

**PROLIFERATION OF ARMS AND HUMAN SECURITY: A STUDY OF GUMA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE**

(2011-2020)

ROTIMI, OLUWATOSIN GOODNESS

(19PAH01953)

SEPTEMBER, 2021

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(2011-2020)

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
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SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY.**

SEPTEMBER, 2021

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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DECLARATION

I, **ROTIMI OLUWATOSIN GOODNESS (19PAH01953)**, declares that I carried out this research under the supervision of Kester Onor (PhD) of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. I attest that the dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly literature used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

ROTIMI OLUWATOSIN GOODNESS

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled “**Proliferation of Arms and Human Security: A Study of Guma Local Government Area of Benue State (2011-2020)**” is an original research work carried out by **ROTIMI OLUWATOSIN GOODNESS (19PAH01953)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Kester Onor (PhD). We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science (Msc) in International Relation.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the Almighty God for his ceaseless and undying love for me. I am grateful to God for all he has done for me and for seeing me through this work.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
AU	African Union
CS	Community Security
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HDR	Human Development Report
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MASSOB	Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta
NDPVF	Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force
OPC	Oodua People's Congress
PPMC	Pearson Product-Moment Correlation
RPGs	Rocket Propelled Grenades
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALWs	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UNPOA	United Nations Program of Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

ABSTRACT

The deplorable human security situation in Nigeria has reached a crisis stage as ethno-religious conflicts, inter-communal clashes, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, hostage-taking, militancy, herdsman attacks on vulnerable communities and other vices continue unabatedly to threaten and undermine the lives and properties of many Nigerians. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) through the nation's porous borders serves as a catalyst that fuels these clandestine activities. With the application of systems theory and failed states theory, the study empirically interrogates the impacts of small arms and light weapons proliferation on the human security situation of the residents of Guma local government area of Benue state, Nigeria. A cross-sectional research design was employed as one hundred (100) structured questionnaires were administered to the study's respondents who were selected through a simple random sampling technique while six (6) traditional chiefs were purposively sampled and interviewed. Data elicited from the respondents was analysed with the use of Descriptive statistics (Frequencies and Percentages) and inferential statistics (Simple Linear Regression and Pearson's Correlation) through Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS Version 21) while the interviews were transcribed, categorized, coded and thematically analysed. The findings revealed that unregulated and illegal use of small arms and light weapons is highly detrimental to the general well-being of individuals and a society at large. Respondents stated that while they suffer from the down-effects of arms proliferation in their community, the Nigerian government has not done much in addressing the situation. Hence the circle of arms proliferation widens as many of them are forced to use arms to personally protect themselves against threats. The study concluded by stating that a more holistic framework that first investigates the underlying issues that create demand for Small Arms and Light weapons should be addressed. The study recommends amongst others that in order to address the problem of arms proliferation as well as the issues associated with it, good governance should be reinforced such that the Nigerian government improves social functionality for its citizens who are exasperated by lack of good governance and state failure thus giving rise to violence and the illegal use of arms in achieving their goals.

Keywords: Arms proliferation, Border porosity, Human security, Light weapons, Small arms.