

# Globalisation of Arms Trade and Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) In Africa: The Studies of Nigeria

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**Abstract,** *The global proliferation of conventional arms particularly small arms and light weapons (SALW) has often being links to the globalization of arms trade which recommends for privatization and deregulation of arms industries. The study examines how the globalization of arms trade could be linked to the proliferation of SALW in Africa with particular reference to Nigeria. With the use of neo-liberal theory as its framework of analysis, the study has found a positive correlations between the globalization of arms trade and the proliferation of SALW in the continent. The recommendations of the study are: Nigerian government to coordinate with other African countries to fight against the globalization of arms trade and to provide an adequate security to all African boarders, sea and air ports as well as to provide a favorable economic policies that will discourage marginalization of masses.*

## "1. Introduction"

The term globalization has no straight forward or widely accepted definition either in general term or in academic writings. For some scholars it means prosperity while for others it guarantees the poverty of the third world countries. Some see it as dating from the empires of ancient world, while others, globalization is coterminous with the modern era and the process of modernization or even of post-modernization (Schirato and Webb, 2003:2). The general idea of globalization is that technological development has created a context in which the global market rather than separate national markets is relevant arena for economic competitiveness. The nations have been used to justify the adoption of new practice by firms and governments all over the world and these developments have altered the political balance among states, unions and other interest groups (Halt and Kim, in Dunn, 2004). Similarly, it has been seen as the outcome of deregulation in the economic market and integration of information technology in trade, banking, broadcast, media and telecommunications. It is also a coalescence of various transnational process and domestic structure allowing the economy, politics, culture and ideology of one

country to penetrate another. (Mohammadi and Ahsan, 2002:1).

Globalization of arms trade is the process whereby the global arms companies otherwise known as defense industries are subjected to privatization and deregulation policies pursued through Structural Adjustment Programs that enshrine by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (Mohammadi and Ahsan, 2002:5-6). With this development, therefore, most of the arms producing countries particularly of Europe and United States of America recommends this policy and globalized their arms trade in conventional weapons, including Small Arms and light weapons (SALW) in order to reap the monetary benefits of neoliberal economic policy through competition of arms trade across the globe (Feffer, 2001). Despite some local source of illicit arms, the proliferation of SALW in Nigeria as in other African countries has been directly linked to the globalization of arms trade that provides easy access of such arms among the gun runners and the insurgents groups across the continent through illicit imports across countries porous borders and ports, as a result of the availability of the arms in the global arms market and failure of the security forces to provide security, and in most cases due to the drawn of rich profit from the trade and use of these arms in illegal means (Hamisu, 2013: 20).

## "2. Objective of the study"

The general objective of the study is to examine how the globalization of arms trade could lead to the proliferation of Small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Africa.

The specific objectives are to examine:

- i. The globalization of arms trade, and
- ii. Proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria

### "3. Research Methodology"

The study has primarily focused on the secondary source of data through the use of library research and the use of Mass Media's reports. From the library research, relevant information found in published books, journal articles as well as unpublished materials such as research dissertations, conference and seminar papers and so on, has been utilized. For the Mass Media's reports, information found in periodicals and dailies has been used. Descriptive method of data analysis has been employed to analyze the data found from two sources mentioned above.

### "4. Theoretical framework"

The study utilized neo-liberal theory as its framework of analysis. The Neo-liberal theory is being traced from a classical economic theory, which advocates for market economy that completely liberal from any type of government interference. Free competition and pre-enterprises were promoted as manners in which economics should be allowed to grow (Smith, 2012). The liberal school became famous in Europe when Adam Smith, a Scottish economist published a book in 1776 "The wealth of the nations". In the book, he advocates the removal of government intervention in economic matters. That includes no restriction of manufactories, no barriers to commerce and no tariffs. He further argued that, free trade was the best way for nation's economy to develop. (Smith, 2012). With the great depression of 1930s and the development of Keynesian economy of John Maynard Keynes, and with the shrinking of profit rates, inspired the corporate elite to review economic liberalism, that what makes it neo or new (Martinez and Garcia, 2000). The neoliberal idea sees Nations primarily as a business firms. The nation firms, sells itself as an investment location, rather than simply selling export goods. A neoliberal governments pursues policies design to make the nation more attractive as an investment location. A neoliberal government will almost certainly appeal to globalization as a justification and legitimization of its policies.

The main points of neo-liberal globalization include – Rule of the market (liberating, free enterprises or private enterprises from any bond imposed by the government), cutting public expenditure of the social service. Deregulation (reducing government regulations of everything that could diminish profits), privatization (selling state-owned companies, goods and services to private investors), eliminating the concept of public goods or community and replace it with individual responsibility (pressuring the poorest people in a society to find solution to their lack of health care,

education, and social security all by themselves) (GRCRG, 2005). The neo-liberalism institutions that set out rules and regulation for international free trades are World trade organization (WTO) that engages in a task of eliminating all barriers to global free trade. World Bank (WB) and international monetary fund (IMF) looked after the linearization of domestic capitalist accounts and privatization of the economic southern developing countries (GRCRG, 2005).

### "5. Globalization of arms trade"

Globalization is meant to provide the dominant organizational forms for cross border flows with national states as its key actors which have been the international political agenda for centuries. It is this conditions that has dramatically changed since 1980s as a result of implementation of neo-liberal policies of privatization, deregulation, the opening of national economic actors, thereby constituting varieties of cross border networks (Stohl, 2004:226). These neoliberal policies are pursued through structural adjustment programs under the dictates of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (Mohammadi and Ahsan, 2002:5-6). With this development, therefore, most of the arms producing countries particularly of Europe and United States of America have utilized this policy in order to globalize their trade in conventional weapons including SALW (Feffer, 2001).

The SALW are modern weapons that are clearly differ with major conventional weapons such as artillery tanks, war ships, war planes among others, as well as weapons of mass destructions, (WMD) – nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. "Small Arms Survey" (2012) defines the concepts of SALW by largely adopting the proposal put forward by the 1997 UN panel of government's experts which considers portability as a defining feature. The panel list include civilian, private and military weapons that fire a projectile with condition that, the system or unit may be carried by an individual, small number of people or transported by pack animal or light vehicle. Based on this therefore, SALW include rifle and carbines, assault rifle, sub machine gun, portable anti air craft weapon, portable anti-tank missile and a portable rocket system, among others (Small Arm Survey, 2012).

The globalization of SALW is being traced to the military industrial complex. The military industrial complex or military industrial congregational complex is a kind of reciprocal arrangement or relationship which exist between the national armed forces, legislators and armed industries that support them (Writer, 2014). This union obviously

produced benefits for both sides; war planners receiving the tools necessary for waging war while also furthering political interest abroad and defense companies became the recipient of lucrative multi-million/billion dollars arm deals (Weber, 2014). It was initially common in United State of America (USA) in its effort to reap the benefits of neoliberal policies in weapon produce, which latter adopted by other western countries with features varied depending on whether the country's economy is more or less market oriented. In the United States, the members of congress districts depend on military industry, the department of defense along with the military service and the privately owned military contractors to boost the production of military weapons and munitions for above mentioned purposes. The goals and interest of these various actors broadly coincided, they tend to form mutually beneficial relationships what some scholars called an iron triangle between the government officials, legislators and military industrial firms. For example, legislators who received campaigned contributions from military firms may vote to award funding to projects which the firms' involved and military firms may hire from defense military officials as lobbyist (Writer, 2014) and (Weber, 2014).

During the cold war period, the then bi-polar powers - United States of America (USA) and the Soviet Union provided weapons and their technologies to their respective client states – France, China, Germany, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Israel to compete in the lucrative world business of weapons exports. Since then, these countries are at fore front in supplying weapons and their technologies to many third world countries (Arenshrest, 2005). These were achieved initially from military aids that progressively give way to the military sales on simple commercial bases. From these trends therefore, the super powers sales of weapons abroad kept rising. For instance the US sales of weapons increased by about one thousand percent (1000%), in just five years- from 1970 – 75. Soviet Union and other western arms industries also double their arms sales by several times (Frank, 1981: 282). Following the severe financial difficulties among the Western arms companies in the post-cold war period, due to the downsizing of their military forces and their equipment and merged with a large surplus of new and used small arms and light weapons left over from their inventories (Naagbaton, Undated: 5). Many of such weapons found their ways to the open globalized arms market and worsened by adoption of trade in SALW by illicit networks developed by drugs and laundered money (Robin, 1996:139 - 140).

Apart from the military industrial complex and cold war era another important determinant factor that encouraged the globalization of arms trade particularly in SALW is the “World Trade Organization” (WTO) and its article – No. XXI:“National Security Exceptions”. With this provision, states have allowed subsidizing production, promoting sales and to impose embargoes where seemed necessary under pretense of national security maintenance. In the global business these advantages are referred to as non-tariff trade barriers that could give countries undue advantages and in turn to distort market. These advantages could be possible in the global trades only when industries were at nurturing stages or are at the verge of bankruptcy, but in the trade of conventional weapons including SALW, the case is other way round (Feffer, 2001).

Many developed countries exploit this exception to globalize their arms production and exportations. For instance, USA as the highest producer and exporter of conventional arms including SALW often utilizes the security exception to subsidize the weapons production that result in cheaper weapons for arms importers (Feffer, 2001) Arms business in Europe, also receives same kind of huge government subsidies (Burrows, 2000, b). The confusion here is that, the SALW are regarded as commodity for sale like each other commodity, so that they are privatised, deregulated and globalized like them, but they are exempted from WTO's regulations which controls the global trades. This couldn't be clearly seen as a deliberate circumscription of the global arms trade from the global control? This undoubtedly will lead to global proliferation of such types of weapons.

The increasing production and exportation of weapons particularly small arms and light weapons has been exacerbated with the introduction of another effort to enhance the application of neoliberal policy through “Structural Adjustment Policy, which is the most giant step towards the globalization of arms trade. This policy in theory is designed to increase competition to produce cheapest and most profitable production in the international market space. With this policy, the major arms producing countries used this opportunity reconsolidate their globalization of arms trade by furthering deregulations of their defense industries in their quest to support their ever retarding economies by having a higher gains from weapon exports (Feffer, 2001).

Even though, there have been several attempts to control the proliferation of conventional arms in the current era of globalization of arms trade. like “Panel of Government Experts, “Program of

Action” and the most recent “Arms Trade Treaty”. Others are incessant agitations by many civil society organizations like “Campaign Against Arms Trade” (CAAT), Amnesty international, Arms Control Associations, Oxfam, Safer World, Arms Reduction Coalition (ARC), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), among others (Mehta, 2006:7). These organizations in conjunction with some African states and some other developing countries have been working assiduously for the control, reduction and even calling for abolition of the global trade in conventional weapons particularly, SALW. With all such tremendous efforts particularly the adoption of the “Arms Trade Treaty” on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013, only in October, the same year, the USA in its effort to reintegrate the globalization of arms trade announced the deregulations of most of its conventional weaponry including SALW to the commercial department, which many analysts argued – “will further increase the risk connected with arms exports that could further facilitate the commission of human right abuses around the world” (Stour, 2013).

The deregulation shifts responsibility for thousands of military components to the business- friendly commerce department under a more flexible control that raises fears as it could increase sales of American military parts to the conflict zones and makes it harder to enforce arms sanctions (Northeastern university, 2013). With the globalization of arms trade, Oxfam et al (undated:19) identified more than 1135, companies in at least 98 countries responsible for the production of an approximate 639 million component of small arms and light weapon that are ready for sale annually. This development has made arms trade more globalized with weapons ensemble using component to embargoed destinations and to parties breaching international humanitarian laws (Oxfam et al undated:19).

Apart from the legitimate global small arms trade there is also the illegal arms trade which often links to the prevailing globalization of arms trade. The reality of the matter is that without the legal arms trade there will be no illegal arms trade at all. Burrows (2000:36, a), has rightly observed that the vast majority of small arms that proliferated in Third World countries were originally supplied legitimately by the Western companies. The legal trade makes up by far the majority of small arms sales. Transfers from established companies within established nations, make up nearly 90% of the total annual value of the trade. The annual legal global small arms trade is estimated at around 4 – 6 billion US Dollars (Burrows, 2000 a: 36).

Conflict entrepreneurs – weapons manufacturers, gun runners, merchant middle men, utilize the illegal arms trade to fly or ship SALW illicitly into many Third World Countries (Arendshorst, 2005). Dealers can even broke or organize the transfer of small arms between states without seeking permission from their own counties. In this way, stockpile of SALW are in circulations and ended up in the hands of militias in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Burrows, 2000, b). Rebels and other armed groups utilized the illicit arms trade to cross the poorly secured borders and trade them for foods, vehicles and other consumer goods. According to one UN investigation, Somali militias regularly buy and sell arms to each other in the local markets (AEFJN, 2010:7). Besides the intercontinental arms trade between multilateral angles to developing countries, there are also other channels that provide weapons within the continents. For instance, arms manufacture became most important and profitable industries of the third world, thus, many produce arms for sale within their regions. Lock and Wuif, cited in (Frank, 1981: 286), found many Third World countries engaged in domestic arms manufacturing and sales including some African countries since the late 1970s. The overriding objectives of such arms production were not to serve or minimize production cost but rather to maximize public expenditure and profits (Frank, 1981: 291).

In the recent time, there has been a little information on the main producers and exporters of SALW in Africa. Only few African countries have the capacity to manufacture arms and ammunitions with South Africa at the top and followed by Nigeria which has the capacity to manufacture small arms similar to AK-47 rifle and the requisite ammunitions. Other states like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are also producers. (AEFJN, 2005:3-4). In West Africa, the production capacity is smaller and is based on imported technology. Some factories of ammunitions exist in Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Guinea and RD Congo. Apart from local production in a number of West African states, some states also make a “triangulation”; they buy arms under pretext of their own use but they forward them to third party. There is a little information on the final usage of SALW imported by most of African states due to the fact that most of their productions and transfers are not being reporting to the UN register of conventional arms (AEFJN, 2005:4).

In Nigeria, the global proliferation of SALW has affected the country through illegal importations of smuggled arms through its poorly secured land borders, seaports, and Airports. This development has made availability of such class of weapons to

the countries armed groups particularly the insurgents of Niger delta and those dominate the northern part of the country. (Okpanage, 2012). In a nut shell, the globalization of arms trade that emanates from the neo-liberal political economic policy designed primarily for economic gains has tremendously escalated the global proliferation of SALW that affect most African countries and its effect on escalations of armed violence in the continent.

### **"6. Proliferations of SALW in Nigeria"**

The Defense Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) that established in 1964 by the federal government of the country has remained the only facility authorized to produce arms and ammunitions for the use of Nigerian security forces in order to secure the country from external aggression and internal subversion. As this company produced small arms similar to AK-47 and its ammunitions, the federal government of the country had to procure some major conventional arms from other countries. At the present time, China is the major supplier of arms and military equipment to Nigerian government, after United State of America (Hazen and Honer, 2007:30). The Nigeria's legal trade in small arms is not exactly booming, that is because the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which Nigeria is a key member, has taken a step to control the proliferation of SALW in the region. A 1998 moratorium on the import and exports of these weapons, dating back from Serra lion and Liberia's civil wars has been legally binding among the ECOWAS members in 2006 (Fortin, 2003). The intent of the moratorium is to prohibit the transfer of SALW across borders within the region. The agreement states that such transfers are banned, although exception may be granted for national security purposes or in support of regional peace-keeping mission (Fortin, 2003).

Similarly, the federal government of Nigeria has banned all arms transactions between individuals and groups if not of the federal security forces. This coincides with one of the statements of the Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO) Frank Mba in Lagos who ones discloses that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the country, Mr. Muhammed Abubakar has banned the issue of new firearms license to individuals in line with the Police effort to curb the proliferation of arms in the country (Oladeji and Dike, 2014). And on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2013, Nigeria became the first country in Africa to ratify Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted by the United Nation General Assembly on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 (Romeo, 2013).

Therefore, the import and distribution of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria is on demand. The security forces are importing weapons in order to meet the demands of their role in securing the country while individuals and groups are importing and purchasing small arms as a result of the availability of the arms in the global markets and failure of the security forces to provide security, and in most cases due to the drawn of rich profit from the trade and use of these arms in illegal means (Hazen and Honer, 2007:25). So, despite some local source, some recent researches show that the easy access of small arms among the gun runners and the insurgents groups in Nigeria are directly connected to the global waves of SALW proliferations (Naagbaton, undated:7), through illicit imports by arms dealers and arms group across borders and other individuals (Hamisu, 2013: 20)

Among the local sources of illegal SALW circulating in Nigeria, though, insignificant in terms of numbers, as mainly for communal conflicts, (Bah, 2004) cited in (Hamisu, 2013: 21). They includes: remnants of the civil war (Ajayi cited in Onabanjo; 2012), sales and rentals by serving and retired security personals; sales by returning peace keepers; sales of recycled weapons from decommissioning exercises, purchases of locally produced craft weapons, theft from dealer's armories and residences, seizures from the security officials during robberies as well as in clashes with other armed groups (Small arms survey, cited in (Hamisu, 2013: 20). Reliable data on illegal arms trafficking into the country is un-available as this is common to most of illegal business. The illegal nature of the movement of SALW and ammunitions in Nigeria means that, the few people involved in the trade are not willing to discuss how the operations are taking place. Interviews with those in the illegal arms trade provide some insight but the information is difficult to verify. Records of seizures and arrest are kept by the Customs Service and the Police but the data are inconsistent and often incomplete (Hamisu, 2013: 24).

Despite these challenges however, researches have shown that, most of the illegal arms in circulations in the country are smuggled from the global arms markets. This is evident from observing the foreign made weapons available among the country's armed groups. It is observed from various police and military raids of Niger Delta group's armories and hideouts or the government initiated disarmament or cash for arms programmes. The confiscated weapons varied from AK-47s, Czeck's light machineguns, rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and explosives among others (Naagbaton, undated: 7).The wave of proliferations of SALW in

Nigeria has been directly linked to the globalization of arms trade that boost the gross of Western defense industries. The nature of the arms trade paves way for number of trafficking channels that led to defeat of the country's security agents established to secure it from both external and internal threat (Dokubo, 2005:124).

Weapons transits into the country are lengthy and porous borders, number of air ports and numerous sea ports along the southern coast that makes smuggling and cross border trade easy and difficult to detect and monitor. (Hazen and Horner, 2007:33). The Director General of the National task-force on Illegal Importation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and all Contravened Products (NAFORCE), Mr. Osita Okereke has once revealed that more than 6,000 illegal borders were currently being used to smuggled dangerous weapons into the country (The sun, 2014, b). These transits provide small arms and light weapons into the hands of armed groups, national leaders, political and community leaders as well as other individuals. (Hazen and Horner, 2007:33). Apart from the main source of these weapons - number of Western countries, the arms also smuggled from many transit countries including the neighboring country of Benin, Cameroun, Chad and Niger as well as Gabon and Guinea Bissau. Others are: Code d'ivoire, Liberia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, Burkina Faso and Serbia. Security forces have impounded a large quantity of arms and ammunitions smuggled through neighboring countries into Nigeria with many from Tudu arms market in Ghana (Hazen and Horner, 2007:34).

Warri has been referred to as hub of guns trade in Niger Delta area of Nigeria. Its location in the Delta as well as the demand for SALW in the area makes it suitable place for the reception of shipmen. However, relatively little concrete evidence of SALW transfer is available, making it difficult to assess the trafficking routes, transit countries and source. A number of towns are also known as the transit of SALW including Asaba, Benin city, Onisha, Enugu, Owerri, Awka and Port Harcourt (Hazen and Horner, 2007:34). Arms trafficked into the country through southern ports are distributed in the region or move further to the Northern Region, but the North has additional source through borders with Niger and Chad in the North east. The entry points include Maiduguri, Nguru and Malam fatori. (Adego, cited in Hazen and Horner, 2007:35). Among the porous borders that defeat security intelligence and allowed for the access of smuggled weapons into the country is Lagos, through its border with Benin Republic and water routes to Badagry. Before the guns are trafficked they are usually packed in anything

ranges from bags of rice and other edibles to oil cans and then smuggled into the country (Sunday sun, 2013:4).

As mention earlier, most of the arms used by insurgents in northeast part of the country were brought in through Niger border especially border with Maiduguri. The arms are often concealed on tops of camels under pretext of grazing and enter into the country. (Sunday sun, 2013:7). In-charges of the arms importers allegedly often bring in more than required number of arms and passed the excess to the country for on-ward sales to those who need them. (Sunday sun, 2013:5). Small arms also allegedly gained access to illegal hands in the country through some unscrupulous politicians, arms importers and armed forces themselves. Politicians usually brought in some guns to their vanguards during electioneering campaigns. At the end of which, the guns were latter reverted to other criminal activities. (Sunday sun, 2013:5).

The correlations of the global proliferation of SALW with that of the Nigeria also manifests itself from series of arrests of smuggled weapons in the country. For instance, in July 2010, Nigerian Customs Service captured 15 containers of dangerous weapons, including: rocket launcher, mortars, bombs, firearms and ammunitions, camouflaged as building materials, imported into the country through Apapa- Lagos Port (Onabanjo, 2012). In July 2012, Nigerian Police arrested 2 men trying to bring some machine guns and about 8,450 live ammunitions into the country through Benin – Nigeria border. In the same month, police also captured other men with 8 rocket propelled launcher, 10 rocket bombs, ten rockets, 13 magazines and 2 AK47 assault rifle, trying to smuggle them through Maiduguri border (Onabanjo, 2012). On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012, The Daily Trust newspaper announces the capture and detention of one British arm dealer - Gray Hyde who was trying to smuggle heavy arms from china to Nigeria. The discovered arms include: 40,000 AK47 rifles, 30,000 other rifles, 10,000 pistols and 32 million rounds of ammunitions, (Daily Trust, online, 27<sup>th</sup> oct.2012).

In May 2013, huge volume of small arms and light weapons were discovered in an underground armory in a house occupied by a Lebanese man and owned by Nigerian living in America, along Gaya Road in Bompai Quarters of Kano metropolis. The arms include many AK-47 rifles, 200 factory made hand grenades, dozens of rocket propelled grenades, over one hundred bombs and some anti-air craft missiles (Daily Trust on line, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013). In October, 2013, the Nigerian Navy seized the vessel containing 15 Russians in the Lagos

port, trying to bring in a cache of weapons which include: 14 Ak-47 rifles, 22 Ben ell MRI rifle and thousands of round of ammunitions (Fortin, 2013). On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014, there was a sudden report that two Nigerians and an Israeli security contractor based in Abuja were held in South Africa for attempting to illegally import into South Africa the sum of \$ 9.3 million cash. The money had been ferried into South Africa in an aircraft that turns out to belong to the national president of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) – Pastor Ayo Oretsejafor (Kawu, 2014). The then Federal Government of Nigeria quickly intervened and announced to the South African counterpart that, the seized money was to procure arms on behalf of Nigerian security forces.

But the South African authority seemed not convinced with the Nigerian claims, as their officials have been quoted saying – “the explanation were flawed and riddled with discrepancies”. Thus, it went ahead and obtained a court order to freeze the money, because the illegal importation had breached the countries law (Kawu, 2014). Three weeks later the South African authority seized \$ 5.7 million, yet another illegal arms deal. The monies were frozen in both cases for allegedly being proceeds of illegal transactions of arms (Oersted, 2014). In the first case Falana, in (Obineche, 2014), views the confusion here and argue, “How a government which is not under any arms embargo can decides to purchase arms using questionable means and shady characters”. Similarly, The Company that Nigerian government claimed purchasing arms from was found to be neither authorized to sale nor rent military hard ware (Kawu, 2014). This contravenes South African law and other laws governing the movement of cash and purchase of arms and ammunitions. This proved that the intended transactions were illegal and possibly intended to smuggle arms to continue equipping terrorist in the north, pirates and militant in the Niger Delta and other forms of insurgency in Nigeria (Abusadiq, 2014).

The presidency through the Senior Special Advisor to the President Jonathon on public communication, Dr. Doying Okupe exonerates the CAN president as he had only given out his jet to get some money and to defray some cost. He gave a jet to a private company to manage who gave it out to these people as the plane that was available at the time (The sun, 2014 a). But the famous Lagos lawyer -Femi Falana, (in Obineche, 2014), doubt the government’s excuse and argued, “When Pastor Oritsejafor was accused of buying a plane he admits that, it was for evangelism – the work of God”. Churches are registered as non-profit

making organization. “How can you divert a jet meant for evangelism for commercial purposes? The moment you do that, you have violated the provision of the company and allied matters that registered you as non-profit making organization”. If you lease or rent a plane and you are collecting money then it is illegal. “There is no grandstanding by CAN or its leadership” he added. (Obineche, 2014). Similarly, Musa (in Akhigbe and Abdussalam, 2014). Opined that, if the seized money was indeed meant to acquire arms for the Nigerian military, the host of the country would have been aware of it. “This is a back door deal; it is only terrorist that follows undiplomatic channels to buy arms”

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the Nigerian authority have intercepted a Russian airplane loaded with large cache of AK 47, bullet proof vest and other weapons in Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano (Kabir, 2014). This was not the first time in this airport; in 2012 Ukraine cargo was involved and in 2013 Russian aircraft was involved. But the planes, their contents and crew members were released after security officials were said to have established that the final destinations of the arms was not Nigeria (informationnig.com, 2014, b). Similarly, one arms dealer, discloses that there has been a persistent increase in the illegal SALW purchases in Nigeria since April 2006 and the demand remained consistent. This may likely made some of the armed groups in the country to boast and say that they have acquired all what they were needed in terms of arms and ammunitions for their operations in the country (Hamisu, 2013: 25). To curb it all, In one of his statements, the Nigerian Chief of Army Standard and Evaluation, who ones commanded the African led mission to Mali (MISMA) – Major General Shehu Usman Abdulkadir, ones discloses that, out of the 10 million illegal weapons in circulation in West Africa, 70% or 7 million are in Nigeria alone and regrettably more than half of these weapons are in the hands of non-state actors and criminals groups (Onabanjo, 2012); (All Africa.com, 2013).

## **"7. Summary and conclusions"**

The study examines how the globalization of arms trade has being links to the proliferation of SALW in Nigeria as in most part of Africa. With the use of neoliberal theory the study is able to trace the genesis of the global proliferation of SALW that links to the Nigerian’s proliferations of these type of weapons, from the effects of the implementation of the policies drawn from that theory. The theory provide a framework for privatization and deregulation policies which applied by arms producing countries and eventually led them to

globalize the arms trade, in their effort to reap the higher gains and to provide cheapest weapons to the arms importers as preached by the assumptions of the theory. This has led to the mass production of arms and their transfers into irresistible recipients, hence escalates the proliferation of the arms.

This has led to the conclusion that the main genesis of the proliferation of conventional weapons particularly SALW in Nigeria, as in most of the affected countries is being traced to the implementation of neoliberal policies among arms producing countries. These countries adopt privatization and deregulation of arms industry and finally globalized the trade. They compete globally in order to reap the highest profits and to provide the cheapest weapons for arms importers as preached by the theory. In this dilemma the world has miraculously filled up with SALW that also sneak into Nigeria and ended up among illicit users.

## "8. Recommendations"

- Nigerian government in collaboration with ECOWAS to coordinate with other African country to fight against the globalization of arms trade that has led to the proliferation of SALW in the continent.
- Nigerian government as well as all African countries to provide an adequate security along their porous land borders, sea ports and airports in order to curtail all arms trafficking in to their respective countries.
- Nigerian government as well as all affected African countries to provide a favorable economic policies devoid of corruption and marginalization of citizens who often utilize the illegal source of arms to responds to their grievances against the states.

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