

NIGERIA QUARTERLY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

(January - March 2023)



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Quarterly Human Rights
Report
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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Civil Liberties	3
Right to Life	3
Freedom of Expression and the Press	7
Digital Rights	8
Political Rights and the 2023 General Elections	9
Socio-Economic Rights	16
Petrol Scarcity	16
Naira Re-design Policy	17
Education	19
Insecurity and Violent Conflict	21
Attacks on Security Agents	24
Sexual and Gender Based Violence	27
Conclusion	30
Recommendations	32
Appendix	34



Photo Credit: Amnesty International Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

In the complex landscape of human rights, Nigeria stands as a nation grappling with the multifaceted challenge of safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of its citizens. The protection of human rights is a critical facet of any thriving democracy, reflecting the commitment of a nation to uphold the dignity and well-being of its people.

Nigeria, as the most populous country in Africa, has made significant strides in its democratic journey, yet it faces persistent human rights concerns that demand scrutiny and evaluation.

This report contains human rights violations documented by Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) between January and March 2023. By exploring key thematic areas such as Civil Liberties, Socio-Economic rights, Insecurity and Violent Conflict, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of human rights protection in the country.

Amid recurrent human rights issues such as insecurity, the period saw several human rights violations, including circumstances that affected the economic and social rights of Nigerians. The poorly implemented Naira re-design and cashless policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria eroded the ability of individuals and business to carry out economic activities thus affecting basic needs and living conditions. This occasioned severe hardship on a large part of the Nigerian population, especially low income earners.

The general elections which took place between February and March 2023 introduced a specific dimension of human rights concern. As expected and experienced in countries across the world, there are several human rights concerns associated with highly anticipated events such as elections. The period leading up to Nigeria's general elections saw a rise in the incidence of hate speech along ethno-religious lines and violent attacks targeted at political actors, their campaigns and supporters. The elections were characterised by voter suppression and intimidation.

The trend of insecurity continued within the period under review. These manifested in the forms of violent attacks on communities particularly in Northern Nigeria, attacks on security personnel and security formations mostly in the South East and abduction of persons for ransom. The question of how insecurity has persisted, if not worsened in spite of increased allocation of public funds to security agencies, particularly the military to combat crime, remains.

Through this examination, we seek to contribute to the ongoing discourse on human rights in Nigeria, fostering awareness and dialogue that can lead to informed policy decisions and meaningful improvements in the protection of human rights for all Nigerian citizens.



Photo Credit: Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Civil liberties refer to the freedom of individuals to carry out their daily activities without inhibition and freely participate in community life within the ambits of prescribed laws. To a large extent, the protection of this freedom is the responsibility of the government. Civil liberties are enshrined as fundamental rights in Chapter 4 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution. Countries around the world continue to grapple with protection and respect for these very important rights and Nigeria is not an exception. As evidenced by this report, agents of government, whose responsibility it is to protect the rights of citizens are often the violators of these rights.

■ Right to Life

January 1, 2023, New Year's Day, saw two teenagers killed and another injured by gunfire from a policeman at a wedding party in Tudun Matawalle, Sabuwar Unguwa in Katsina State. According to the Police command in

the State, some of its officers were on a crime-bursting patrol when the ‘accident’ occurred.

On January 14, a 23-year-old fashion designer, Paul Arowolo never made it home following his encounter with policemen and a civilian accomplice who were unlawfully collecting money from motorists in the Ojuegba area of Lagos State. Arowolo’s crime was refusing to pay ‘toll’ to the security operatives in the process of earning a living with his father’s tricycle. He was consequently detained at the police station, where he sustained unexplained injuries that led to his death.

Policemen were reported to have invaded a 16-room residential building in Osun State at about 2:00 am on January 25, in search of a 28-year old fashion designer, Nurudeen Quadri. According to eyewitnesses, the officers broke into the building and tried to force entry into every room in the house in search of him. When he was eventually found, they gave him a chase as he fled for his life, shot him dead and took his body away. His young wife had to comb through hospitals at dawn to find her husband’s body. The Police claimed that he was an ex-convict.

On January 31, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stated that it would commence an investigation into a report that the Nigerian Army had been running a secret abortion programme since 2013 for which about 10,000 pregnancies have been aborted. The Commission on February 7, inaugurated a Special Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations in the Implementation of Counter Insurgency Operations in the North East. The Panel is headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Abdu Aboki.¹

¹ Nigerian Rights Commission panel to probe abortion allegations against military (2023) Reuters. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/nigerian-rights-commission-panel-probe-abortion-allegations-against-military-2023-02-01/> (Accessed: 31 March 2023).

It will be recalled that an international news agency, Reuters, had published a report accusing the Nigerian Army of carrying out about 10,000 forceful abortions on females rescued from Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West African province (ISWAP) without their consent.²

The Nigerian Air Force rained bombs on some herders from Nasarawa State who went to Makurdi, the Benue State capital to recover 1,250 cows impounded by the State Livestock Guards, claiming to have mistaken them for terrorists and killing about 27 herders instantly. The death toll from the incident later rose to 40, while doctors were reported to be battling to save the lives of four other persons injured in the air raid.³

Fifteen-year-old Pelumi Sulaimon was shot and killed by soldiers attached to ‘Operation MESA’ around Makoko, in the Yaba area of Lagos State on February 26. According to residents in the area, the soldiers were hired by political thugs to carry out a reprisal on their opponents in the community. The soldiers had opened fire, shooting indiscriminately in the area when a bullet hit Pelumi who was going to get drinks for his friends to celebrate his birthday. They thugs also shot and killed a tricycle operator, identified as Aloma, whom they mistook for one of their targets.

An unconfirmed number of persons were reported to have been killed when security operatives attached to the convoy of Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State clashed with a procession of members of the Islamic Shi’ite sect in Bakin Ruwa Area of Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, on March 16. In reaction to the commotion that ensued

2 Reports, S. (2022) Nigeria military ran secret mass abortion program in war on Boko Haram, Reuters. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/nigeria-military-abortions/> (Accessed: 01 April 2023).

3 Odeniyi, S. (2023) Accidental airstrikes: Innocent civilians pay deadly price as NAF Intelligence Wobbles, Punch Newspapers. Available at: <https://punchng.com/accidental-airstrikes-innocent-civilians-pay-deadly-price-as-naf-intelligence-wobbles/> (Accessed: 03 April 2023).

as the convoy tried to make its way through the procession, security men attached to the Governor opened fire on some youths who pelted them with stones, leading to the death of some persons in the vicinity.⁴

On March 20, a soldier shot and killed a commercial motorcycle operator and his passenger, a nursing mother and her baby, in Babanna community in Borgu Local Government Area of Niger State, for refusing to pay the bribe demanded by the soldier. The rider and his passenger were returning to their home in Benin Republic, after shopping at the Monday Babanna market.

In February 2023, allegations of extra-judicial killings and several other acts of torture against some Nigerian Police officers serving at Zone 13 Command, namely CSP Patrick Agazue, SP Nwode Nkeiruka and Inspector Harrison Akama emerged in the media. The Inspector General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba responded by stating that he had set up a panel to investigate the allegations against the three officers.⁵

Amid continued calls to hold erring security operatives to account, a High Court in Port Harcourt, Rivers State sentenced two ex-police officers formerly operatives of the defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) to death after finding them guilty of killing two persons held in their custody on allegation of stealing airtime recharge cards.⁶

4 Four feared killed as shi'ites clash with El-Rufai's convoy (2023) Daily Trust. Available at: <https://dailytrust.com/breaking-four-feared-killed-as-shiites-clash-with-el-rufais-convoy/> (Accessed: 03 April 2023).

5 Police to probe 'extrajudicial killings' by officers in anambra (2023) TheCable. Available at: https://www.thecable.ng/police-to-probe-extrajudicial-killings-by-officers-in-anambra#google_vignette (Accessed: 1 March 2023).

6 Court sentences two ex-sars officers to death by hanging (no date) Channels Television. Available at: <https://www.channelstv.com/2023/02/03/court-sentences-two-ex-sars-officers-to-death-by-hanging/> (Accessed: 30 March 2023).

■ Freedom of Expression and the Press

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) imposed a fine of N2 million each on two television stations, Arise News and TVC on February 3, for alleged breach of the National Broadcasting Code, in the lead up to the 2023 general elections. The Commission accused Arise TV of giving prominence to unfair contents while TVC was accused of allowing derogatory and unfair comments to be aired in its broadcast.

The arbitrary imposition of fine on media stations by the NBC in the absence of a process that constitutes fair hearing, continues to be a huge concern for the freedom of expression and of the press in Nigeria. This has prompted a call to action by PLAC legislative action to review the powers of the NBC.

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) imposed a fine of N5 million on Channels Television on allegation of breaking the broadcasting law in a programme with Dr Datti Baba-Ahmed, Labour Party Vice Presidential candidate.

This was contained in a letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the television station and dated March 27. According to the NBC, Dr Baba-Ahmed statement that it will be unconstitutional to swear in an elected president on May 29, 2023, because of election irregularities violated, was volatile and capable of inciting public disorder and therefore violated some sections of the Broadcasting Code.

Agba Jalingo, publisher of a Nigerian online news platform, Cross River Watch was arrested and charged to court on allegation of cyberstalking on March 27 and detained thereafter.⁷ The charge was in relation to an article he published about a relative of the Cross River State Governor,

⁷ Spicer, S. (2023) Nigerian journalist Agba Jalingo detained on cybercrime charges, Committee to Protect Journalists. Available at: <https://cpj.org/2023/03/nigerian-journalist-agba-jalingo-detained-on-cybercrime-charges/> (Accessed: 30 March 2023).

Ben Ayade. Jalingo who uses his media platform to hold his (Cross River) State Government accountable, has been arrested on several occasions on the orders of the State Government, detained for long periods, with frivolous charges preferred against him, for which he has never been diligently prosecuted to a reasonable conclusion.

PLAC issued a call to action for his unconditional release and for the charges him to be dropped, alongside other calls for his release by civil society actors. Soon after, he was granted bail and released from detention.

■ Digital Rights

Digital rights are becoming increasingly important with technological advancement and improved access to data. Technological innovation is a welcome development and has improved the freedom of expression and access to information. However, it has become equally important to ensure that the collection, transmission, use and storage of data and information are carried out responsibly, in a way that protects the privacy, rights and interests of all actors.

On January 25, Nigeria's Federal Executive Council approved a National Child Online Protection Policy and Strategy, aimed at protecting children from online content.⁸ This was done pursuant to the recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union of which Nigeria is a member. The Council also approved a Data Protection bill for Nigeria, to be transmitted to the National Assembly for passage.

Prior to the efforts towards the passage of a law for data protection for Nigeria, the guiding provision with respect to data protection was the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation 2019, a subsidiary legislation of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).

8 FEC approves Child Online Protection Policy (2023) TheCable. Available at: <https://www.thecable.ng/fec-approves-child-online-protection-policy> (Accessed: 07 February 2023).

■ Political Rights and the 2023 General Elections

Nigeria's 2023 general elections were scheduled to hold on February 25 for the Presidential and National Assembly elections and March 18 for the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections. The lead up to the 2023 general elections spurred mixed feelings and opinions, both of hope and desperation. With a new Electoral Act which was intended to lead to improvements in the electoral process, including the use of technology, expectations were high for what was projected to potentially be the most credible and inclusive election yet. This hope for fairness and credibility stirred immense interest in the elections from the Nigerian populace, particularly the youth. With the major contenders for the Office of President representing the country's major ethnic groups, their respective supporters campaigned massively in the belief that the innovations in the electoral process presented a somewhat level playing field with the possibility that any of the major contenders could emerge as President. However, the campaigns and political rallies were not without incidents, as ethnic and religious sentiments were sometimes taken too far, inciting violence in some cases.

A tweet by the Director of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council, Bayo Onanuga, warning a particular ethnic group not to interfere in politics in Lagos State, was among several religious and ethnic utterances made in the lead up to the elections.⁹

Following the conclusion of the Presidential and National Assembly elections on February 25, the Nigerian Human Rights Commission (NHRC) expressed concern over the rise in hate speech across the country, which it described as being capable of disrupting social, cultural and

⁹ Onanuga cautions Igbo against 'interfering' in Lagos politics, Vanguard News. Available at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/03/onanuga-cautions-igbo-against-interfering-in-lagos-politics/> (Accessed: 22 March 2023).

religious harmony, and affecting people's rights to association, assembly, movement, and the right to live in any part of the country.¹⁰

Also, a human rights organisation, Amnesty International in Nigeria noted the desperation of political actors during election campaigns, expressed through incitement of violence and attacks on campaign convoys and individuals.¹¹

The violent attacks witnessed before, during and after the 2023 general elections involving candidates, their supporters and political parties are not new to Nigeria. However, over the years, the approach of security agencies to election violence has not changed significantly, as there are still very few cases of prosecution of electoral offenders to serve as a deterrent to others. The desperation to win elections by any means possible and the 'winner takes it all' attitude in Nigerian politics fuel the use of violence as a tool to suppress political opponents and even voters.

In the lead up to the elections, politically motivated attacks were observed across the country, affecting establishments and officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security officials and establishments, as well as the general public.

On January 14, three persons were killed in an attack at the residence of Ikenga Ugochinyere-Imo in Umukegwu community in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State. He is the spokesman of the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) and candidate of the opposition People's

10 National Human Rights Commission expresses concern over use of hate speech across Nigeria Channels Television. Available at: <https://www.channelstv.com/2023/03/17/national-human-rights-commission-expresses-concern-over-use-of-hate-speech-across-nigeria/> (Accessed: 07 April 2023).

11 Nigeria: Authorities must uphold human rights ahead of elections (2023) Amnesty International. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/02/nigeria-authorities-must-uphold-human-rights-ahead-of-elections/> (Accessed: 22 March 2023).

Democratic Party (PDP) in the State, for the Ideato North and South Federal Constituency election. Some vehicles and campaign materials within the premises were also set ablaze.

Two people have been reported killed and many others injured from a clash between supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ikire, Osun State on January 24. The clash was as a result of the two major senatorial candidates of in Osun West Senatorial District fixing their campaign rallies in Ikere for the same day. One of the candidates was said to have led thugs to the venue of his rival's rally, where they began to shoot sporadically

In the lead up to the Presidential and National Assembly elections, thugs attacked supporters of the Labour Party at the party's Presidential campaign rally held on February 11 at the Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos State.

Gunmen bombed the INEC office in Ojoto Community, Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State. All furniture and other items including non-sensitive materials delivered for the 2023 general elections were destroyed. These items include 729 ballot boxes, 243 voting cubicles, 256 election bags, 11 megaphones, one electric power generator and large quantities of indelible ink and liquid gum. The Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs) stored in a fireproof cabinet in the Commission's office were not affected during the attack. The gunmen also attacked a Police divisional headquarters in Nnobi, another community in the area. It was gathered that a 16-year-old boy was killed by the gunmen, while a 15-year-old girl sustained a gunshot injury during the attack on the police facility.

In the midst of preparations for the elections, gunmen attacked Ukpok High School, venue of a training organised by INEC for election ad-hoc staff in Nnewi South Local Government Area, Anambra State on February

16. Those present at the training include INEC staff, members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), officials of government ministries, parastatals and agencies, as well as university students. The attack was however quelled by the Police.

Gunmen killed the Labour Party (LP) senatorial candidate for Enugu East District, Oyibo Chukwu in Amechi Awkunanaw, a community in Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State. He was killed on Wednesday, 22nd February alongside five supporters who were inside his vehicle. The killing came barely three days to the senatorial election which was scheduled to be held on Saturday, 25 February.

At least four people were reported to have been killed on February 23 after a clash between supporters of the APC and the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP) in Kano State. According to witnesses, the clash occurred along the Zaria expressway when supporters of the NNPP Presidential Candidate, Rabiu Kwankwaso, gathered to welcome him as he made his way to a rally within Kano metropolis. The Police command in the State stated that it arrested 85 suspects in connection to the clash.

Barely 24 hours to the Presidential and National Assembly elections, the Kogi State Police Command reported the arrest of some construction workers who were caught destroying roads leading to Kogi Central Senatorial District. The campaign organisation of the PDP Kogi Central senatorial candidate, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan raised alarm that the act was to prevent the Independent National Electoral Commission officials and other stakeholders from accessing the district for the elections. However, the State government responded by explaining that the destruction of the roads was done to prevent terrorists from accessing that section of the State due to recent criminal activities.

Following the conclusion of the Presidential and National Assembly elections, some youths in Lagos State came out in protest over their inability to cast their votes at the elections. They claimed to have been disenfranchised because no INEC official showed up at their polling units during the elections.

These young people were not the only ones who felt disenfranchised. It would appear that while Lagos State was in the limelight before, during and after the elections due to rife reports of voter suppression and disenfranchisement, in several other States, there were complaints of voter intimidation and suppression. Some of these States include Rivers, Imo, Ebonyi and Bayelsa States.¹²

On February 27, thugs invaded the headquarters of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, the collation centre for the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections. In the course of collation of results for the Plateau North Senatorial district election, the thugs chased the INEC officials away before they could announce the election results. However, a policeman intervened and took the result sheet away.

There was heavy shooting at the Nnewi North Local Government secretariat, Anambra State on February 26 as some candidates stormed the area in an attempt to snatch ballot boxes. The secretariat served as a collation centre for the Anambra South Senatorial District election, which had three top contenders in the race. Although no life was lost in the incident, the shooting caused journalists, party supporters and even INEC officials to scamper for safety.

12 Report, A. (2023) General elections: NHRC lists states with high voter suppression, rights violations in New report, Premium Times Nigeria. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/pe73um3j> (Accessed: 07 April 2023).

A Chief Magistrate Court sitting in Bauchi State on February 28, remanded Haruna Mohammed, publisher of WikkiTimes, an online media outfit in the State, over allegations of inciting disturbance of public peace to blackmail the State Governor, Bala Mohammed. He was accused of hiring some women to incite disturbance of public peace by instigating them to make utterances that would prejudice the peace and wellbeing of the voters at a polling unit in Duguri ward of Alkaleri Local Government Area of the State and of blackmailing the Governor. The journalist was arrested in Duguri, the Governor's hometown on Saturday, February 25 while covering the Presidential and National Assembly elections and was taken to the Police Criminal Investigation Department before his arraignment in court on February 28.

The Labour Party candidate for the Ahoada West State Constituency for the Rivers State House Assembly election, Boma Kasim-Agida was kidnapped by gunmen on his way back from a political rally in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State on Tuesday, March 7. Although he was later released, Agida believes that the postponement of the Governorship and House of Assembly elections from March 11 to March 18, played a role in his release.

Chukwudi Ogbonna, the Accord Party (AP) candidate for the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni State Constituency seat in the Rivers State House of Assembly election was abducted by gunmen on Monday, March 13.

Gunmen kidnapped Amadi Osaronu, Secretary of the APC in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State on March 15. The gunmen dressed in police uniforms took him away from his residence in Aluu, Ikwerre LGA.

A member of the People’s Democratic party (PDP) identified as Gani Gele was shot dead on March 18, the day of the governorship elections by a member of the opposition APC in the State at polling unit 5, Isedo 1, Oloponda ward 2, in Ila-Orangun during the collation of results of the House of Assembly election in the ward. The incident occurred when a disagreement ensued between party members who traded words on ballot box placement and snatching of ballot boxes at various polling units in the town. This degenerated and led to the death of the PDP member after being violently attacked by a member of the APC.

The National Human Rights Commission in its February edition of the Review Forum of Human Rights and the 2023 Elections, noted that politically motivated killings took place in Anambra, Enugu and Kaduna States, while the right to peaceful assembly was violated in Bauchi, Kano and Lagos States. The Commission also noted that the right to freedom of association was violated in Kano, Lagos and Rivers States while the right to dignity of human person was violated in Kogi, Lagos and Nasarawa States in the period of the Presidential and National Assembly elections.¹³

Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission in a press conference put the number of election-related deaths at 88, with 75 INEC facilities attacked, 130 attacks by unknown gunmen and bandits, and six law enforcement agents killed.¹⁴

13 NHRC warns against political killings. Available at: <https://www.nhrc.nigeriarights.gov.ng/nhrc-media/news-and-events/416-nhrc-warns-against-political-killings-says-voter-apathy-on-account-of-violence-will-endanger-democracy.html> (Accessed: 23 March 2023).

14 NHRC: Nigeria recorded 88 election-linked deaths in March (2023) TheCable. Available at: <https://www.thecable.ng/nhrc-nigeria-recorded-88-election-linked-deaths-in-march> (Accessed: 4 April 2023).



Photo Credit: The Guardian Nigeria

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Citizens' access to decent living conditions were generally hampered by a few widespread occurrences in the quarter under review.

■ **Petrol Scarcity**

The scarcity of petroleum products that was frequently experienced in 2022, continued in the first quarter of 2023. Fuel stations were swamped with long queues of vehicles waiting their turns to purchase petrol. The prices of other petroleum products such as diesel, kerosene and aviation fuel continued to soar. Consequently, the prices of goods and services increased. The burden of high production costs on entrepreneurs and high retail prices on consumers significantly raised the cost of living.

■ **Naira Re-design Policy**

In October 2022, the Central Bank of Nigeria announced that it would be redesigning the N200, N500 and N1,000 denominations of the naira. It gave January 31, 2023 as deadline for the use of the specified currency notes for transactions, urging that these notes be deposited in commercial banks before the deadline. It further introduced a policy to peg cash withdrawal limits at N100,000 for individuals and N500,000 for corporate organisations, in order to restrict circulation of cash. However, due to public outcry for an extension of time and the unavailability of the newly redesigned notes to replace the old ones, the CBN extended the deadline for the use of the old notes to February 10.

Towards this deadline, the Central Bank stated that it had withdrawn over N2 trillion from circulation. What it did not tell Nigerians was how much of the new notes it printed. Withdrawal of the old notes and scarcity of the new notes generated a lot of chaos and confusion.

State governments approached the Supreme Court to halt the implementation of the Naira re-design policy. However, while the matter was being heard, State governments who were party to this suit threatened disciplinary measures against businesses in their States that rejected old notes for transactions.

The scarcity of Naira notes occasioned severe hardship for individuals and businesses across Nigeria, where low income and daily wage earners account for a significant portion of the population. As the deadline on the use of old notes drew near, traders and business owners began to reject these notes for transactions. Citizens were forced to struggle, squabble and suffer to lay their hands on the new notes by standing on queues for long hours in the banks for very little amounts of money and leaving with nothing when the cash got exhausted. President Muhammadu Buhari's

attempt to intervene through a directive that old N200 notes should be put into circulation for a period of 60 days, did not make much of a difference as a lot of people were still reluctant to accept them, in addition to the notes being hardly available.

While the CBN may have been pursuing an attempt to reduce the use of cash in the country, it failed to consider that several remote parts of the country have no bank operation in place. Low earning citizens and the average person prefer to transact in cash. Coupled with this, the electronic banking platforms experienced severe challenges, as transactions constantly failed. Citizens using these platforms found that monies authorised for transfers or withdrawals through Point of Sale (POS) machines and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) got missing in the pipeline. Many citizens found it difficult to make transactions to meet their essential needs, exacerbating already existing challenges posed by scarcity of petrol and shortages of electricity supply.

The scarcity also raised questions for the availability of cash for INEC to carry out some logistics arrangement in preparation for the 2023 general elections.

The situation elicited reactions from citizens in some parts of the country. There were protests in Edo, Delta, Rivers, Ondo and Oyo States on February 15, with protesters mounting roadblocks on major roads and vandalising ATMs.¹⁵ A similar protest occurred in Ogun State on February 20 with two bank buildings razed in the process.¹⁶

15 Burnt ATM, blocked roads -- protests erupt nationwide over naira scarcity (2023) TheCable. Available at: <https://www.thecable.ng/burnt-bank-atm-blocked-roads-violent-protests-erupt-nationwide-over-naira-scarcity> (Accessed: 11 October 2023).

16 Akinlotan, O. (2023) Naira scarcity: Protesters set two banks ablaze in Ogun, Premium Times Nigeria. Available at: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/583011-just-in-naira-scarcity-protesters-set-two-banks-ablaze-in-ogun.html#lnlmc75kiv412bx4kg> (Accessed: March 11 2023).

The Supreme Court eventually ruled that the Naira redesign policy violated the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, as it was made unilaterally by the President without consultation with the National Council of States and that it impeded the functions of State governments and the fundamental rights of Nigerian citizens. It also held that the policy was made without sufficient notice which is required by the Central Bank Act 2007. The court therefore ordered that the old versions of the N200, N500 and N1,000 notes should remain in circulation as legal tender, alongside the new notes until December 31, 2023.

The Naira re-design policy lacked proper planning and implementation and posed more problems for the generality of people.

■ Education

In the early part of 2023, the National Assembly transmitted several Constitution alteration bills to the President for assent, having been adopted by at least 24 State Houses of Assembly, as required by law. One of these bills was to make the right to education a fundamental right under Chapter 4 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution. It however did not gain Presidential Assent.

The fifth episode of PLAC's human rights podcast on the topic, 'Protecting the Right to Education in Nigeria' provided insight into challenges facing the education system in Nigeria. This production spread more awareness on a 2017 court judgment which declared free and compulsory basic education as an enforceable right. The Nigerian Constitution defines education as an objective for government to aspire to fulfil and not an actionable right. In this judgment, the court defined education as an enforceable right by virtue of the enactment of the Universal Basic Education Act, which provides for 9 years of free and compulsory basic education.

PLAC subsequently issued a call-to-action, asking citizens to call on the National Assembly Human Rights Committees to amend Nigeria’s Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act, which provides for nine years of free and compulsory basic education for every child, to provide for an additional three years of free senior secondary education, to improve access to education for Nigerian children.



Photo Credit: Premium Times Nigeria

INSECURITY AND VIOLENT CONFLICT

Insecurity remains a longstanding problem in Nigeria which needs to be addressed strategically. Terrorism and incessant violent attacks by armed and unidentified non-state actors are rife in various parts of the country and no longer limited to the northern part of Nigeria. In the South East of Nigeria, security agencies attribute some attacks to the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), although the group has continued to deny responsibility for these attacks. However, it appears that several other armed groups are operating within the region, even for pecuniary gains. In the lead up to the 2023 general elections, there were claims that some of the attacks in the South East were to prevent elections from holding in the region.

On January 9, the President of Igueben Area Customary Court, Precious Aigbonoga, was abducted by gunmen around Ugoneki axis on her way to Court in Igueben Local Government Area (LGA) of Edo State. She was however rescued by a joint military-police team few days later.

Gunmen killed four persons on Nzomiwu Street in Eziani community, Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State on January 10. They invaded the area and shot indiscriminately into the air, killing three males and a female, who was said to be pregnant. The reason for the attack could not be ascertained.

Gunmen attacked and set ablaze, the secretariat of Ihiala LGA in Anambra State. They were said to have invaded the secretariat early in the day on January 1, setting five buildings in the complex ablaze with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and petrol bombs and killing three vigilante operatives who were guarding the complex. One of the attackers was killed when security operatives, who responded to a distress call, engaged them in a fire fight.

Terrorists attacked the New Life for All Church in Jan-Tsauni, Gidan Haruna community in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State on January 15. The terrorists riding on motorcycles invaded the church, kidnapped worshippers and left the pastor with injuries. Some of the abducted worshippers were able to escape.

In the early hours of January 15, terrorists set ablaze a Catholic priest, Isaac Achi in his residence in the Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. Reverend Father Achi was attached to St. Peters and Paul Catholic Church, Kafin-Koro, Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. A colleague of the Reverend Father identified as Father Collins was shot in the shoulder while trying to escape from the scene. Days after the death of the priest, the police tried to disperse people who had gathered to pray and peacefully protest the death of the priest. This resulted to aggrieved women and youth razing the Kafin-koro Police Divisional Office.

Terrorists killed three persons and abducted three others in the Kuta area of Niger State on January 23, when they attacked about seven communities in the State. They were also said to have emptied the food barns of the villagers and rustled cattle in large numbers.

Gunmen abducted the District Head of Chawai in Kauru Local Government of Kaduna State, Chief Joshua Ahmadu on January 24 at his residence in the State.

On February 2, gunmen murdered Nnaemeka Ugboma, Chairman of the Ejemekwuru Customary Court in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, while he presided over a court session. This brought the court session to an abrupt end as lawyers, court staff and litigants scampered for safety.

On February 14, gunmen kidnapped 15 members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Anambra State. The corps members who had just completed their three-week orientation programme in Imo State and were travelling to Lagos were abducted at a filling station in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State. The Police in Anambra State however rescued all 15 corps members.

Gunmen suspected to be herders invaded three communities in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State in the early hours of February 26 and killed 13 people.

Gunmen killed the village head of Maigari in Rimin Gado Local Government Area of Kano State, Alhaji Dahiru Abba in the early hours of Sunday, March 5.

About 50 persons have been feared killed during a four-day attack by suspected herdsmen who invaded some communities in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. The affected communities include Adam, Iyarinwa, Abamde Ityuluv, Waya Boagundu, Agura Ayaga and Azege areas. According to the immediate past Chairman of the LGA, Tertsua Yarkbewan, over 50 people were killed during the attacks by suspected herdsmen.

Some terrorists have reportedly attacked Karimbu-Kahugu Community in the Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The terrorists attacked the residence of a Baptist Church pastor and shot sporadically, killing the pastor's son who was hiding in the ceiling. They were reported to have abducted the pastor's wife and three others.

Bandits abducted 56 farmers on March 14 in Adunu, Kwagana and adjoining communities in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. The abductees included women and children. They later demanded N200 million as ransom for their release.

■ **Attacks on Security Agents**

On Monday, January 9, bandits killed seven personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and six vigilantes attached to them, in a local mining site in Manini in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Gunmen killed a police officer and a vigilante operative in Obosi community, Idemili North LGA of Anambra State, on February 2. The gunmen were said to have attacked a police facility used by the anti-cult operatives, shooting sporadically and threw petrol bombs into the station. Police operatives repelled the attack and recovered explosive devices and other dangerous materials from the attackers.

Gunmen attacked Abagana Divisional Police Headquarters in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State on February 3. The gunmen were said to have fired several gunshots during the attack, before setting the police facility ablaze. Fire fighters in the State responded quickly to put out the fire. Two vigilante operatives patrolling the community were killed by the gunmen during the attack, while many others sustained injuries.

Three Police officers attached to the Delta State Government House were ambushed and killed in Anambra State on their way to Abia State, on official duty on February 10. The officers were Inspectors Lucky Aleh, Celestine Nwadiokwu and Jude Obuh, who were attached to the Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit in the Delta State Government House, Asaba.

Gunmen attacked Ogidi Police Divisional Headquarters in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State on February 13. However, the attack was foiled by police operatives on duty and one of the gunmen was killed.

Three Police officers were killed, on February 18, when gunmen bombed Ogidi Police Divisional Headquarters in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria. The gunmen were said to have invaded the police facility in large numbers with explosive devices.

One police officer and five gunmen died on February 19, in a gun duel at a police station at Nkwelle Ezunaka, Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State. Some vehicles at the police station were also set ablaze by the gunmen.

Bandits in large numbers attacked the Maru Police Division in Zamfara State. In an attempt to repel the attack, the Divisional Police Officer, SP Kazeem Raheem and an Inspector attached to the Division, Inspector Rabi'u Umar were killed.

Two police officers were killed while two others were wounded by operatives of the Nigerian Army following a confrontation between police and army personnel in Taraba State on Monday, March 20. The military in a show of force, infiltrated the Police Headquarters in the State and opened fire, to retaliate an altercation between one of its personnel and a police officer in the area.

Gunmen killed three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) at Ekeisu market in Obiangwu Community in the Ngor Okpala Local Government Area of Imo State in the early hours of Monday, March 27.



Photo Credit: News Central TV

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Cases of sexual and gender based violence highlighted below are in no way exhaustive of offences of this nature that have taken place in Nigeria during the quarter under review. It was also observed that law enforcement agencies intervened in the cases reported by arresting and charging suspects to court.

It is also important that trial of sexual and domestic violence cases appear to be swift in some parts of the country and this is occasioned by the establishment of separate special courts dedicated to adjudication of offences of this nature.

An Ikeja Magistrate Court sitting at Ogba, Lagos State remanded a 36-year-old man at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre on allegation of raping his 18-year-old daughter inside his shop in the Ikotun area of the State on January 4, 2023.

A 26-year-old man was arrested by detectives of the Family Support Unit, Surulere Police Division on allegations of defiling his neighbour's eight-year-old girl on January 18 at Ojuelegba, Surulere area of Lagos State.

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Oyo State arrested a man in Ibadan for defiling his 11-year-old daughter in January 2023.

In January 2023, in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, a young lady was accosted by three security guards, who stole her mobile phone, took turns to rape her, as well as forced her to transfer money into a bank account.

A 40-year old man was reported to have defiled a 15-year old girl in the Shasha area of Lagos State on February 19. he was remanded in the Kirikiri Correctional Centre by a Magistrate Court in Ikeja, Lagos.

An Akwa Ibom State High Court in Okoita, Ibiono Local Government Area sentenced Anwana Peter Essien, to 21 years in prison for raping his 10 year-old step-daughter. The 37 year-old man was said to have committed the offence when his step-daughter came to his residence in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, for a holiday.

The Gombe Police command arrested a 38-year-old teacher on March 7 for allegedly defiling four pupils aged 8, 9, 12 and 14, respectively between January and March 2023. The Police spokesperson in the State stated that the four girls were sisters learning in an Islamic school where the suspect works.

The Gombe State Police command also stated that three suspects were arrested for defiling three sisters aged 12, 15 and 17, respectively. The suspects are men aged 30, 40 and 50, respectively.

On March 27, a 19-year old lady was before a Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja, the Lagos State capital to narrate her ordeal at the hands of a youth pastor, who raped her over the period of four years that she lived with him and his wife, who was her guardian.

Other cases of gender based violence are rife. One of such of cases was the predicament of a 72-year-old woman in Umunze, in the Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State who was attacked by her domestic worker, alongside two others in her residence on March 2. The attackers cut some of her body parts such as fingers, nipples, ears for money ritual purposes. Although she was rescued and taken to the hospital for treatment, she eventually lost her life.¹⁷

On March 2, a man identified as Ikechukwu Obiora strangled his pregnant wife to death over an altercation at their residence in Ezi-Ogwugwu, Otolo Nnewi in Nnewi North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

17 Obianeri, I. (2023) Domestic worker, others cut septuagenarian's genitals, Punch Newspapers. Available at: <https://punchng.com/domestic-worker-others-cut-septuagenarians-genitals/> (Accessed: 4 April 2023).



Photo Credit: Nigeria Amnesty International

CONCLUSION

This report indicates the continued challenge that human rights face in Nigeria. The incidents outlined here show clearly a continuation of abuse of the rights of citizens and a general pattern of Nigeria's poor human rights conditions. The culture of respect for human rights in Nigeria and within its institutions is continuing to recede and the country faces serious challenges with respecting human rights.

The Naira re-design policy, by the CBN came very close to the elections and was ill-timed, poorly planned and implemented. The Federal Government has to take care to ensure that its policies promote the welfare of the people that it serves. The Federal Government has to find a lasting solution to the long-standing issue of the scarcity of petroleum products.

Nigeria's keenly contested 2023 general elections exposed high levels of ethnic and religious intolerance exhibited in both subtle and aggressive means, which in some ways, affected people's ability to freely choose their

preferred leaders. Politicians and political parties have a huge responsibility to see that campaigns are issue-based and that elections are an opportunity for people to elect leaders of their choice, with all parties accepting the outcome of the elections or using the right mechanism to challenge the outcome of elections. Until political actors and their supporters adopt a civilized approach to elections, the issue of electoral violence may persist. Also, the government has to adopt a balanced approach to address electoral violence, which avoids militarisation of elections and ensures the prosecution of electoral offenders.



Photo Credit: Maytree

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Insecurity has manifested in a lot of ways ranging from terrorism, banditry, insurgency, on to abuse of human rights by persons and institutions. A review of current security practices and policies is imperative in order to achieve government's confident control of the security situation in the country.
- ii. Religious, tribal and sectarian divisions is continuing to escalate. There is an important need for governments across the country to introduce proactive measures to tackle these problems and reduce violent conflict.
- iii. Institutions of government responsible for regulatory activities that impact on human rights need reorientation in order to understand that their roles should not be to seek to impinge on the rights of citizens and private organisations. The National Broadcasting Commission

particularly needs to understand constitutionally recognised rights of free expression and speech. This is also an important right needed to be understood by other agencies of government. Agencies of government, including the legislature need re-orientation to function in ways that help them to recognise the importance for respect for human rights and the rule of law.

- iv. Continued monitoring of the human rights situation in the country is key to promoting the rights of citizens. PLAC and other human rights organisations working to promote respect for human rights and rule of law in Nigeria, need to be encouraged to keep up the effectiveness of their work.



APPENDIX

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

JANUARY 2023

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
7th January 2023	Train passengers	Herdsmen armed with rifles attacked the train station at Igueben, Edo State and kidnapped unspecified number of passengers who were waiting to board the train to Warri. The kidnappers who shot sporadically into the air before kidnapping some passengers left some persons with bullet wounds.	Armed herdsmen	bit.ly/3q3dgK9 , bit.ly/3ONZq8P , bit.ly/3Mp1Oji
7th January 2023	Three Nigerian Teenagers	A 9-year old boy was killed and a teenager injured by gunshots by Policeman at a wedding party in Tudun Matawalle, Sabuwar Unguwa in Katsina State, on 1st January. According to the Police in the State, officers were on a crime-bursting patrol when the accident occurred.	Nigeria Police	bit.ly/43jiD5Y , bit.ly/41UtSRj , bit.ly/3Wrs2pP
9th January 2023	President of an Area Customary Court	On January 9, the President of Igueben Area Customary Court, Mrs Precious Aigbonoga, was abducted by gunmen around Ugoneki axis on her way to Court in Igueben Local Government Area (LGA) of Edo State. She was however rescued by a joint military-police team after a few days.	Gunmen	bit.ly/3BJiXiS , bit.ly/43edT1A , bit.ly/3Wsy6Pe , bit.ly/3Ish0eb
10th January 2023	Personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and six vigilantes	On Monday, January 9, bandits killed seven personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and six vigilantes attached to them, in a local mining site in Manini in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.	Bandits	tinyurl.com/2tu-aww5k , tinyurl.com/ykpu5ec8

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
11th January 2023	Three men and one woman	<p>Gunmen killed four persons on Nzom-iwu Street in Eziani community, Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State on January 10.</p> <p>They invaded the area and shot indiscriminately into the air, thereby killing three males and a female, who was said to be pregnant. The reason for the attack could not be ascertained.</p>	Gunmen	bit.ly/3q4WemI
12th January 2023	Three Vigilante Operatives	<p>Gunmen attacked and set ablaze, the secretariat of Ihiala LGA in Anambra State. They were said to have invaded the secretariat early in the day on January 12, setting five buildings in the complex ablaze with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and petrol bombs. and killing three vigilante operatives who were guarding the complex.</p> <p>One of the attackers was killed when security operatives, who responded to a distress call, engaged them in a firefight.</p>	Gunmen	bit.ly/3IvP9tM , bit.ly/3IyXmNP , bit.ly/3Mufv0m
14th January 2023	Three Persons	<p>Three persons were killed in an attack on the country home of the spokesman of the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP), Ikenga Ugochinyere-Imo in Umukegwu community, Akokwa, Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State, on January 14. Ugochinyere-Imo is the candidate of the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the State, for the Ideato North and South Federal Constituency</p>	Gunmen	bit.ly/42OE2dx , bit.ly/3BN1m9z , bit.ly/41ZFP8u

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		election. Some vehicles and campaign materials within the premises were also set ablaze.		
15th and 17th January 2023	Two Catholic Priests	In the early hours of January 15, terrorists set ablaze a Catholic priest, Isaac Achi in his residence in the Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. Mr Achi was attached to St. Peters and Paul Catholic Church, Kafin-Koro, Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. A colleague of the Reverend Father identified as Father Collins was equally shot in the shoulder while trying to escape from the scene.	Terrorists	bit.ly/3odXjjK , bit.ly/3Oxglqq
15th January 2023	Christian Worshippers	Terrorists attacked the New Life For All Church in Jan-Tsauni, Gidan Haruna community in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State on January 15. The terrorists riding on motorcycles invaded the church at Dan-Tsauni Gidan Haruna Community when worshippers were in church, kidnapped worshippers and left the church pastor with injuries. Following the death of the priest, aggrieved women and youth burnt down the Kafin-koro Police Divisional Office. This occurred when the Police tried to disperse people who had gathered to peacefully protest the death of the priest.	Terrorists	bit.ly/45h2jEV , bit.ly/42UXH5N , bit.ly/3q0AbFP , bit.ly/3MP1H1K

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
21st January 2023	8-year old girl	A 26-year-old man was arrested by detectives of the Family Support Unit, Surulere Police Division on allegations of defiling his neighbour's eight-year-old girl on January 18 at Ojuelegba, Surulere area of Lagos State.	26-year old man	bit.ly/43jGKlk
24th January 2023	Residents of Niger State	Terrorists killed three persons and abducted three others in the Kuta area of Niger State on January 23, when they attacked about seven communities in the State. They were also said to have emptied the food barns of the villagers and rustled cattle in large numbers.	Terrorists	bit.ly/43i0vJT
24th January 2023	11-year old girl	In a statement on January 24, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Oyo State announced that it arrested a man in Ibadan for defiling his 11-year-old daughter.	33-year old man	bit.ly/43gbkw6
25th January 2023	Political party members	Two people have been reported killed and many others injured from a clash between supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ikire, Osun State on January 24. The clash was as a result of the two major senatorial candidates of in Osun West Senatorial District fixing their campaign rallies in Ikere for the same day. One of the candidates was said to have led thugs to the venue of his rival's rally, where they began to shoot sporadically.	Political thugs	tinyurl.com/2p84rpca

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
26th January 2023	Community Leader	Gunmen abducted the District Head of Chawai in Kauru Local Government of Kaduna State, Chief Joshua Ahmadu on January 24 at his residence in the State.	Gunmen	bit.ly/3MrO6ML , bit.ly/3BSjiQ4
26th January 2023	Fashion Designer, Nurudeen Quadri	Policemen were reported to have invaded the residence of a 28-year old fashion designer in Osun State at about 2:00 am January 25, and shot him dead. According to eyewitnesses, the officers broke into the 16-room building where Nurudeen Quadri lived and were trying to force entry into every room in the house while looking for Quadri. His young wife had to comb hospitals by dawn, to find her husband's body. The Police claim he was an ex-convict.	Nigeria Police	bit.ly/42YLZHe , bit.ly/45p6PRO
27th January 2023	Nigerian citizen, Arowole Paul	A 23-year-old man, Paul Arowole, was beaten to death by two Policemen attached to Area 'C' Surulere and a civilian accomplice in the Ojuelegba area of Lagos State. The deceased, a fashion designer, was said to have taken his father's tricycle and the family's only means of livelihood to work on January 14. Arowolo resisted the Police personnel who tried to collect 'toll' from him. He was said to have been harassed by the Police and taken to the station but never made it back home.	Nigeria Police	bit.ly/3MO48Sv

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
31st January 2023	A Nigerian Woman	In Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, a young lady was accosted by three security guards, who stole her mobile phone, took turns to rape her, as well as force her to transfer money into a bank account.	Three security guards	tinyurl.com/22k-fshux

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

FEBRUARY 2023

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
1st February 2023	Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Nigeria Police, a 16-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl	Gunmen bombed an office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Ojoto Community, Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State. All furniture and other items including non-sensitive materials recently delivered for the 2023 general elections were destroyed. These items include 729 ballot boxes, 243 voting cubicles, 256 election bags, 11 mega phones, one electric power generator and large quantities of indelible ink and liquid gum. The Permanent Voters' Cards kept in the Commission's fireproof cabinet were not affected during the attack. The gunmen also attacked a Police Divisional Headquarters in Nnobi, another community in the area. It was gathered that a 16-year-old boy was killed by the gunmen while a 15-year-old girl sustained a gunshot injury during the attack on the police facility.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/3fn4r927, tinyurl.com/mr35mnhe, tinyurl.com/4z4e384n
2nd February 2023	Three Police Officers, three women and two children	Gunmen in Benue State killed eight people, including a Divisional Police Officer, two other Police officers, two children and three women. Police in Benue State responded to a distress call after gunmen blocked the Markudi-Naka road, forcing travellers to flee.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/63pehmk

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
3rd February 2023	A Customary Court Chairman	On February 2, gunmen murdered Nnaemeka Ugboma, Chairman of the Ejemekwuru Customary Court in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, while he presided over a court session. This brought the session to an abrupt end as lawyers, court staff and litigants scampered for safety.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/53hkshwt, tinyurl.com/wseabkd7, tinyurl.com/wseabkd7
3rd February 2023	Television Stations	The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) imposed a fine of N2 million each on Arise News and TVC on February 3, for alleged breach of national broadcasting codes in the countdown to the 2023 general election. It accused TVC News of allowing derogatory and unfair comments to be broadcast on its station. It accused Arise TV of giving prominence to unfair contents.	National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)	tinyurl.com/36z-mjdp7, tinyurl.com/2fxd27nk
3rd February 2023	A Police Officer and a vigilante operative	Gunmen killed a police officer and a vigilante operative in Obosi community, Idemili North LGA of Anambra State, on February 2. The gunmen were said to have attacked a police facility used by the Anti-cult operatives, shooting sporadically and threw petrol bombs in the station. Police operatives repelled the attack and recovered unexploded explosives and other dangerous materials from the attackers.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/mukkheuh, tinyurl.com/3kh5farz

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
5th February 2023	Nigeria Police and Two vigilante operatives	Gunmen attacked Abagana Divisional Police Headquarters in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State on February 3. The gunmen were said to have fired several gunshots during the attack, before setting the police facility ablaze. Fire fighters in the State responded quickly and put off the fire. Two vigilante operatives patrolling the community were killed by the gunmen during the attack, while many others sustained injuries.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/2yxrx5d9
1st and 7th February 2023	Female survivors of terrorist groups	On January 31, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stated that it would commence an investigation into a report that the Nigerian Army had been running a secret abortion programme. Forceful abortions were alleged to have been performed on females rescued from Boko Karam and the Islamic State in West African province (ISWAP), without their consent since at least 2013, with about 10,000 pregnancies aborted. The Commission on February 7, inaugurated a Special Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations in the Implementation of Counter Insurgency Operations in the North East. The Panel is headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Abdu Aboki.	Nigerian Army	tinyurl.com/4r82t7n6, tinyurl.com/4ke-hb3y8, tinyurl.com/5n7ed8jn, tinyurl.com/bde9ac8b

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
11th February 2023	Three Police Officers	Three Police officers attached to the Delta State Government House were ambushed and killed in Anambra State on their way to Abia State, on official duty on February 10. The officers were Inspectors Lucky Aleh, Celestine Nwadiokwu and Jude Obuh, who were attached to the Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit in the Delta State Government House, Asaba.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/bd-fh6huv , tinyurl.com/yc3rkwkb , tinyurl.com/5n-6n5fmv
11th February 2023	Supporters of the Labour Party	In the lead up to Nigeria's 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections, thugs attacked supporters of the Labour Party at the party's campaign rally held on February 11 at the Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos State for its Presidential candidate, Peter Obi.	Thugs	tinyurl.com/bd-fke8nv , tinyurl.com/3hkpr27d
13th February 2023	Nigeria Police	"Gunmen attacked Ogidi Police Divisional Headquarters in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State on February 13. However, the attack was foiled by police operatives on duty and one of the gunmen were killed."	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/575m6nmc
15th February 2023	15 members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)	Gunmen on February 14, kidnapped 15 members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Anambra State. The corps members were abducted by the hoodlums at a filling station in Ihiala, in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State. The corps members had just completed their three-week orientation programme in Imo State, and were travelling to Lagos when they were	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/2cwr7y5n , tinyurl.com/yft4hyf3

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		abducted. The Police in Anambra State however rescued all 15 corps members.		
17th February 2023	Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	Gunmen on February 16, attacked Ukpok High School, venue of a training by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Nnewi South Local Government Area, Anambra State. This training was being conducted ahead of the elections. Those involved in the training include INEC staff, members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), officials of government ministries, parastatals and agencies, as well as university students. The attack was however, quelled by the Police.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/ydwbwvj, tinyurl.com/3shbyav8, tinyurl.com/2hbxhxxd
18th February 2023	Political party supporters	Three persons were killed in a clash between members and supporters of the two major political parties, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Osun East Senatorial District of Osun state.	Political thugs	tinyurl.com/zes6rhkj
18th February 2023	Three Police Officers	Three Police officers were killed, on February 18, when gunmen bombed Ogidi Police Divisional Headquarters in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria's South-East. The gunmen were said to have invaded the police facility in large numbers with explosives devices.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/2a3rh8va

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
19th February 2023	A Police operative	Five gunmen and one police officer died on February 19, in a gun duel in a police station at Nkwelle Ezunaka, Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State. When the gunmen arrived at the Police station, a gun fire exchange ensued between them and Police officers at the station. Some vehicles at the police station were also set ablaze.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/4y5z8zzk, tinyurl.com/wkx9w45c
23rd February 2023	Senatorial Candidate, Oyibo Chukwu and his supporters	Gunmen killed the Labour Party (LP) senatorial candidate for Enugu East District, Oyibo Chukwu in Amechi Awkunanaw, a community in Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State. He was killed on Wednesday, 22nd February alongside five supporters who were inside his vehicle. The killing came barely three days to the senatorial election which was scheduled to be hold on Saturday, 25 February.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/348dmybm
24th February 2023	40-year old Nigerian man	A 40-year old man was reported to have defiled a 15-year old girl in the Shasha area of Lagos State on February 19. He was remanded in the Kirikiri Correctional Centre by a Magistrate Court in Ikeja, Lagos.	15-year old girl	tinyurl.com/2s3u9cjh
24th February 2023	Political party supporters	At least four people were feared killed on February 23 after a clash between supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP) in Kano metropolis. Witnesses said the clash reportedly occurred along the Zaria Express way	Political party supporters	tinyurl.com/2awtn4ky

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		<p>when supporters of the NNPP presidential candidate, Rabiu Kwankwaso, gathered to welcome him on his way to a rally in the Kano metropolis. The Police in the State said it arrested 85 suspects after the clash.</p>		
<p>24th February 2023</p>	<p>Residents of Kogi Central Senatorial District</p>	<p>Barely 24 hours to the Presidential and National Assembly elections, the Kogi State Police Command has revealed that some workers of CCECC construction company, who were caught destroying roads leading to Kogi Central Senatorial district, have been arrested. It was alleged that the State government engaged the workers to destroy the roads in order to prevent the Independent National Electoral Commission officials and other stakeholders from accessing the district for the elections. The campaign organisation of a Peoples Democratic Party senatorial candidate in the State, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, raised the alarm, claiming that some of the workers arrested at the scene of the incident confessed to their involvement in the act. However, in a statement issued by the State government explained that the destruction of the road was done to prevent terrorists from accessing that section of the State due to recent criminal activities.</p>	<p>Construction workers</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/mv7ha8uj</p>

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
26th February 2023	Residents of three communities in Benue State	Gunmen suspected to be herders invaded three communities in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State in the early hours of February 26 and killed 13 people.	Gunmen/herders	tinyurl.com/2a-jkj3jp
27th February 2023	Official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	An official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was shot and killed when gunmen attacked a bus on his way to deliver election results after the February 25 national level elections, at Ukwani Local Government Area of the State. Other election ad-hoc staff, who are members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) sustained injuries.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/5zz-r6njh , tinyurl.com/3tc4953s
27th February 2023	Nigerian Youth	Some youths in Lagos have expressed dismay over denial of the opportunity to cast their votes during the just concluded Presidential and National Assembly elections. They claimed being disenfranchised because no Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) official was present at their polling units during the elections. They chanted solidarity songs and expressed their displeasure at being unable to vote.	Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	tinyurl.com/yckn64zn
27th February 2023	Official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	An official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was shot and killed when gunmen attacked a bus on his way to deliver election results after the February 25 national level elections, at Ukwani Local Government Area of the State. Other election ad-hoc	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/5zz-r6njh , tinyurl.com/3tc4953s

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		staff, who are members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) sustained injuries.		
27th February 2023	Nigerian voters	On February 27, thugs invaded Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau state, venue of the collation centre for the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections. In the course of collation of results for the Plateau North Senatorial district election, thugs chased away the INEC officials before they could announce the election results. However, a Policeman intervened and took the results away.	Political thugs	tinyurl.com/5n-78juys, tinyurl.com/2efza5de
27th February 2023	Nigerian voters and election workers	There was heavy shooting at the Nnewi North Local Government secretariat, Anambra State on Sunday, February 26 as some candidates stormed the area in an attempt to snatch ballot boxes. The secretariat serves as a collation centre for the Anambra South Senatorial District election, where there were three top contenders in the race. Although no life was lost in the incident, the shootings sent journalists, party supporters and even officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) scamper for safety.	Political thugs	tinyurl.com/yc443x38, tinyurl.com/2j5w8suh

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
28th February 2023	Nigerian Journalist, Haruna Mohammed	<p>A Chief Magistrate Court sitting in Bauchi State on February 28, remanded Haruna Mohammed, publisher of WikkiTimes, an online media outfit in the State, over charges of inciting disturbance of public peace to blackmail Governor Bala Mohammed. He was accused of hiring some women to incite disturbance of public peace by instigating them to make utterances that would prejudice the peace and well-being of the voters at a polling unit in Duguri ward of Alkaleri Local Government Area of the State and of blackmailing the Governor. The journalist was arrested in Duguri, the Governor's hometown on Saturday, 25th February while covering the Presidential and National Assembly elections and was taken to the Police Criminal investigation Department before his arraignment in court on February 28.</p>	Bauchi State Government	<p>tinyurl.com/5783z4nd, tinyurl.com/2mpf2mw4</p>

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

MARCH 2023

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
2nd March 2023	10 year-old girl	A prophet in Akwa Ibom State, Anwana Peter Essien, has been sentenced to 21 years in prison for raping his 10 year-old step daughter. An Akwa Ibom State High Court that sat in Okoita, Ibiono Local Government Area's headquarters passed the judgment while ruling on the rape case. The 37 year-old prophet is said to have committed the offence when her mother brought her and her younger sister for holiday at his residence on Itiam Street, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.	37 year-old man	tinyurl.com/9wj8ccyz , tinyurl.com/3wj23a8k
5th March 2023	Nigerian Monarch	Gunmen killed the village head of Margari in Rimin Gado Local Government Area of Kano State, Alhaji Dahiru Abba in the early hours of Sunday, March 5.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/4xvju6tw , tinyurl.com/bdz4fruu
5th March 2023	Police Officers	Bandits in large numbers attacked the Maru Police Division in Zamfara State on March 5. In an attempt to repel the attack, the Divisional Police Officer, SP Kazeem Raheem and another Inspector attached to the Division, Inspector Rabi'u Umar were killed.	Bandits	tinyurl.com/4vuzntyv
6th March 2023	Two residents of Makoko community in Lagos State	A 15-year-old boy, Pelumi Sulaimon, was shot and killed by soldiers attached to 'Operation MESA' around Makoko, in the Yaba area of Lagos State. According to residents in the area, the soldiers were hired by political thugs to carry out a reprisal on their opponents in the	Nigerian military	tinyurl.com/4nx5mwnc

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		<p>community on Sunday, February 26. The soldiers had opened fire, shooting indiscriminately in the community when their bullet hit 15-year old Pelumi who was going to get drinks for his friends to celebrate his birthday. They also shot and killed a tricycle operator, identified simply as Aloma, whom they mistook for one of their targets.</p>		
7th March 2023	Residents of Kwande Local Government Area	<p>About 50 persons have been feared killed during a four-day attack by suspected herdsmen who invaded some communities in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. The affected communities include Adam, Iyarinwa, Abamde Ityuluv, Waya Boagundu, Agura Ayaga and Azege areas. According to the immediate past Chairman of the LGA, Tertsua Yarkbewan, over 50 people were killed during the attacks by suspected herdsmen.</p>	Herdsmen	tinyurl.com/4yz-3bf4w
10th March 2023	Son of a pastor and residents of Karimbu-Kahugu Community in the Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State	<p>Some terrorists have reportedly attacked Karimbu-Kahugu Community in the Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The terrorists attacked the residence of a Baptist Church pastor and as they shot sporadically, killing the pastor's son who was hiding in the ceiling. They were reported to have abducted the pastor's wife and three others.</p>	Terrorists	tinyurl.com/rxeh22rm, tinyurl.com/45rjus7c, tinyurl.com/38538rv2

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
14th March 2023	A candidate of Accord Party, Chukwudi Ogbonna	Chukwudi Ogbonna, the Accord Party (AP) candidate for the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni State Constituency for the Rivers State House Assembly election was abducted by gunmen on Monday, March 13.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/mwj5ha6u
14th March 2023	18 year-old woman	An Ikeja Magistrate's Court sitting at Ogba, Lagos State remanded a 36-year-old man at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre on allegation of raping his 18-year-old daughter inside his shop in the Ikotun area of the State on January 4, 2023.	36 year-old man	tinyurl.com/m7nt95v9
15th March 2023	Four young girls	The Gombe Police command arrested a 38-year-old teacher on March 7 for allegedly defiling four pupils aged 8, 9, 12 and 14, respectively between January and March 2023. The Police spokesperson in the State stated that the four girls were sisters learning in an Islamic school where the suspect works.	38 year-old teacher	tinyurl.com/37hmprwh, tinyurl.com/2p-8kymtx, tinyurl.com/yp4p5zfa
15th March 2023	Three young girls	The Gombe State Police command stated that three suspects were arrested for defiling three sisters aged 12, 15 and 17, respectively. The suspects are men aged 30, 40 and 50, respectively.	Three men	tinyurl.com/37hmprwh, tinyurl.com/2p-8kymtx, tinyurl.com/yp4p5zfa
16th March 2023	APC Secretary in Rivers State, Amadi Osaronu	Gunmen kidnapped the Secretary of the All Progressives Congress in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Amadi Osaronu. Osaronu was reportedly abducted by gunmen dressed in police uniforms from his residence in Aluu, Ikwerre LGA on Wednesday, March 15.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/tyk48vk, tinyurl.com/23hrv6nb

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
16th March 2023	Labour Party candidate, Boma Kasim-Agida	The Labour Party House of Assembly candidate for Ahoada West, Boma Kasim-Agida was kidnapped by gunmen on his way back from a political rally in Ahoada West Local Government of Rivers State on Tuesday, March 7. Agida believes that the postponement of the Governorship and House of Assembly elections played a role in his release.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/324auf8n
16th March 2023	Commercial drivers	An unconfirmed number of persons were reported to have been killed when security operatives attached to the convoy of Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State clashed with a procession of Shi'ite members in Bakin Ruwa Area of Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, on March 16. The commotion that ensued as the convoy tried to make its way through the procession, security operatives attached to the Governor opened fire, with bullets hitting some commercial drivers at a bus stop nearby.	Security Operatives	tinyurl.com/ufd9uspf, tinyurl.com/ymuutp2t
18th March 2023	A political party member, Gani Gele	A member of the Peoples Democratic party (PDP) identified as Gani Gele was shot dead on Saturday, March 18 by a member of the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) in the State at polling unit 5, Isedo 1, Oloponda ward 2, in Ila- Orangun during the collation of results of the House of Assembly election in the ward. The incident occurred when a disagreement ensued between party members who traded words on	A political party member	tinyurl.com/yc4rpxn7

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		ballot box placement and snatching of ballot boxes at various polling units in the town. This degenerated and led to the death of the PDP member after being violently attacked by a member of the opposition party.		
20th March 2023	Personnel of the Nigeria Police	Two police officers were killed while two others were wounded by operatives of the Nigerian Army following a confrontation between police personnel in Taraba State on Monday, March 20. The military in a show of force infiltrated the Police Headquarters in the State in retaliation for an altercation between one of its personnel and a police officer, and shot several police officers.	Operatives of the Nigerian Army	tinyurl.com/ycx-4yy7f , tinyurl.com/yppp5bjs , tinyurl.com/yc7vpx33
22nd March 2023	A man, a woman and a baby	On March 20, a soldier shot and killed a commercial motorcycle rider and his passenger, a nursing mother and her baby, in Babanna community in Borgu LGA of Niger State for refusing to pay the bribe demanded by the soldier. The rider and his passenger were returning from the Monday Babanna market and heading to their country, Benin Republic.	Personnel of the Nigeria Army	tinyurl.com/4x-s7tdwf , tinyurl.com/2p9ymr3z
22nd March 2023	Residents of Sobe community	One person was reportedly injured while several others were displaced as suspected herders attacked Sobe in Owan West Local Government area of Edo State on the night of Tuesday, March 21. Two weeks before the incident, a pastor and two of his farm workers were killed in the same community by herders.	Herders	tinyurl.com/3m-j4apnx , tinyurl.com/454syzj8

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
27th March 2023	Three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)	Gunmen killed three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) at Ekeisu market in Obiangwu Community in the Ngor Okpala Local Government Area of Imo State in the early hours of Monday, March 27.	Gunmen	tinyurl.com/ycx-wcu33 , tinyurl.com/yc8dn4zv
27th March 2023	19-year old lady	A 19-year old lady was raped severally by the youth pastor of a Pentecoastal Church, who happened to be the husband of the woman the lady was residing with. According to the survivor, she was defiled by the pastor when she started living with the couple at the age of 15 years. The matter is before a Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja, Lagos State.	A Youth Pastor	tinyurl.com/3s-dvntn9 , tinyurl.com/2cwkmv6
30th March 2023	56 Farmers	Bandits demanded N200 million ransom to release 56 farmers abducted on March 14 in Adunu, Kwagana and adjoining communities in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. The abductees included women and children.	Bandits	tinyurl.com/5a3vt4em
31st March 2023	Channels Television	The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) imposed a fine of N5 million on Channels Television on allegation of breaking the broadcasting law in a programme with Dr Datti Baba-Ahmed, Labour Party Vice Presidential candidate. This was contained in a letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the	National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)	tinyurl.com/5ae-hbdp2

Date of Report	Victim(s)	Summary of Report	Perpetrator(s)	Source(s)
		<p>television station and dated March 27. According to the NBC, Dr Baba-Ahmed statement that it will be unconstitutional to swear in an elected president on May 29, 2023, because of election irregularities violated, was volatile and capable of inciting public disorder and therefore violated some sections of the broadcasting code.</p>		

ABOUT PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes.

The main focus of PLAC's intervention in the democratic governance process is on building the capacity of the legislature and reforming the electoral process. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding support from donors and other philanthropic sources.

