socially and culturally tied to both sides (from historic perspectives). The cultural vicinity has built the basis for a high density of economic and social exchange across the border. Thus, the Benin Republic makes use of informal cross-border flow to enhance her economy at the expense of weak and inadequate security provisions in Nigerian border corridors.

Though, the phenomenon is not only peculiar to developing states but developed countries territories. This also attests to prevailing insecurities and further reveals the variety of social vices that pose threat to the internal security of the state. Meanwhile, border security is a factor of border management.

Internationally, borders are a security issue for all levels of government. This is because states are recognized under international law for their capability to maintain their boundaries, secure their territories, and protect their citizens. The ability to secure national borders is one of the criteria used to classify states as strong, weak and failed (Durkin, 2009 cited in Joseph & Bassey, 2019:10). Hence, this study objectively set to examine the conglomeration of nature and settings of the Okerete, Nigeria-Benin Republic border corridor, investigate the level of security provisioning, the common trans-border crimes and other social vices committing in this corridor, Okerete, Saki, southwestern Nigeria.

Literature Review and Theoretical Exposition

Security

The term security is a main function of the governments to ensure the protection of lives and properties of the citizens, protection of territory, organization and institutions against threats to the well-being of communities' members. The context of the security concept has moved from the traditional perspective of military and state-centric to a non-traditionalist perspective that broadens the meaning. This has brought scholars to look at the concept of security in their various fields of study. Security can be seen as a safety or a condition of being protected from danger, risk or loss either physical or spiritual. Ajimobi (2019), observes that security in a practical sense is freedom from, or resilience against, potential harm (or unwanted coercive change) caused by others. Security implies the safety of a man, a country's secret and its territorial integrity, which is perceived as total protection of state sovereignty and independence.

However, the developmental perspective of national security goes beyond military preparedness as it includes social, political and economic factors (Abodunrin 2011). It entails the maintenance and protection of socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threats (Pogoson, 2013:13). The main priority of states is to protect or safeguard their national interest (independence, sovereignty and policy) and human value (lives and properties).

To this end, Section 14 (2) (b) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution expresses the crucial aspect of security which states that "security and welfare of the people shall be the prime purpose of government". In other words, the major responsibility of Nigeria's government is to safeguard the lives, properties and welfare of Nigerians against internal and external threats and other forms of danger that may emanate from socio-economic and environmental factors.

Border

The concept of the border has moved beyond the line demarcating or delimiting the two contiguous states or the physical line of separation while other geographers see the border as a region or zone where one country ends and the other begins (Adalemo, 2006). Today the concept of border and its roles is changing alongside the heightened globalisation phenomenon that removes the traditional perspective of the border. It is now a multi-disciplinary study that cut across the entire academic discipline like geography, history, political science, sociology, law, anthropology and medical science etc.

However, in this context border is literarily defined as a point of entry and exit of a sovereign state. It is a territorial limit of a sovereign state where she exercises her political power over her subjects without external intruder. In the view of Ikome (2012), he sees international borders as a sharp edge of the territories within which states exercise their jurisdiction in lines that mark the termination of the terracing of one state or *political* unit and that of another. He argued further that the significance of demarcation is to allow states to consciously identify their territorial limit to which it can make laws signing of bilateral and multilateral agreements and has a monopoly on the use of physical force within its territory. In other words, borders in the political and legal sense are territorial jurisdiction domains where states exercise their control over all physical resources, where sovereignty power been displayed and performed. It serves as a socio-economic environment where both legal and illegal activities occur.

Border Crime

Crime is a social concept that universally contravenes both legal and social norms of society in varying degrees. Extant literature disclosed that the prevalence of crimes today globally, most especially in developing countries emanates from social, political, economic, and cultural factors such as poverty, unemployment, breakdown of family values among others. Like other social concepts crime has no unique or general definition. It can be viewed as acting or behaving against what is morally accepted by the society or acting contrary to societal standard rules or laws or norms which attract prescribed sanction or punishment.

According to Scott and Marshall (2009:139), "crime is held to be an offence, which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority.

Thus, for crime to be known as such, it must come to the notice of, and be processed through, an administrative system or enforcement agency. However, border crime can be perceived as a violation of the standard rule, laws, or social norms of society. Border crimes usually pose serious security problems to a nation. According to Joseph and Bassey (2019:109), a border crime undermines and constitutes a threat and fear to the security of persons, property and erodes the sense of safety (life and properties) and national security. The communities surrounding the border area are suffering from loss of life and property damages especially when there are clashes between the security agents and smugglers in border corridors.

Border crimes in Nigeria affect the development, peace and stability of the immediate community and the country. This adverse effect includes invasion of duty from custom by the smugglers, destruction of farm products, stealing valuable property that serves as the main revenue of others. It also affects the psychological state of mind of border inhabitants.

Meanwhile, the central feature in the quest for national security is the concern for the survival, peace, progress of individuals, groups and society as a whole. It focuses on people and development (internal security) which entails the development of socio-economic, political, cultural and military strategies that would enhance, preserve and maintain the nation's interest with the inclusion of its citizen's interests and values. Consequently, the protection of a state from attack and incursion from outside its border may be regarded as external. This is because most of the emerging crimes that threatening the peace and security of any country are perpetrated across international borders. These are terrorism, cyber-crime, cross-border fraud, human and drug trafficking, smuggling activities.

Trans-Border Crimes
Trans-border crimes in Nigeria range from smuggling, drug trafficking, arms proliferation, cybercrime, child trafficking and trafficking in persons, illegal migration of people and contrabands etc. it involves the crime committed in one's sovereign state to the other side of another country which affects the two countries or where one benefit at others expense. It also refers to crimes, either by omission or commission across international boundaries.

In the view of Okeke et al (2014) described trans-border crimes as illegal and notorious activities carried out by individuals and groups across national and international borders, either for financial or socio-economic benefit. They are also executed for socio-political cum religious considerations. It is also known as a transnational crime. However, trans-border crimes primarily aim at undermining the legal interest and the integrity of the individual sovereign state. Also undermines the peace, development, governance and security of the state.
Trans-border criminal activities undermine good governance and security, with negative impacts on the rule of law, economic activities and growth, human rights and general societal and cultural advancement within the region. They include illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapon/ammunition and human beings, especially mercenaries and the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflicts.

Theoretical Exposition

The study adopts two theories to explain the variables and analysis of the findings, these theories are; Anomic theory and Failed State theory. The first theory, the anomic theory focuses on crime and the proponent of Anomic theory is Robert King Merton (1957) described crime with other forms of deviant behaviour, which emphasizes the normality of the criminal. He used anomic to construct a highly influential theory of deviance as Emile Durkheim, a sociologist firstly suggest that in modern societies traditional norms and standards becomes undermined without being replaced by a new one.

Anomie is a concept that means the breakdown of standards behaviour in a given area of social life (lawlessness). Giddens (2000) argued that anomie is one of the social factors that influence disposition to suicide. This implies irrational behaviour that is against societal norms. Merton argued, people involved in crime in trying to get ahead by any means, whether legitimate or illegitimate. Merton ends his postulation that deviance is a by-product of economic inequalities. Therefore an individual who wants to be rich or succeed will involve in deviant behaviour or criminal activities by any means while others get involved through frustrations from social factors such as unemployment, poverty and hunger.

However, committing crime across Nigeria's international borders to succeed or have political and economic power through the breaking down of prohibitive laws is not only associated with disadvantaged people but also involves privileged people such as politicians, government officials, businessmen and women, Labour union leaders, doctors and lawyers.

The second theory, security-first theory and scholars like (Andreas and Nademonn, 2006:153, Etzioni, 2007: 63 & Suskind, 2008:135) expressed their opinion on trans-border crimes and global instability. Etzioni (2007:6), states that the goal of security-first theory is to primarily bring basic ideas of safety and security to a place where trans-border criminal gangs exist in danger to other groups, and from where they can direct their global attack or illicit trade.

The basic premise of this theory is that the existence of powerful transnational criminal groups is primarily a function of broken links in the chain of mutually recognized sovereignty on the fundamental building blocks of state power necessary to solve the problem.

These transnational criminals however fill the cracks or link in the space between state authorities. Assuring interlocking global state authority power to remove these spaces' necessarily, solely defeats the crime. And, if the trans-border crimes bridge to minimize state sovereignty, with the sole aim of making the state

irrelevant or not exist, then the only way to combat it is to ensure that the state does not weaken. This theory suggests therefore that the independent variable "basic state safety and security" are negatively linked to the dependent variable "proliferation of trans-border crimes".

However, in as much border remains the most visible sign of the sovereignty of a state on its territory. These theories are best suitable to explain trans-border crimes and the level of security provision at Nigerian borderland corridors. Hence, security-first will bring safety, peace, stability and development into the country. This study, therefore, argues that if only Nigerian political elite and security policymakers think of security as an idea of safeguarding the territorial integrity first, by incorporating the framework of inter-agency collaboration within the available resources as well as shun corruption, the proliferation of transnational crime will reduce if not eliminated.

Methodology
The study devices its methodology from the descriptive design while both primary and secondary sources of data collection were employed. The primary sources largely relied on which was drawn from observation and oral interviews with the residents such as foreign farmers, transporters plying the border corridor, village-market leaders, Baale of Okerete, security personnel such as Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Immigration Service and Beninines bike-man (who uses the bike to move persons and goods across the border). Secondary sources of data were drawn from diverse literature on related matters. The result is thematically analysed through the narrative form.

Results and Discussion of Findings

The Nature & Settings of Nigeria-Benin Republic Border Corridor in Okerete, Saki
Borderlands are described as extending beyond the delimited border, covering an area that marks a nation's sphere of influence (Afolayan, 2000:34). Hanse (1981) also view the border as the sub-national area whose economic and social life is directly and significantly affected by proximity to an international boundary. Border, therefore, implies a socio-economic environment; a crucial part of every nation that also serves as the gateway of any sovereign country. These scholarly definitions of the border above reflect the nature and the settings of the Nigeria-Benin Republic border corridor in Okerete, Saki, Oyo State, southwestern Nigeria. As a superimposed international border, which was arbitrarily drawn by France and Britain at latitude 6 37' north of the equator and longitude 2 40' east

of the meridian. Prescott, (1959) reported that the Nigeria-Benin boundary was arbitrarily taken to lie along longitude 20 40' east and it was intended to be temporary. Its function was simply to prevent the territory from falling under the control of another European country (Afolayan, 2000:39). This shows that the nature of the Okerete international border does not different from others created by colonial power which Asiwaju refers to as the artificial border. This border community corridor is under Saki West local government council area, Oyo state, approximately 300 kilometres to the capital city, Ibadan and the largest border town in Nigeria with the Benin Republic.

However, Okerete the Nigeria-Benin republic border corridor can be described as a buffer zone in the context of the international frontier, which is conservatively within the geographical territory of a sovereign state that comprises market settlements before the delineated boundary of a country. The nature of the buffer zone comprises adjoining village markets before the limit ends of a sovereign state, thus the corridor is commercially located where the interaction patterns involve the relationship of the communities sedentary population in the respective socio-political units across the border. And, the product of their frontier relationship includes conflict and settlement, culture and development. These market settlements include; Idera, Onilu, Agolaabi, Akorede, Ayemojuba, Gbeepakan, Imua, Owode, Juuju, Orita-Sanni and Okerete who is the last settlement. Ninety percent (90%) of the residents along this corridor are farmers and while seventy-five (75%) percent are a foreigner with immigration resident permit while others are traders and transporter. The number of joint security operations at this border corridor can be approximate 2% which is very minute when compared with landmass and the people residing there.

Common Trans-Border Crimes & Related social Vices in Okerete, Nigeria-Benin Border Corridor, Saki

Trans-border crimes is an illicit and notorious social phenomenon carried out by individuals or group of an individual across the national and international frontiers for socio-political cum economic benefit, religion or ethnic interest. Owolabi (2009), describe trans-border crimes as a set of criminal acts where perpetrators and repercussions go beyond the territorial border. At this corridor, however, (NCS & NPF Okerete border, 2019) reveals that the most common trans-border criminal activities are smuggling of vegetable oil, rice, cosmetic items, used cars, frozen chicken, child trafficking for various labour and housemaids, trafficking of petroleum product and plastic materials to Benin republic mainly to circumvent the custom duties and immigration documents. Base on this development, Smith (2003) in Williams (2015) argued that the nature

of smuggling is an elusive, secretive and subtle practice that involved the illicit movement across political boundaries. He argued further that smuggling has the potential of seriously undermining state authority and portrays the state as a social force within border communities where like other forms of social vices can be used to analyze social economics, attitudes towards violence and the rise of a government authority.

Moreover, the study (Transporters plying the border corridor, 2019) affirmed that smuggling and trafficking in this border corridor remain lucrative employment for the old and young once because of the motivating factors like high level of poverty, get quick rich syndrome among the youth, unemployed graduates, the socio-cultural relation at both side couples with a low level of security provision create opportunities for smuggling of contrabands.

Egbedina and Olaonipekun, (2018:365) opined that the motivating factor that makes smuggling of consumable goods thrives in this corridor of the state is her proximity to the border that led to sub-Saharan francophone countries (Benin Republic, Togo, Burkina Faso) and ineffective custom officers patrol team to monitor and control the smugglers. It is, therefore, to note as recorded by UNICEF, (2007) and Esan, (2013) that the children/adolescence who are vulnerable to trafficking due to high level of poverty, high rate of school drop-out, large family size, rapid urbanization with deteriorating public service, low literacy level, youth unemployment and porous border of Nigeria-Benin Republic are the major encouragers. Another motivating influence observed the influx of illicit persons and goods are largely associated with the weak economy of the neighbouring Benin republic and extensive porous features and limited/insufficient border security and law enforcement agents of Nigeria at this border corridor when compared with another international border corridor. Durkin, (2009) emphasizes that the porous features of the border region and the prevailing economic policies of the neighbouring state are tantamount to influence illegal cross border transactions in good currency and other threatening circumstances. The free-flow of illegal goods and person are very easy at this border corridor except for the natural barrier which is Opara river overflow.

However, the border crimes and related social vices perpetrating along the Okerete border corridor is one of the issues affecting the security of lives and property and have transcended to ungoverned space which has posed a grave challenge to the movers and settlers of the border.

According to (Baale of Okerete, 2019) he affirmed that the rate of armed robbery/stealing, Illegal abduction/killing, arson and malicious destruction of farmland/farm produce by nomadic Fulani herdsmen are regularly while illegal grazing sometimes escalates to inter-village and inter-ethnic clashes between the pastoral settlers and the farmer. This is in tandem with the view of Peel, (2006:4) he argued that the types of Nigeria-related crime are far too vast to be listed exhaustively, but certain themes keep recurring. This implies the volume of crime and serial vices while the systems to deal with it are inadequate. The study (Farmers & NPF, 2019) revealed that most of the robbery and stealing at this border corridor are farm produce, cattle, motorcycle, while perpetrators are been traced to informal trans-border migrants who speak French, Hausa and Yoruba fluently. The custom-smugglers clash is not a new phenomenon in this corridor and of course, no one expects the duo to have a cordial relationship either naturally or by other means. But their clashes instil constant fear and intimidating local communities and loss of innocent souls. As a proverbial saying, where two elephant fights, it is the grass therein that suffers. The incident of 13th August 2020 complements the literature on the relationship that exists among the border communities and security agencies in Nigeria.

Security Provisioning in Okerete, Nigeria-Benin Border Corridor, Saki
From various persuasion of political thinkers like Niccolo Machiavelli the Prince, John Lock, Thomas Hobbes, Karl Marx and a host of others agreed that the basic function of a government is to provide security of lives and properties and territorial integrity of a sovereign State. And, where the government is incapacitated to discharge this responsibility its legitimacy and moral authority is often called into question. In the view of Otoide (2014: 14-15), cited in (Akinyele, 2016:59) observed that in the fight against terrorism and safeguarding of territorial integrity, a country's border is the first line of defence. The Nigerian case demands a policy thrust that is inclusive rather than exclusive, dynamic conservative and mundane. In other words, the security provision at this Nigeria-Benin border corridor, Okerete as observed (study, 2019) is at the lowest ebb when compared with landmass, emerging crimes, social vices and terrorist activities that pervading the country in recent times.

The insecurity issues in Nigerian international borders has been emphasized by extant literature is attributable to many factors such as corruption, infrastructural decay, exclusion of local communities, globalization problems, lack of integration between state apparatus, immigration, customs and police especially on intelligence sharing, lack of demarcated borderland. Beyond this, several security challenges which have been experienced in Nigeria today emanate from the

country's international boundaries such as Boko Haram in the Northern part of the country.

However, the study (Trader/Market leaders, 2019) reveals that the biased mind, unprofessional attitudes and insincerity of the security contributes to ineffectiveness of the security and lessen the security provision at this border corridor. Thereby encourage the inability of these joint security operatives in safeguarding this territory (border corridor) and the resident by the few security personnel on the ground. The majority of the settlers (the respondents) confidentially affirmed that whenever any culprit or syndicate were caught particularly on-farm grazing or destruction and stealing, the security agents usually at their side except the case are reported at home (Saki town). While sometimes the securities do fight against each other on the ground that the case is within their jurisdictions' thereby brings confusion on the case (Baale of Okerete, Farmer & Transporters, 2019).

Thus, the rivalry among the security agents about who will prosecute the syndicate always causes rancour. Albert, (2013:3-4) opines that the national security problem in Nigeria has continued to increase both quantitatively and qualitatively in recent years, and this has ranked the country among countries where suicide bombing is a regular occurrence. He notes further that dealing with those problems of insecurity is to formulate formal interagency collaboration that will actively promote formal working relations among the multiple security agencies to enhance process outcomes at a reducing cost. He revealed that presently the "Security agencies in Nigeria do not only operate individually but more importantly work against one another thus reducing public confidence in their problem-solving capacity. This attitude adversely affects the security provision at this border corridor where the settlers resolves sometimes to jungle justices. This indicates the low priority of border corridor security in Nigeria, compared to enhanced security provided for the political elite and their properties.

In the same vein, the study observed that the Okerete border corridor lack basic technology tools for security surveillance and border control such as walking-talking, CCTV cameras, air-based technologies, tracking devices, biometric machine, x-ray machine, radio-phone, scanner machine, etc. Border security at this age of heightening globalisation and contemporary emerging social problems cannot alone by the human eye or an attempt to use paper information to identify criminals hardly impossible. It is important to know that security provision has moved from a traditional driven to a technologically driven system. The

technologies are needed to impact and enhance the job competencies of the border security agents because these criminals are using dynamics of interconnectivity and interrelatedness phenomenon to perpetrate their evil deeds.

Recommendation
1. This paper, therefore, recommends that there is a need for the Nigerian government to embrace the doctrine of a security-first approach to ensure the safety of her territorial integrity and protection of her citizens.
2. Also, the Nigerian government should ensure more constant border surveillance posts, erection of fences if necessary and engage local communities' security outfits in joint problem-solving.
3. Emphasis must be placed on movers and settlers on oversight of law enforcement officials that can reduce their brutality
4. The implication of intimidation and extortion of the border corridor user should be made known to law enforcement agents at the border.
5. Border security personnel at this border corridor should strictly advise to dissociate themselves from partiality while the settlers should do away with jungle justice and embrace peaceful coexistence in their various abode.

Conclusion
International borders are the security issues for all governments and states are recognized under international law by their ability to maintain their boundaries, secure their territories and protect their citizens. The study has traced the nature, settings and composition of the settlements along the Okerete Nigeria-Benin Republic border corridor and analyses trans-border crimes other social vices been perpetrated at the corridor. The existing literature argues that the motivating factor that is not attended to by various government encourage trans-border crimes and other social vices in the country. However, the study reveals that apart from major multi-smuggling and trafficking of goods, the minor crimes that are grave to corridor settlers are robbery/stealing, abduction/kidnapping, nomadic-farmer clashes and custom-smugglers clashes. The study also affirmed that the strength of security provision at this Nigeria-Benin border corridor (Okerete) is at the lowest ebb thereby encourages trans-border criminalities in this area. The study concludes that in as much Okerete is an international border, should be given a pragmatic security approach that will make life meaningful and secure their existence as Nigerian resident and citizens.

Contribution to Knowledge

The study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by disclosing nature, settings and the level of joint security operation at this area of study Okerete (Nigeria-Benin Republic) border corridor. Also highlights some of the crimes been perpetrated that is threatening the internal security of lives and properties and sovereignty of the Nigerian state. The study also contributes to policy analyses through conclusion and recommendation and as well literature that can be consulted for furthers studies.

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