



CLEEN
FOUNDATION
Justice Sector Reform

REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

DURING THE AUGUST 2024 NATIONWIDE
PROTEST IN NIGERIA



Supported by



TETRA TECH
International Development



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The #EndBadGovernance movement in Nigeria emerged as a response to the deep-rooted governance failures, economic hardships, and systemic inequalities that have plagued the nation for decades and has plunged. Driven predominantly by youth through social media, the movement called for comprehensive reforms aimed at improving governance, transparency, and accountability. Despite Nigeria's wealth of natural resources, economic instability, widespread corruption, high unemployment rates, and inflation have resulted in a widening gap between the rich and poor, with little improvement in living standards for the average Nigerian.

The #EndBadGovernance demonstration marked a pivotal moment in Nigeria's contemporary narrative, embodying a resurgence of calls for transparency and reform. This movement has not only motivated the country but also garnered international attention, illustrating Nigerian's resolute determination to combat tyranny and corrupt leadership.

The protests, which began peacefully, escalated due to tensions with law enforcement as authorities imposed curfews and deployed security personnel across the country. This report by the CLEEN Foundation provides a detailed evaluation of law enforcement conduct during the protests, focusing on adherence to legal standards, respect for human rights, and the effectiveness of crowd control measures. Using a triangulated methodology, the CLEEN Foundation deployed 109 trained observers across the country and set up a situation room in Abuja to monitor the actions of law enforcement agencies in real-time, capturing critical data on the use of force, human rights violations, and protester interactions.

The protest led to the crackdown of individuals, some of which have been labelled treasonous. It was planned for 10 days but lasted for three days in most of the states and only 10 days in four states. Overall they were not-peaceful, with some serious incidents in certain locations. The situation was occasionally marred by confrontations between protesters and security forces. The government's response, which included attempts to disband gatherings and occasional use of force, drew criticism both domestically and internationally. Images and videos of these clashes circulated rapidly on social media, further galvanizing public support for the cause.

The 10-day "EndBadGovernance" protest in Nigeria serves as a compelling case study in contemporary civil activism. Spurred by widespread frustration, this grassroots



movement saw citizens, predominantly the youth, taking to the streets to express their dissatisfaction with the state of governance. Pivotal to understanding its implications is an analysis of the causes, dynamics, and outcomes of the protests.

Key findings include:

- ◆ The physical protests spread across 35 states while the sit-at-home protest were recorded in 5 states. According to the data received in CLEEN Foundation “Situationroom”, out of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, only the south-East (Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Imo and Ebonyi) recorded sit-at-home as a form of nationwide protest while the other five geo-political zones witnessed massive crowd that trooped out to protest except for Kogi state in North Central and Akwa Ibom state in the South-South region of Nigeria. All the other 30 states across North-East (Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe and Taraba), North-west (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Jigawa and Zamfara), North-Central (Benue, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Kwara and FCT), South-South (Rivers, Edo, Delta, Cross-River and Bayelsa) and South-West (Lagoa, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti and Ondo) witnessed the physical protest.
- ◆ The intensity of the Nation-wide protest continued to decline as the number of days scheduled for the protest progressed. From a total number of 30 states and FCT from the first two days of the protest to only 4 states (Lagos, Rivers, Edo and FCT) on the last day of the protest. The lack of ongoing protest in other states were attributed to the violent nature of the protest in some states that led to looting, vandalization of properties, shootings and some fatalities recorded as well as the response of the government and the security agencies through the imposition of curfews, in some states.
- ◆ The movement led by young people. The youth of Nigeria spearheaded the #EndBadGovernance demonstration, showcasing social media's ability to mobilize and coordinate vast crowds. The tech-savvy cohort employed channels such as Twitter, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram to circulate data effectively, consolidate protest movements while gaining global backing.
- ◆ Leadership that is not centralized. The protest's noteworthy feature was its decentralized approach. The lack of a definitive leader made it hard for the government to quash by singling out individuals. This grassroots strategy guaranteed that the movement remained durable and persevering, with multiple self-sufficient groups working towards one shared objective.
- ◆ Lasting Influence. Although the initial demonstrations had different results, the #EndBadGovernance campaign permanently impacted Nigerian society. It



stimulated a fresh period of citizen involvement, governmental insight and network mobilization. The protests' enduring influence demonstrates how group effort can bring about change and an unwavering quest for fairness and democratic values as the protest attracted government attention. The government made efforts and spent scarce resources to influence traditional and religious leaders to stop the protest unfortunately the strategy failed and the protest happened. At the end, the government didn't address the demands of the protesters but used brute force to crackdown on the peaceful protesters.

- ◆ Observers reported that some states of the north, protesters were seen flying the flag of Russia which immediately changed the dynamics of the protest considering recent coup d'etat in West Africa region.
- ◆ The conduct of law enforcement personnel was generally rated as good by 76% of observers, though instances of excessive force, including the use of live ammunition and killing of protesters were reported in Niger, Kaduna, Kano, Bauchi, and Borno states etc.
- ◆ Law enforcement agencies would benefit from additional trainings around crowd management and control.
- ◆ A significant number of protesters were arrested, and 23 protesters were killed, mostly in Northern states, raising concerns about human rights violations.
- ◆ Prosecution of arrested protesters by the government levelling treason against the protesters which is an extreme act of suppression of the rights of the citizens.

Recommendations

While the majority of observers rated conduct as 'good', law enforcement agencies faced criticism for their approach, particularly regarding the excessive use of force, lack of accountability, and failure to protect journalists and peaceful protesters. The report recommends strengthening accountability mechanisms, enhancing human rights protection and promotion through training for law enforcement personnel, and fostering community engagement to rebuild trust and confidence in the system. Furthermore, it calls for law enforcement reforms to ensure the protection of citizens' rights during public protests. Immediate actions are needed to address the excessive use of force and ensure that law enforcement agencies are equipped with modern, non-lethal crowd control tools to handle future demonstrations effectively because citizens have a democratic right to peaceful protest... Without fear of oppression or use of excessive force. The #EndBadGovernance movement underscores the need for Nigeria to address long-standing governance and economic challenges to foster a more equitable and just society.



Introduction

The #EndBadGovernance movement in Nigeria has emerged as a response to the deep-seated economic hardships, high cost of governance, lopsided resource distribution, and governance-related challenges that have beleaguered the nation for decades. This grassroots movement, predominantly driven by the youth, has gained significant traction through social media platforms, voicing widespread dissatisfaction with the country's persistent economic struggles and systemic failures. The #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria have been a significant movement calling for accountability, transparency, and improvements in governance. Nigeria, despite its vast natural resources, has struggled with economic instability characterized by widespread corruption, high unemployment rates, inflation, and a widening gap between the rich and the poor. The economic policies of successive governments have failed to translate into tangible improvements for the average Nigerian, leading to widespread poverty and disillusionment. Youth unemployment¹, in particular, remains alarmingly high, with many young Nigerians unable to find meaningful employment despite their educational qualifications. The #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria highlight the urgent need to address the economic hardships, leadership and governance-related challenges that have hindered the country's development. This movement represents angry Nigerians who have suffered tremendously from governance failures has called for comprehensive reforms to create a more equitable, transparent, and accountable governance system that can deliver economic stability and improve the quality of life for all Nigerians. The protests were initially peaceful, with demonstrators demanding governmental reforms, better living conditions, and an end to corruption. However, tensions escalated as law enforcement personnel attempted to disperse crowds and enforce curfews imposed by state authorities. This report documents CLEEN Foundation observations on the first day of the protests and beyond.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this report is to monitor, evaluate and present in real time key observations emerging from the conduct and activities of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)² and personnel deployed to oversee the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria. This report aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of how security and law enforcement officers have managed the protests, focusing on their adherence to legal standards, respect for human rights, and effectiveness in preventing the breakdown of law and order across the country. By documenting and analyzing the actions of law enforcement officers, this report seeks to identify best practices, highlight areas for improvement, and offer recommendations to enhance the

<https://punchng.com/nigerias-unemployment-rate-hits-0-8-in-2023-q3-nbs-report/>
<https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241429>

²Law Enforcement Agencies are government security agencies established by law

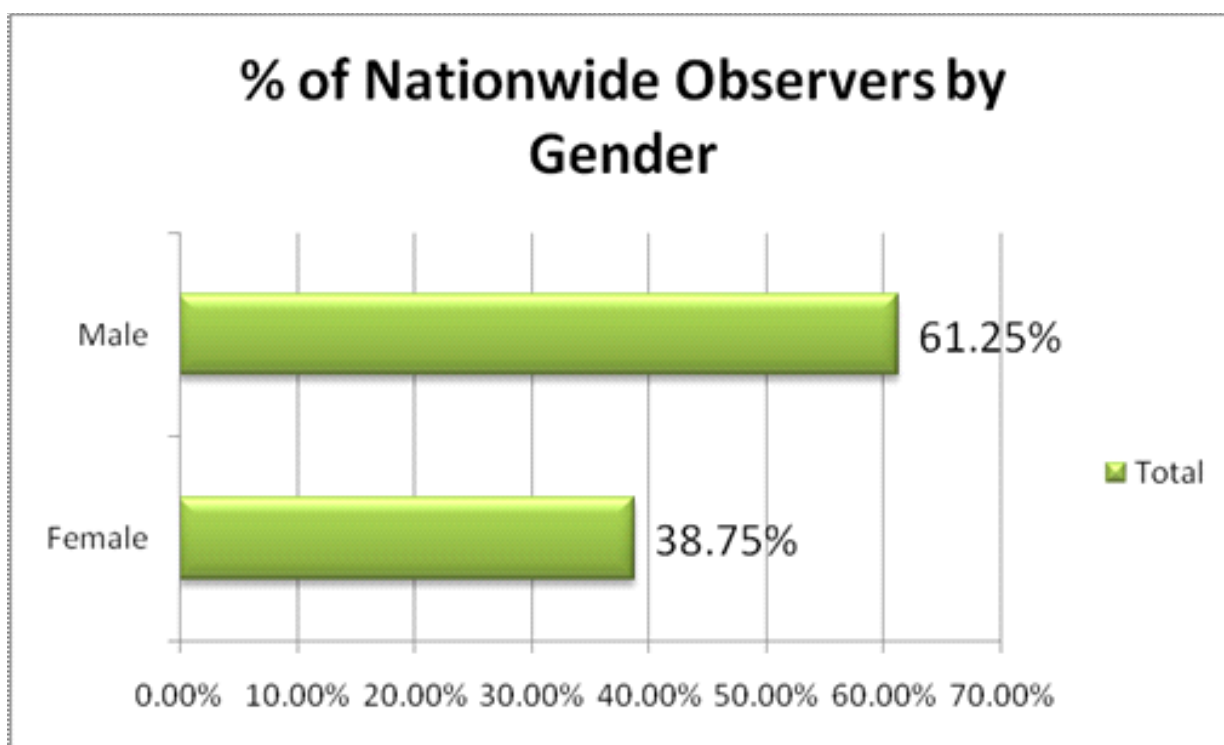


capacity, performance and effectiveness of law enforcement personnel in handling peaceful demonstrations and protests in Nigeria. Ultimately, this report strives to ensure accountability, transparency, protection and promotion of citizens' rights during times of civil unrest.

Methodology

The methodology for this report involves a systematic and structured triangulation approach to monitoring the conduct and activities of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) during the #EndBadGovernance protests across Nigeria. The following steps outline the key components of the methodology:

1. **Deployment of Trained Observers:** CLEEN Foundation deployed a network of trained observers to all the states across the country. A total of 109 observers were deployed across the 36 states and the federal capital Territory. The gender representation of the Nationwide Observers are represented below:



2. **Development of Monitoring Tool:** CLEEN developed a Standard Law Enforcement Monitoring Tool which was integrated into CLEEN Data Collection Application to collect real time data from the field. This permitted a real time data analysis and interpretation which was useful in providing advisories to observers on the field.



3. **Data Collection Process:** Observers utilized the monitoring tool to provide regular updates on the conduct of LEAs to the CLEEN Foundation Situation Room which served as the coordination point for the activities of observers on the field. The tool allowed for the recording of various indicators, including the use of force, adherence to human rights standards, engagement with protesters, and any incidents of misconduct or abuse of rights observed. The Primary and Secondary data tracked by the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room were reviewed, verified and triangulated to ensure credibility before including in the report.

4. **Observer Composition:** The observers included a diverse group of professionals and members of the Civil Society community from across the country. Their backgrounds ensured a comprehensive and unbiased perspective on the events as they unfolded.

5. **Data Transmission and Analysis:** Observers submitted their reports in real time, ensuring timely and accurate data submission and collection. The data was compiled, analyzed, and reviewed by a team of experts to identify trends, patterns, and areas of concern.

6. **Verification and Validation:** To ensure the reliability and validity of the collected data, cross-referencing with other sources such as media reports, eyewitness accounts, and official statements was conducted. This triangulation method helped to confirm the accuracy of the data generated.

Findings from the Observations on conduct of Law Enforcement Personnel

1. Protest Spread

The nationwide protest which was slated between the 1st and 10th August 2024 was a reaction to the level of hardship in the country and was planned to hold in all the 36 states of the Federation and the FCT. However, the protest did not turn out like anticipated because some states did not record any form of protest although the announcement impacted on economic activities across the country especially during the early days of the planned protest.

While economic activities were grounded, CLEEN observers reported that states like Abia, Anambra, Cross-Rivers, Ekiti, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo and Ondo did not actively participate in the protest. Reasons for the not joining the protest could not be established by observers who were surprised that these states. Observers also reported that despite the boycott of the protest in some of these states, there was a heavy presence of security personnel at strategic locations in these states.

Observers also reported that in some states the enthusiasm recorded in the first day of the protest started to dwindle from the second day especially in states in the



NATIONAL PROTEST

■ States with Protest ■ States without Protest

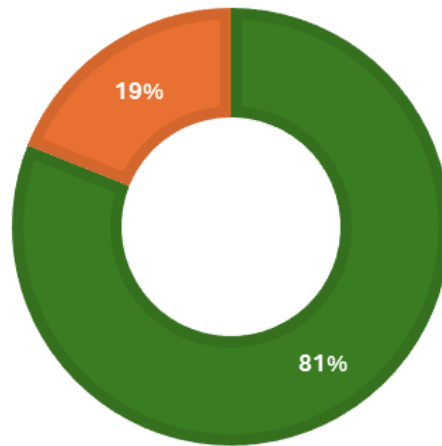
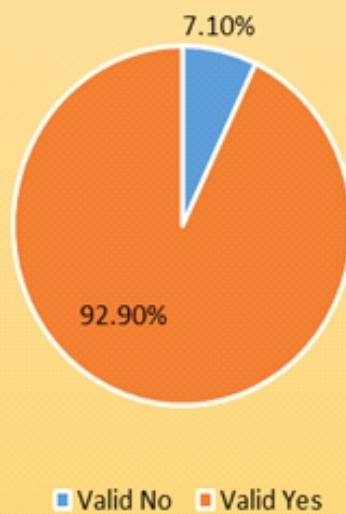


Figure 1: Chart showing states with/out the #EndBadGovernance Protest in Nigeria.

southern part of the country while the opposite was recorded in states in the north and the tenacity of the protest in some states of the north like Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna, Borno where the Nigeria Army had to intervene considering the ongoing war against insurgency in the state.

The nation-wide protest spread across 35 states except Kogi state in the North Central and Akwa Ibom state in the South-South region of Nigeria. The physical protest was recorded in 30 states and FCT while the 5 states in the South East protested through sit-at-home. Observers in the South-East reported total sit-at-home compliance across the region on the first day of the protest.

4. Is there presence of security personnel In the venue of the protest? Percent





According to the data received in CLEEN Foundation “Situationroom”, out of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, only the south-East (Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Imo and Ebonyi) recorded sit-at-home as a form of nationwide protest while the other five geo-political zones witnessed massive crowd that trooped out to protest except for Kogi state in North Central and Akwa Ibom state in the South-South region of Nigeria. All the other 30 states across North-East (Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe and Taraba), North-west (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Jigawa and Zamfara), North-Central (Benue, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Kwara and FCT), South-South (Rivers, Edo, Delta, Cross-River and Bayelsa) and South-West (Lagos, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti and Ondo) witnessed the physical protest. The intensity of the Nation-wide protest continued to decline as the number of days scheduled for the protest progressed. From a total number of 30 states and FCT from the first two days of the protest to only 4 states (Lagos, Rivers, Edo and FCT) on the last day of the protest. The lack of ongoing protest in other states were attributed to the violent nature of the protest in some states that led to looting, vandalization of properties, shootings and some fatalities recorded as well as the response of the government and the security agencies through the imposition of curfews, in some states, arrest and detention of protesters, killing of protesters etc.

2. Nature of the protest

The protest were categorized into two: peaceful protest and violent protest. The CLEEN Foundation situation room data indicates that the nationwide protest was largely peaceful in the Southern part of Nigeria but recorded serious violence in some Northern states which led to loss of lives and destruction of public properties. Some observers reported violence in different states such as Kano, Niger, Gombe, Jigawa, Katsina, Bauchi, Borno.

3. Presence of Law Enforcement Personnel

A critical component of the CLEEN's interest in the nationwide protest was to monitor the activities of law enforcement personnel deployed for the purpose of the protest. The first factor of interest was the arrival of security personnel to the point of convergence for protesters. Across the places monitored, observers reported time of arrival of police officers and personnel of other law enforcement agencies to their area of responsibility. For instance, 35.6% of observers stressed that some personnel deployed were at their Area of Responsibility (AOR) before 7:00 am of the day the protest commenced across the country. Similarly, 28% reported the arrival of law enforcement personnel between 7:00 and 7:30 am while 15% reported that personnel were seen at about 9:00 and later on the first day of the protest. A further distilled data is presented in the chart below:

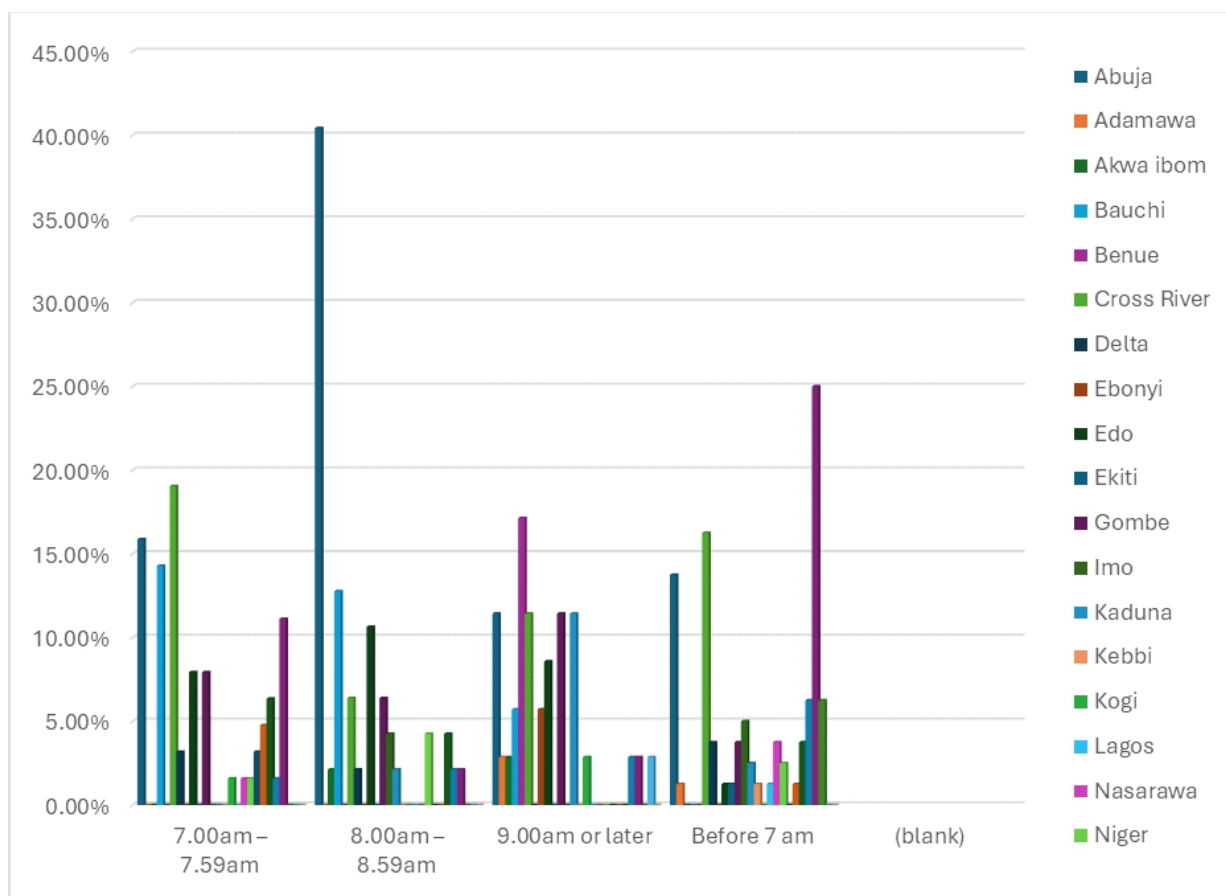


Figure 2: A chart showing the time law enforcement personnel deployment.

This data speaks to the readiness of law enforcement agencies to provide safety for protesters and to quell insurrection which might occur during the protest. This is further corroborated by the meeting of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) who met with the organizers of the protest and assured them of the protection of the police³. This was followed by an overwhelming 91.1% of observers stating that law enforcement officers deployed were seen with an easily identifiable nametag and identification number which provided opportunity to protesters to report violation of rights by any personnel of the law enforcement agencies during the protest. Observers also added that LEP⁴ were seen with riot gear which included canisters, baton, protective shield, riot helmet, live arms and other things.

4. Description of Protesters

The Observers reported only the one group of protesters, the End Bad Governance protesters in the across the states and Abuja. The Pro-government protesters

³Daily Trust Newspaper (July 2024): Organizers Meet IGP, Insist on Street Protests. <https://dailytrust.com/organisers-meet-igp-insist-on-street-protests/>

⁴Law Enforcement Personnel



observed on the first day of the protest were not seen on the second day of the protest in the states that recorded protest on the second day. However, the presence of juveniles was still observed in the Nationwide Protest in Nigeria.

5. Conduct of the Law Enforcement Personnel

This report has adopted 'Conduct of Law Enforcement Personnel' as a theme to encapsulate issues like im/partiality of personnel and conduct of personnel. This will help to provide a robust review of the disposition of personnel during the period of the protest.

Impartiality/Partiality of Law Enforcement Personnel

Observers deployed by CLEEN Foundation assessed the interaction of the law enforcement personnel with the two groups of protesters seen in some states and as alluded to above. Observers reported that law enforcement personnel were largely seen to be impartial while they basically watched the disagreement and abuse between the two groups in places where it was recorded. On this subject, 61.8% of the observers said law enforcement personnel were impartial while 38.2% of the observers suggested that law enforcement personnel were partial considering their handling of protesters challenging people who participated in the #EndBadGovernance protest. When asked to provide a justification for the position of the observers, majority of the observers reiterated that LEP treated protesters equally in most cases. It is imperative to mention that some observers also concluded that the orderliness portrayed by protesters also contributed to the positive reception protesters got from law enforcement personnel.

General Conduct of Personnel

Observers provided their assessment of law enforcement personnel on their general conduct and the way their level of professionalism in interacting and engaging protesters. Submissions made suggest that 12.9% of the observers stated that LEP were fair in their handling of the protest and protesters, meanwhile 45.3% of the observers argued that conduct of personnel was good. Similarly, 32.4% of the observers stated that personnel conduct was very good while just 2.7% and 6.7% said LEP conduct was very poor or poor respectively. A further investigation into the conduct of the personnel is presented in the chart below:

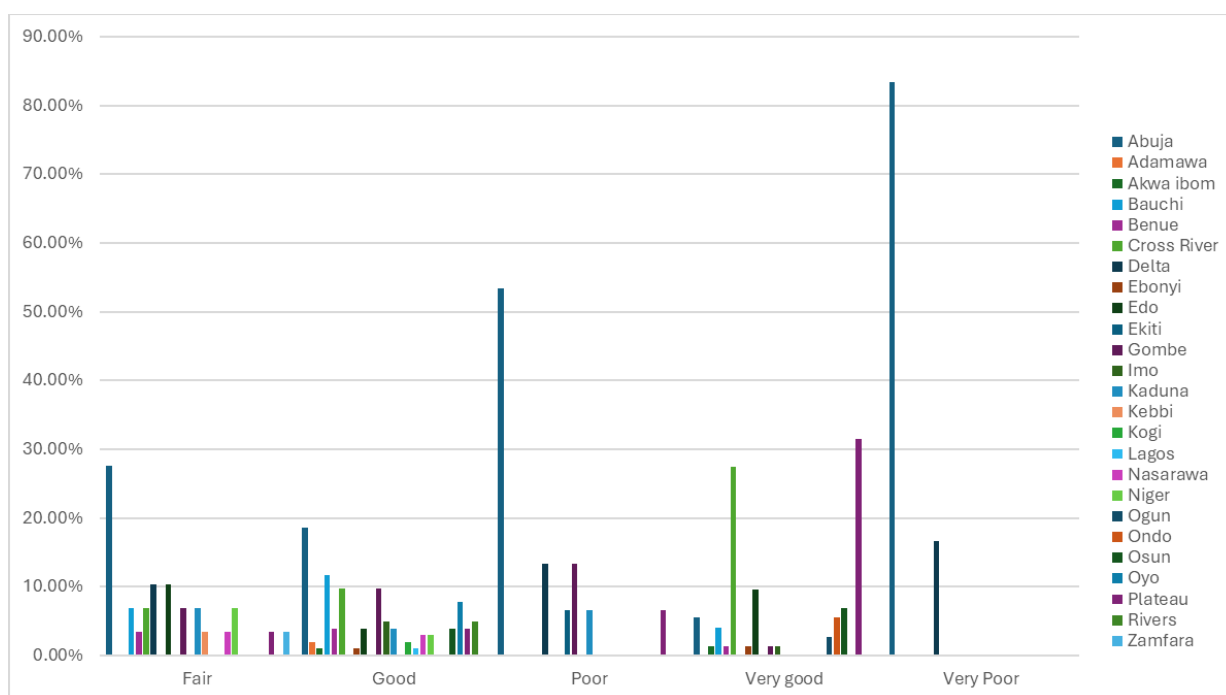


Figure 3 : Conduct of Law Enforcement Personnel

Figure 3 above represents a further analysis shows that observers in Kaduna were of the opinion that the conduct of law enforcement personnel was poor and this can be attributed to how the protest turned violent in the state and the use of force by law enforcement agencies in an attempt to forestall law and order. The chart further shows how some of the states varied in their perspective about the overall conduct of personnel during the #EndBadGovernance protest.

6. Use of Force

The CLEEN Foundation situation room observed that the conduct of law enforcement personnel during the protests was marked by varying degrees of force despite the high rating of their conduct in most part of the states where the protests were held. In some instances, in Kano state, the police were reported to have used non-lethal methods such as tear gas and water cannons to disperse crowds. These actions, although aimed at maintaining order, were criticized for their potential to cause harm, especially when used indiscriminately. There were also reports of excessive use of force, including the use of live ammunition against protesters in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Gombe, Jigawa, Borno, Bauchi and Abuja leading to injuries and fatalities. There were instances where the use of lethal force was disproportionate and violated international human rights standards.

7. Arrests, Detentions and Shooting of Protesters

The CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room received reports from the Observers that the Law Enforcement personnel arrested protesters across the states



within the period of the protests 1st – 10th August 2024. Similarly, there were reports of shooting and injuring protesters. For instance, at Madalla junction along Abuja-Kaduna express way, a protester was shot by Law enforcement personnel, and he was rushed to the hospital for treatment. Incidents of shooting at protesters were also recorded in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Gombe, Jigawa, Borno, Bauchi states respectively and Abuja.

8. Accountability of Arrested Protesters

The Nigeria Police Force is yet to give a comprehensive account of arrested and detained protesters across the country. The only available data tracked by CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room indicated that only Sokoto Police Command officially gave an account of arrested protesters in the state. The Police later provided a data of arrested protesters but at the end of the 10 days protest, the Nigeria Police is yet to give official numbers of protesters in their detention facilities across the country.

9. Killing of protesters and security personnel

A total number of 23 protesters were shot to death by Law enforcement personnel. 13 protesters were killed on the first day and 10 protesters killed on the 3rd day of the protest in Kano state mainly juveniles. Killings were recorded in the following states:

- 1) Kaduna – 3 persons killed in the state.
- 2) Kano – 4 persons in the state.
- 3) Niger- 6 persons killed in Suleja and Tafa LGA in the state.
- 4) Jigawa – 2 persons killed in the state.
- 5) Kebbi – 1 person killed in the state.
- 6) Borno- 3 persons killed in the state.
- 7) Katsina – 2 persons killed in the state.
- 8) Gombe – 1 person killed in Yauri LGA and
- 9) Bauchi -1 person killed in Azare area respectively.

10. Attack on Journalists and Protesters:

According to reports received by CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room, law enforcement personnel shot live bullets and teargas at journalists covering the nationwide protest in Abuja. In Warri, Delta state, our observer reported that on the first day, the peaceful Protesters were attacked by government thugs chanting that those who want to protest should leave their land and travel to their place to protest. The thugs beat up protesters under the watchful eyes of security agents who looked the other way, the violence was unrestricted, and some lawyers were victims and it took the intervention of some Army personnel to apprehend some of the thugs about five of them who were taken to the police station and the NBA has decided to make a scapegoat of these ones.



On day two, protesters who summoned courage to come out in Warri were asked to protest for only 30mins to 1 hour by the local government authorities and disperse. Some of the observers on ground reported that protesters were only given 20 minutes to 1 hour but noticed that there was no presence of the Police which could have guarantee the protection of protesters.

11. Conduct of Protesters

CLEEN Foundation observers reported that the protesters were largely peaceful but noted some violent incidents which were attributed to cases of excessive use of force by the law enforcement personnel. Observers noted that law enforcement personnel used tear gas on peaceful protesters to disperse the protest and it led to violence and damage of properties by protesters. These violent incidents were witnessed in kano, Borno, Jigawa, Niger, Kaduna, Gombe, Bauchi and Katsina states respectively. Some of the specific locations where protesters were tear-gassed include: Eagle square in Abuja, Lekki toll gate in Lagos state, In front of government house in Kano state, Abuja stadium, Madalla junction, Niger state, In front of government house Gombe state, Zaria LGA in Kaduna state etc.

12. Roadblocks

The blocked roads from Day One protests have been cleared. There were vehicular disruptions in Abuja and some parts of Lagos due to the activities of the protesters. Observers noted traffic movements in the seven states that recorded second day protests and Abuja.

13. Looting and Vandalism

There were no incidents of looting and vandalism on the second day of protests across the seven states and Abuja.

14. Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Kano State Command recovered 2 AK47 assault rifles from alleged protesters. Additional reports were not received on it.

15. Continuous Militarization of Crowd Management

CLEEN Foundation observed the deployment of the military to control the nationwide protest. The Chief of Defence⁵ Staff was observed to make inflammatory statement on deployment of the military to main law and order.

⁵ https://punchng.com/breaking-protests-militaryll-will-step-in-if-breaches-continue-cds/#google_vignette



16. Curfews by state governments

The Curfews has increased from Four state governments to five state governments out of 29 states and Abuja where the protest held with Jigawa state government declaring Curfew in the state. The curfew is a measure of curtailing the negative effect of the protests after the protesters turned violent to loot and vandalize properties during the Day One of the protest. Recall at the end of day one of the protests on the 1st of August 2024, Kano, Taraba, Borno and Niger states respectively declared curfew in response to the violent protests recorded in the states. Plateau state declared curfew effectively on 5th August 2024 and joined the list of states that utilized curfew to quell the protest. The Curfew lasted for maximum of two days in some of the states while it lasted for one day in others.

17. Court Orders

CLEEN Foundation Nationwide protest situation room observed various court orders confining the protesters to a particular location. For instance, in the Federal Capital Territory, the federal High Court ordered the protesters to be in Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja. Similar court order was observed in Lagos state that ordered the protesters to be in Gani Fahwehimi Freedom Park. In Ogun state, the court restricted the protesters to four locations MKO Stadium, Abeokuta; Ansar-ud-Deen Comprehensive High School, Ota; Remo Divisional High School, Sagamu; and Dipo Dina Stadium, Ijebu-Ode. Lastly, Kwara state high court restricted the protesters to the Metropolitan Square in Ilorin, the state capital.

18. Respect for Human Rights

The conduct of law enforcement during the protests raised significant human rights concerns. Reports of arbitrary arrests, excessive use of force, and the targeting of journalists and activists suggested a disregard for the fundamental rights of citizens. These actions were widely condemned⁶ by both local and international human rights organizations, who called for accountability and reforms within the security sector.

19. Prosecution of Arrested Protesters

The Nigeria government has commenced the prosecution of arrested protesters after prolonged detention in various police custody. Some of the protesters has been charged to court and the court remanded them in Prison custody pending the ruling on their bail application. The CLEEN Foundation Situation Room on Nationwide protest has continued to observe the situation and demand for the Police to give account of all the arrested protesters across the states as the total number arrested has remained unknown. The protest was planned for 10 days but lasted 3 days in most places and only 10 days in four places. Overall they were peaceful as 76% of observers

⁶<https://www.bbc.com/pidgin/articles/cv2ggred219o>



rated the conduct of law enforcement personnel as good. However there were some serious incidents in certain locations because of unprofessional conduct of few law enforcement personnel. These were.

Ten persons have been charged with treason and plotting to provoke a military rebellion in Nigeria during the #Endbadgovernance protest. They were arrested in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano and Gombe states respectively. Those on the list includes *"Michael Tobiloba Adaramoye (aka Lenin), male, 28 years; Adeyemi Abiodun Abayomi (aka Yomi), male, 34 years; Suleiman Yakubu, male, 28 years; Comrade Opaluwa Elejo Simeon, male, 50 years; Angel Love Innocent, female, 51 years; Buhari Lawal, male, 21 years; Mosiu Sadiq, male, 28 years; Bashir Bello (aka Murtala), male, 51 years; Nuradeen Khamis, male, 47 years; and Abdulsalam Zubairu, male, 37 years."* State prosecutors said in court papers reviewed by CLEEN Foundation that the protesters intended to destabilize Nigeria and "conspired together to commit felony to wit, treason". Prosecutors also laid five other charges against the accused under the country's penal code, including inciting the military to mutiny, burning government buildings and disturbing public peace. Lawyers for the protesters sought for their release on bail, which was opposed by the state. Their trial will commence on September, 11, 2024.

Recommendations

CLEEN Foundation makes the following recommendations in view of the above observations:

- 1. Strengthen Accountability, Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms:** The Police Trust Fund should as a matter of urgency procure and equip the personnel of Nigeria Police Force with modern policing gadgets such as rubber bullets, water canons and body cameras linked to the Nigeria Police C4i at the Force Headquarters. The body cameras must be made mandatory for Police personnel on official duty to wear and put it on especially during protests, arrests and at checkpoints to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring law enforcement conduct during public events, with regular reports made available to the public. The Police Service Commission should ensure that Police Officers that violated protesters rights are disciplined accordingly to ensure deterrence in the future.
- 2. Regular Human Rights Training:** The findings underscore the need for Law enforcement personnel to undergo training and retraining on human



rights standards and non-violent crowd control techniques. The National Human Rights Commission should design a continuous training programme for the law enforcement personnel to undergo from time to time. It should not be one off training. The Nigeria Police Force should make the number of arrested protesters public across Commands to further entrench neutrality and transparency by the Police. The Nigeria Police Force should ensure that the rights of the arrested protesters are not violated and ensure due diligence as enshrined in extant laws of the country.

3. Community Engagement: Law enforcement agencies should engage with community leaders and civil society organizations to build trust and ensure that security measures are seen as protective rather than repressive.

4. Misinformation: The media should be more responsive to ensure that any misinformation and disinformation is immediately retracted, and fact checked to avoid misleading citizens into any form of incitement that might lead to breakdown of law and order.

5. Continuous Demilitarization of Crowd Management: The government should ensure that the Military stays away from Policing the Nationwide protest as the Police has demonstrated enough capacity to handle the situation across the country. The military should avoid making inflammatory and unnecessary statements.

6. Rights Protection: The National Human Rights Commission and Nigeria Bar Association should ensure the protection of rights of Nigerians to peaceful protest and similarly hold LEA personnel accountable for the violations of rights of Nigerians.



| Conclusion

The conduct of law enforcement personnel during the August 2024 nationwide protests in Nigeria was marked by significant challenges and controversies. While the need for maintaining public order is undisputed, the methods employed by security forces and state governments raised serious concerns about the protection of human rights and civil liberties. The incidents of excessive force, arbitrary arrests, and disregard for legal procedures highlight the need for comprehensive reforms in Nigeria's law enforcement agencies. Moving forward, it is imperative that law enforcement personnel receive adequate training on crowd control, human rights, and the principles of democratic policing to ensure that future responses to public protests are both effective and respectful of citizens' rights.

